

The New York Times

LAURIE ANDERSON

'From the Air: Two

Installations'

Location One

26 Greene Street, SoHo

Through May 2

Laurie Anderson, artist and crossover pop star, here presents two works: a modestly compelling sound piece and an initially engaging storytelling video projection that ends on a false note. In the first case a high-tech overhead speaker projects quiet sounds and poetic fragments of speech in such a way that it seems as though they are inside your head.

The other piece is in the form of a miniature video projection in which Ms. Anderson and her little dog appear sitting in separate armchairs. She speaks in a conversational manner that recalls the great monologist [Spalding Gray](#). Seeking temporary escape from post-9/11 New York, she and her dog retreat to a mountain cabin in California.

One day while they are hiking, vultures swoop down, evidently mistaking the dog for a varmint. This scares the daylights out of the dog, who continues to scan the sky nervously. It occurs to Ms. Anderson that the look on her dog's face reminds her of New Yorkers who have realized that death and destruction could come from the sky, and "that it would be that way from now on."

Unlike the wonderfully nuanced self-explorations of Mr. Gray, Ms. Anderson's story has a simplistic, portentous and moralistic feel. And even if it is true that we are anxious about what might come from above, it is not for the first time. Those of us who had to duck under our desks for air-raid drills in the 1950s can attest to that. **KEN**

JOHNSON