



William Lamson: Actions

By Ben Palosaari
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Artist William Lamson's video collection "Actions" is perhaps the most entertaining art being created right now. This is not hyperbole. This is not exaggeration. This is not an opinion. This is irrefutable fact. For the project, [Lamson](#) made videos of different ways to pop black balloons. It sounds silly, and it is, a little bit. But it's also really, really cool and completely enrapturing. In one piece he enters the frame with a pellet pistol on each hip. He jumps on a lever that throws several balloons into the air, which he then shoots out of midair. Another video he made should be required viewing for anybody hoping to make a suspenseful film. In it, Lamson lies facedown on a hanging wooden platform with a cord attached at the bottom. The film begins with a hissing sound, and soon it becomes clear that he is on top of a balloon that is being inflated. You know it's going to pop, you can see it morph and stretch under his body as it continues to grow. After several agonizing seconds, it finally gives way. In yet another, Lamson, with a pin attached to his head, swings from the ceiling like a pendulum, popping balloons as they fly toward him. Like I said, it's the most entertaining art available today.

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