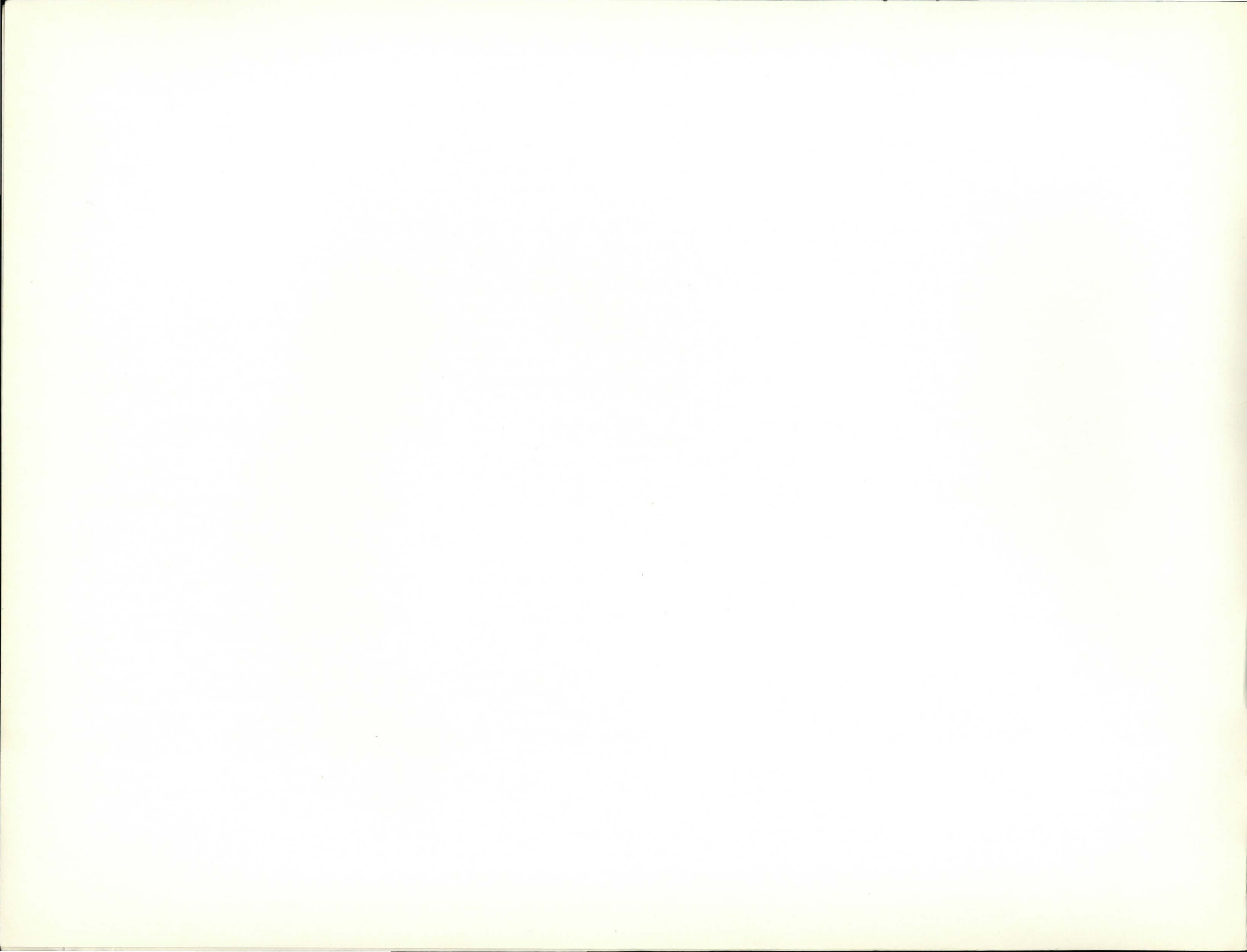
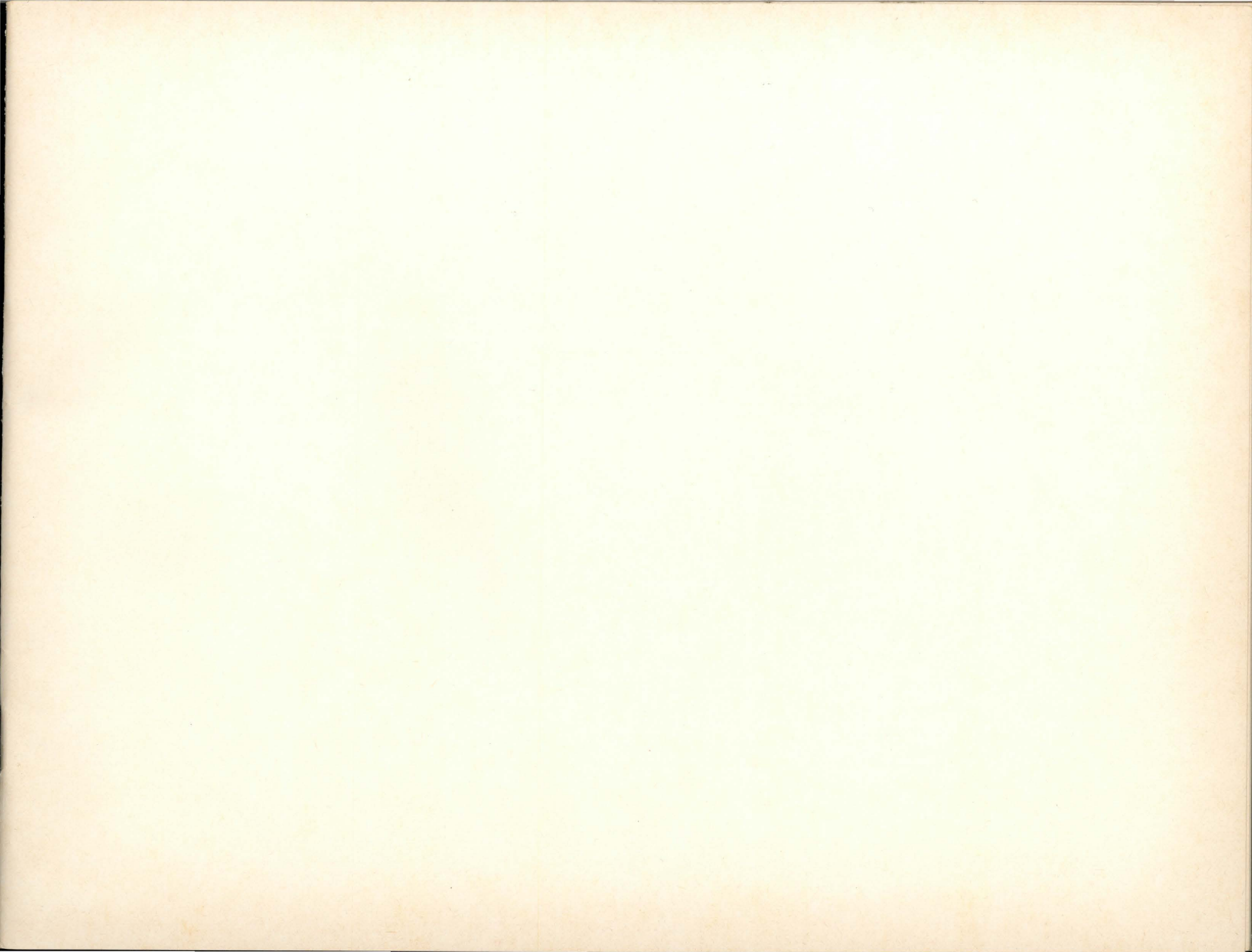


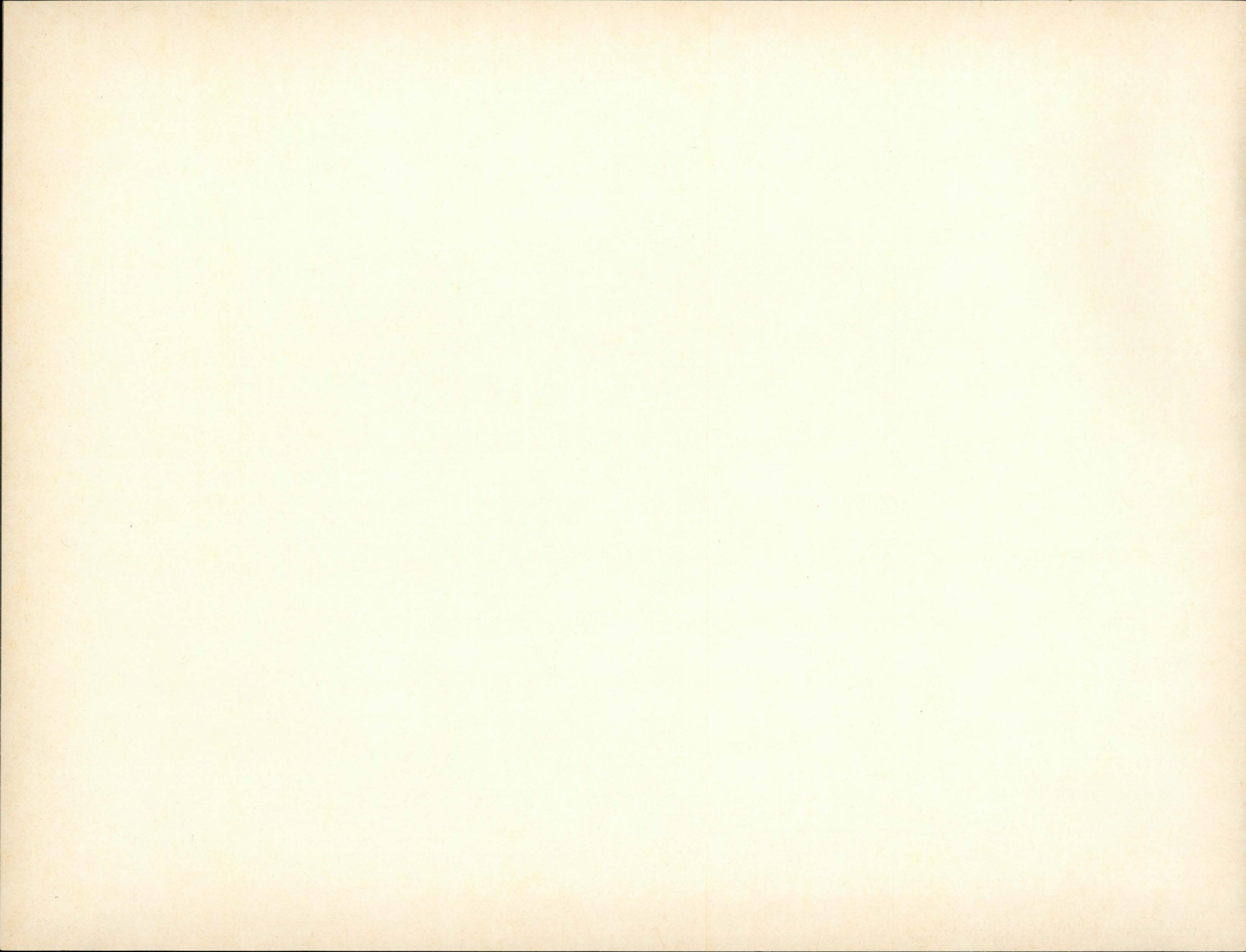
1975

RESIDUUM





FORMAL ENEMA ENIGMA
seven works — John Lethbridge
AUCKLAND CITY ART GALLERY
11-17 October 1975



CONTENTS: definitions
extrapolations
working drawings
installation photographs

FORMAL

1. Of the essence of a thing, essential not material; or external qualities, concerned with the form, not the matter of reasoning
2. Valid in virtue of its form, explicit and definite, not merely tacit
3. Ceremonial, required by convention, perfunctory, having the form without the spirit; observant of forms, precise, prim, excessively regular or symmetrical, stiff, methodical.

Concise Oxford Dictionary

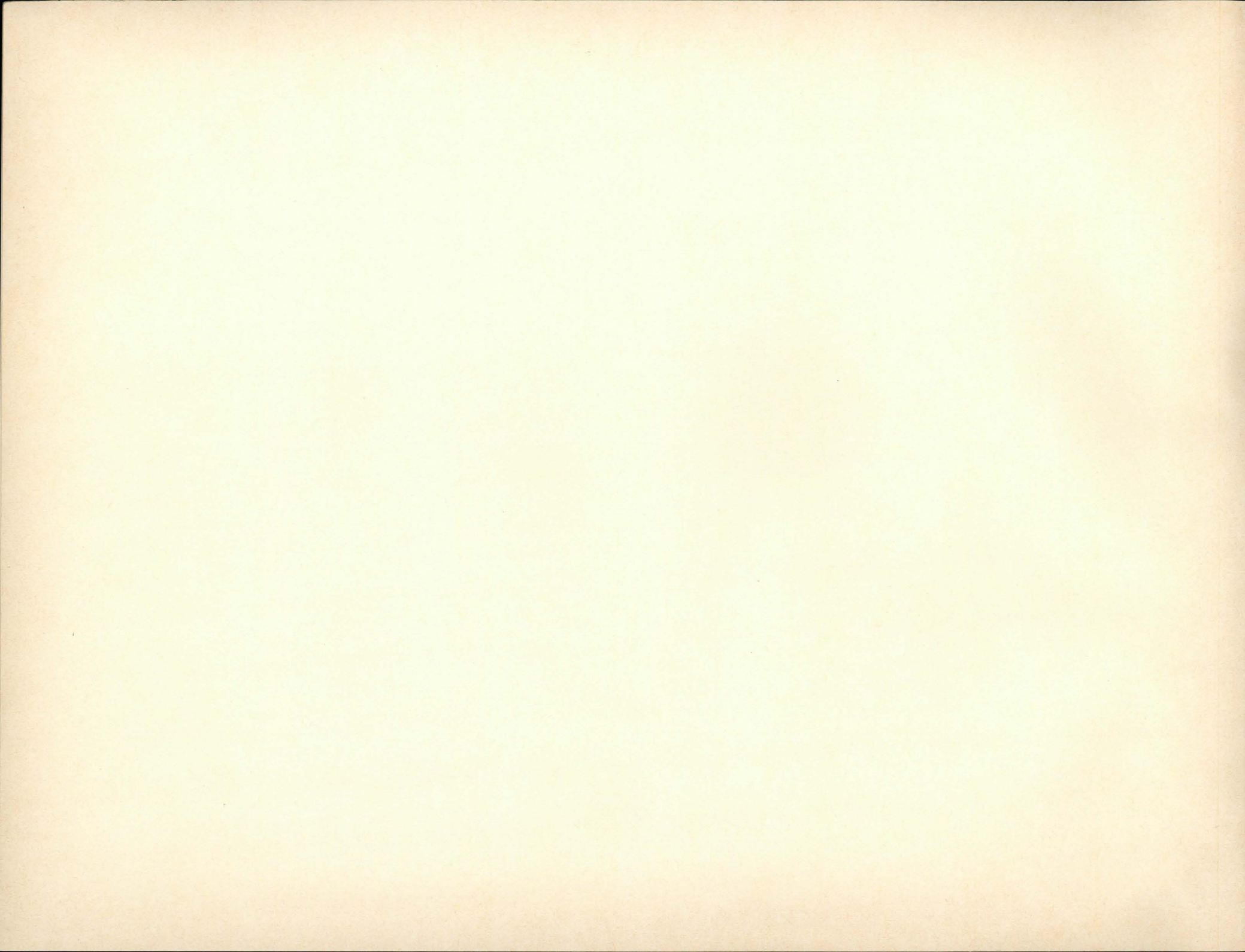
ENEMA

The problem of elimination — we all have to excrete sometime. The enema is a cleansing method in which liquid is injected into the rectum. A painful stimulation. To remove the blockage.

ENIGMA

The enigma hints the thing it would convey
In terms quite various — opposite some say
The secret it reveals, but no so clear as day;
For in dark and mazy paths it ever loves to stray.

Cassell's Book of Indoor Amusements, Card Games and Fireside Fun. 1881



EXTRAPOLATIONS

experience to analytical examination to (informed) experience
the consequences of a work is the residual of it's intentions

formal to enigmatic, rational to irrational, sense to non-sense
self negation system – a network of opposites

frontality, repetition, materiality, duration, physicality, fragility
incompleteness, inconsistency, implicitness, inaccessibility

the lines of demarcation collapsed
the production of meaningless non-sense intensified

all the permutations were known
every positive proposition presupposes the existence of the negative proposition

stalemate
a negative totality through the act of negation

the ignoramus muttered constantly
monologue system – to remind yourself what you already know

incomunicado
self referential system – a denial of the outside

a painful stimulation
mental enema – to clear the blockage between two contradictory conditions

anaesthetic was applied to the taskmaster
in limbo, a region intermediate between two states

Formal Enema Enigma

height 5 ft 6 in width 14 ft

MATERIALS USED: block bottom paper bags, coloured photographs, sand, water,
black masking tape, rubber stamp kit, pencil

Formal Enigma '75 (incorporating pinpricks in a paper bag)

~~Enigma~~

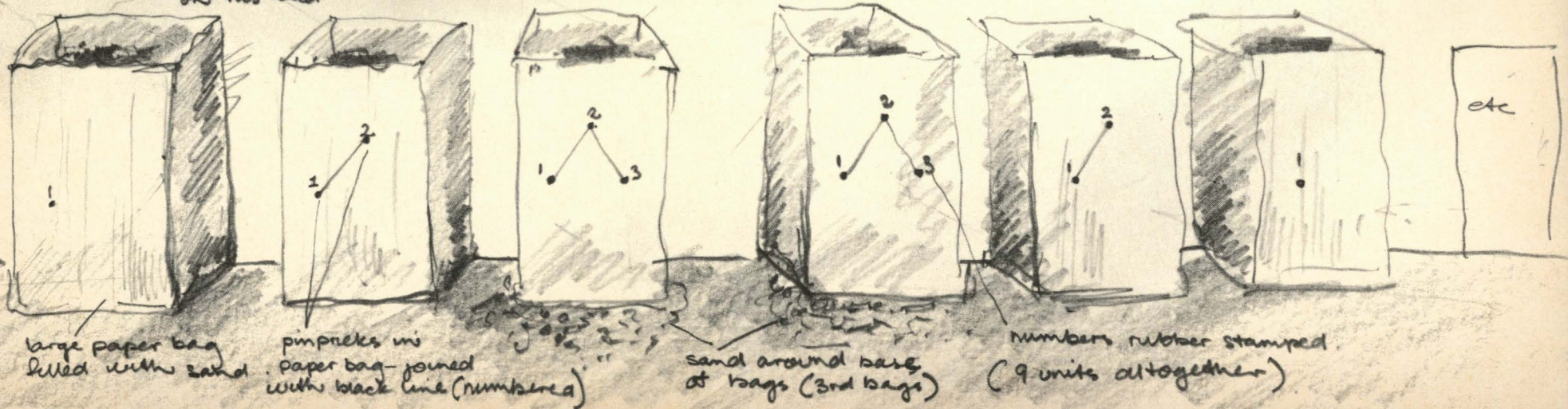
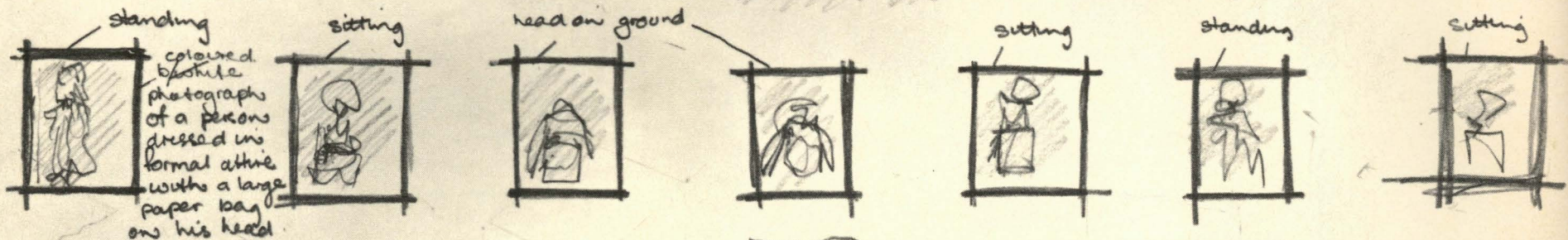
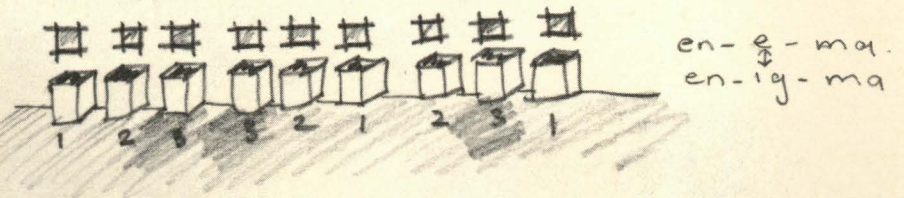
formal-¹ of the essence of a thing essential not material; of the outward form, shape, appearance, arrangement, or external qualities, concerned with the form, not the matter, of reasoning.

² valid in virtue of its form, explicit and definite, not merely tacit.

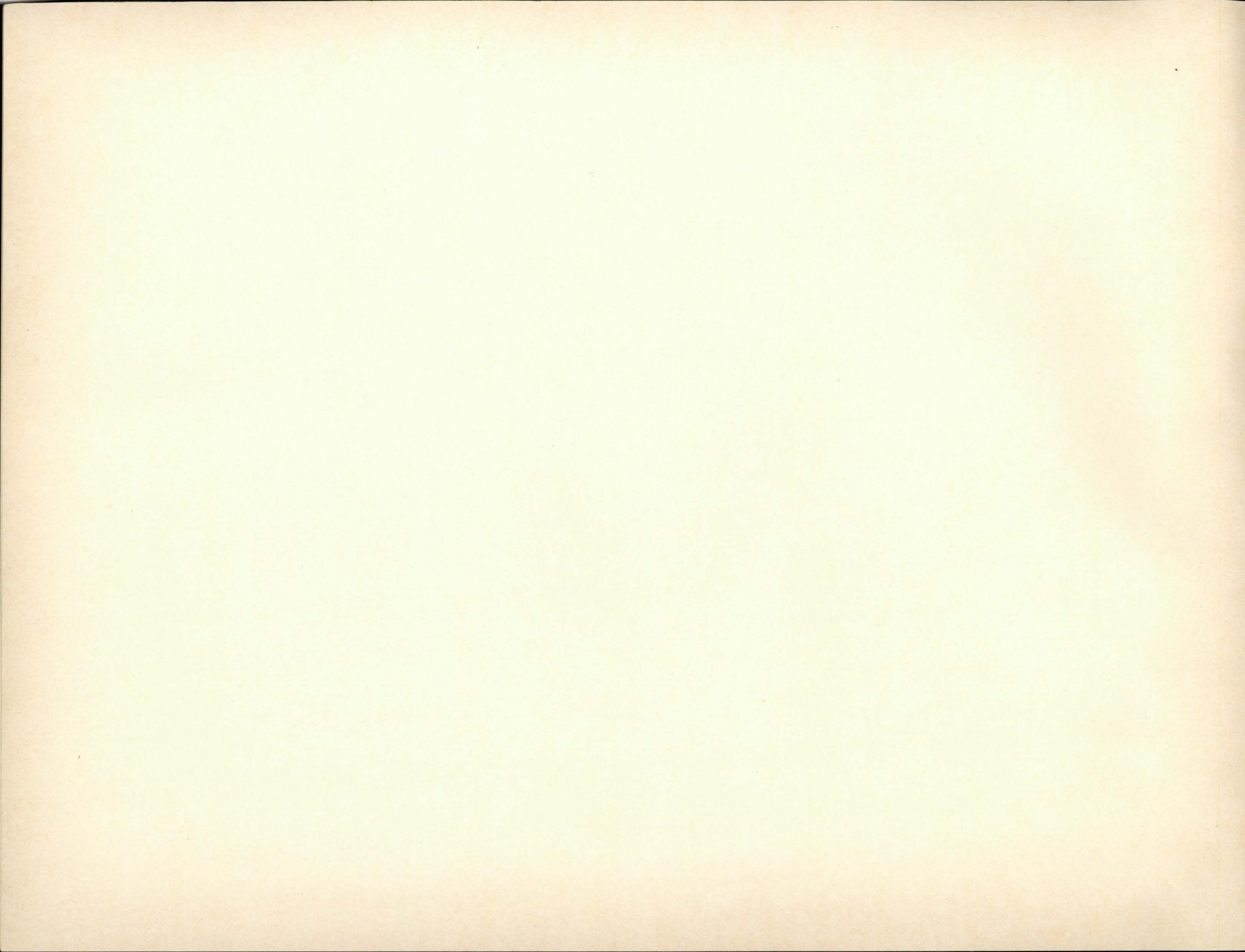
³ Ceremonial, required by convention, perfunctory, having the form without the spirit; observant of forms, precise, prim, excessively regular or symmetrical, stiff, methodical, whence, formalism.

enema - injection of liquid or gaseous substance into the rectum; the syringe used.
 enigma - riddle; puzzling person or thing

The enigma hints the thing it would convey
 In terms quite various - opposite, some say,
 The secret it reveals, but no so clear as day;
 For in dark and mazy paths it ever loves
 to stray.







Piece-meal

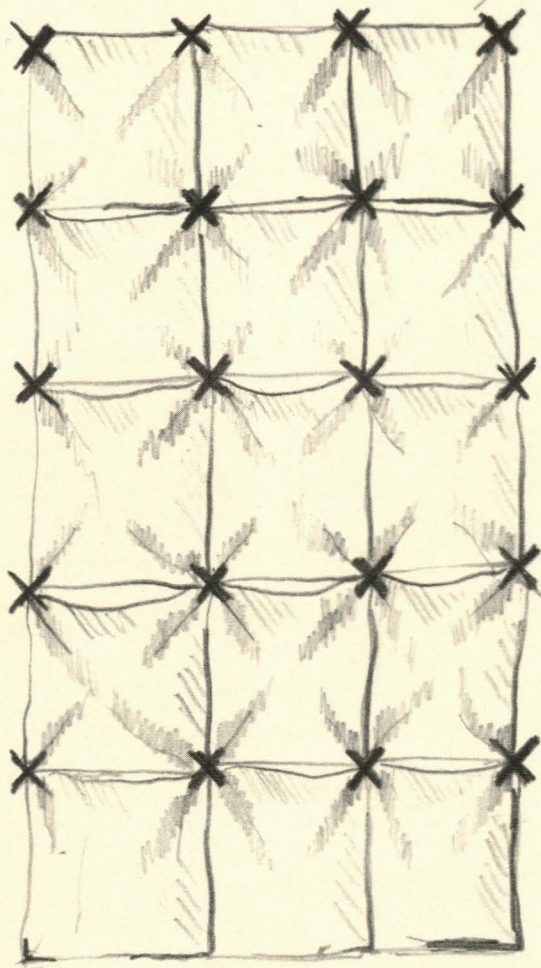
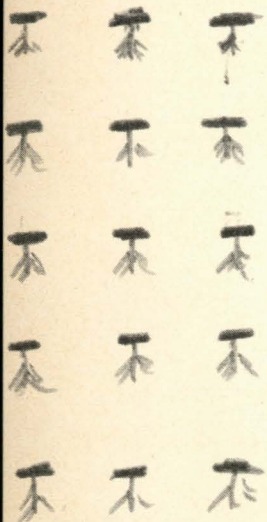
height 9 ft width 12 ft

MATERIALS USED: white handkerchiefs, white paper tissues, chicken feathers,
black masking tape

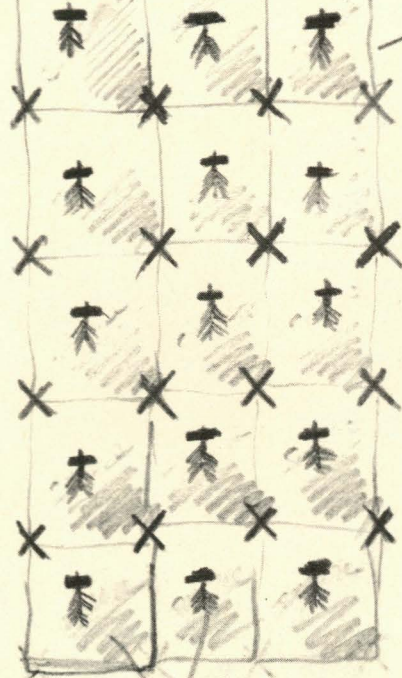
Piece à la main - piece by piece, part at a time

Piece - put together, form into a whole;

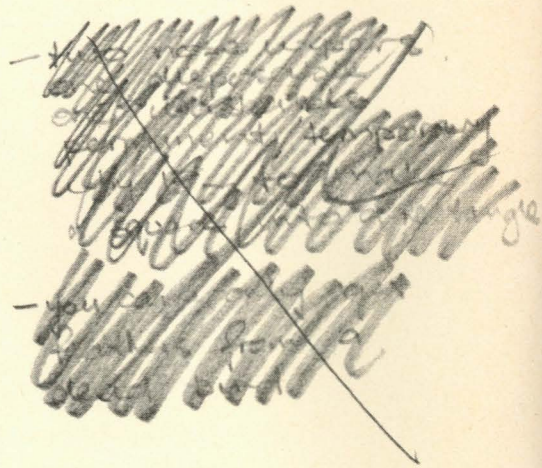
Pièce de résistance - most substantial dish at meal.



15 handkerchiefs taped to wall with black making tape forming X



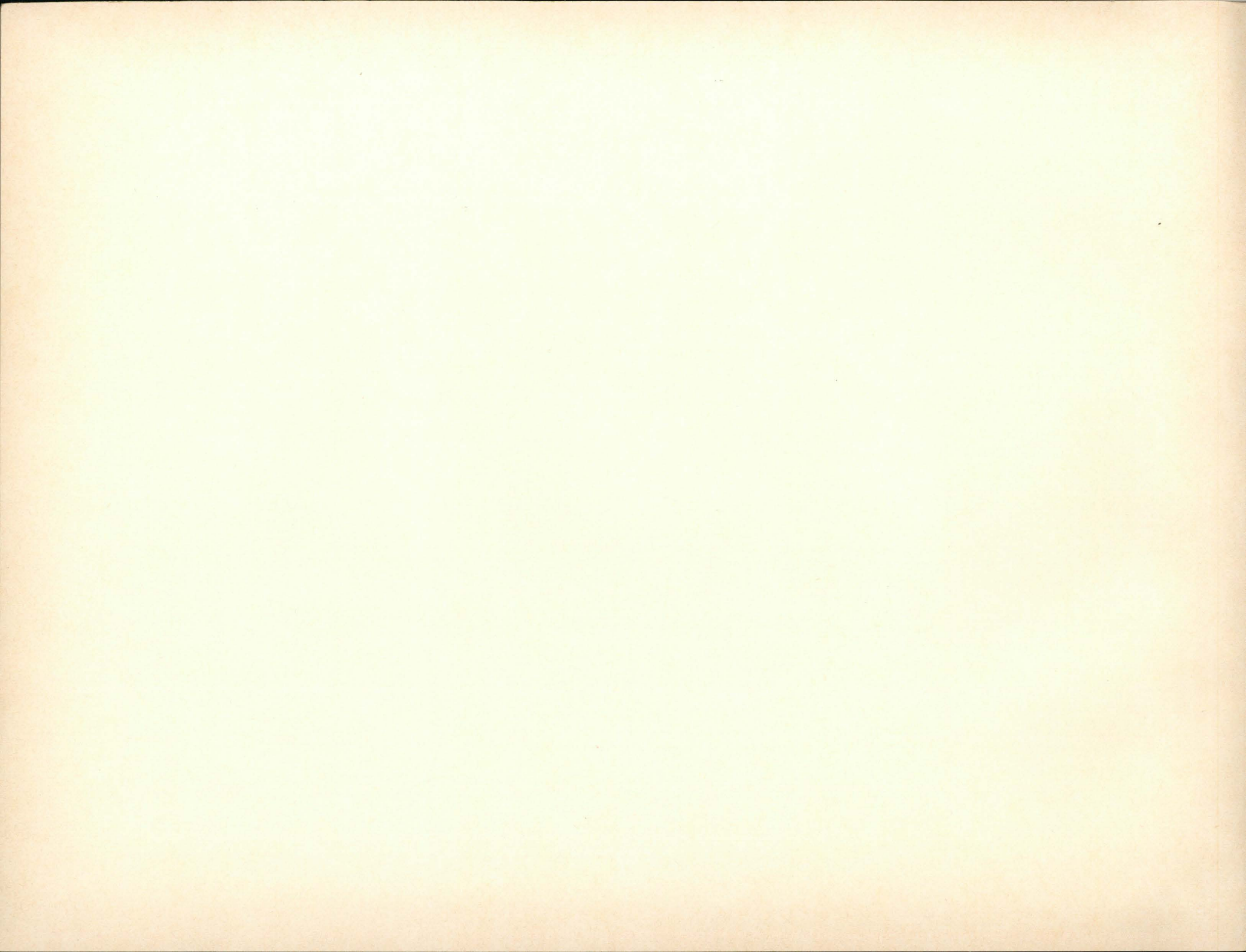
tissues (15) white taped together



white feathers taped to centre of each tissue

white feathers taped to wall (correspond to centres of white tissues).

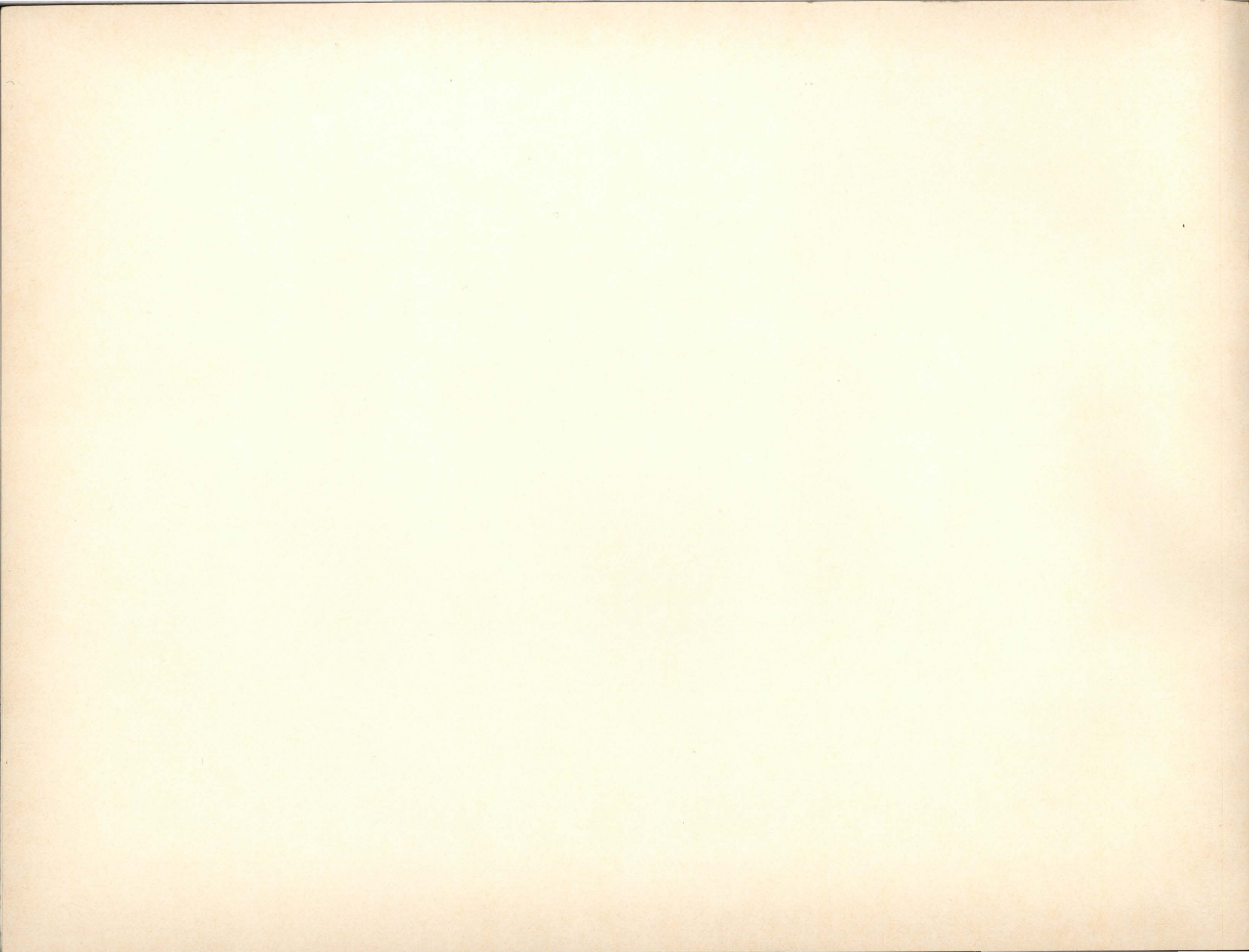


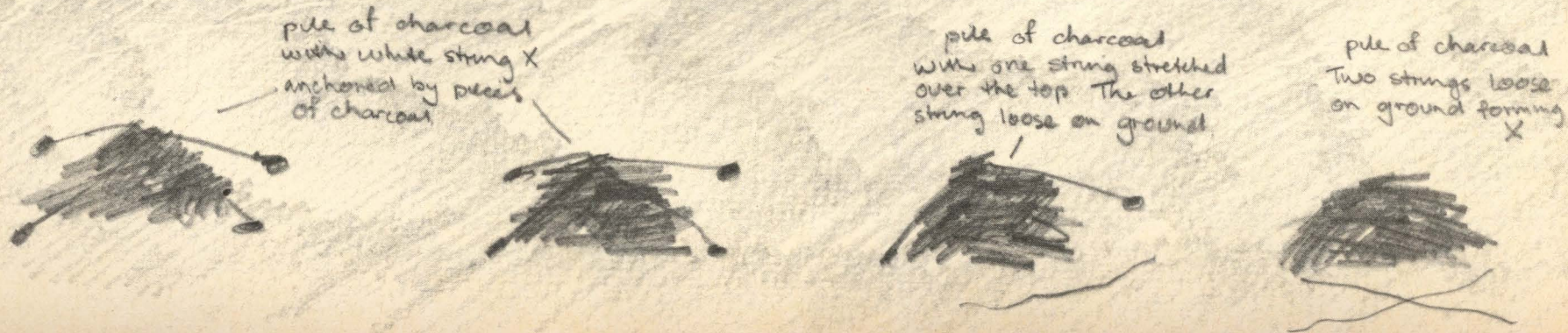
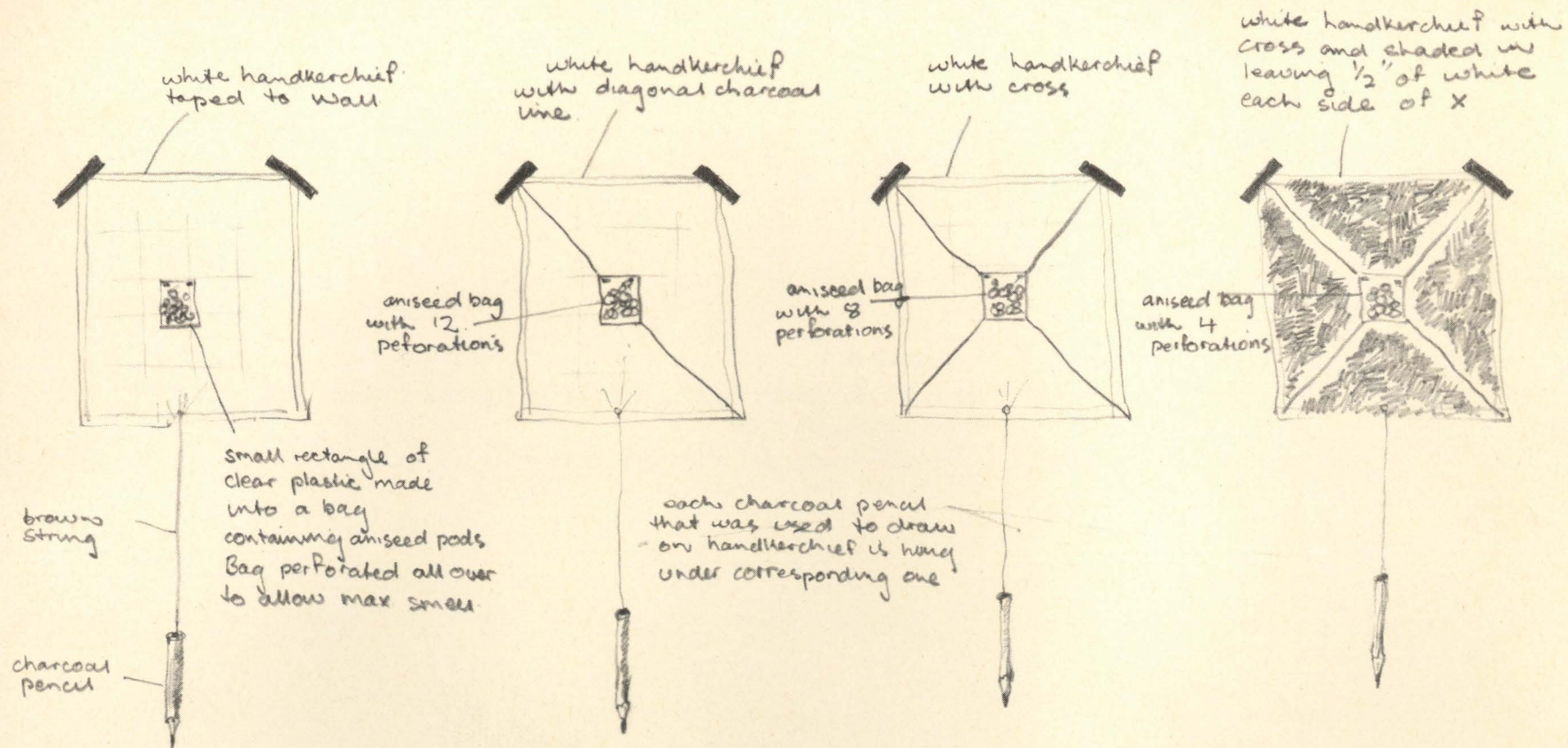


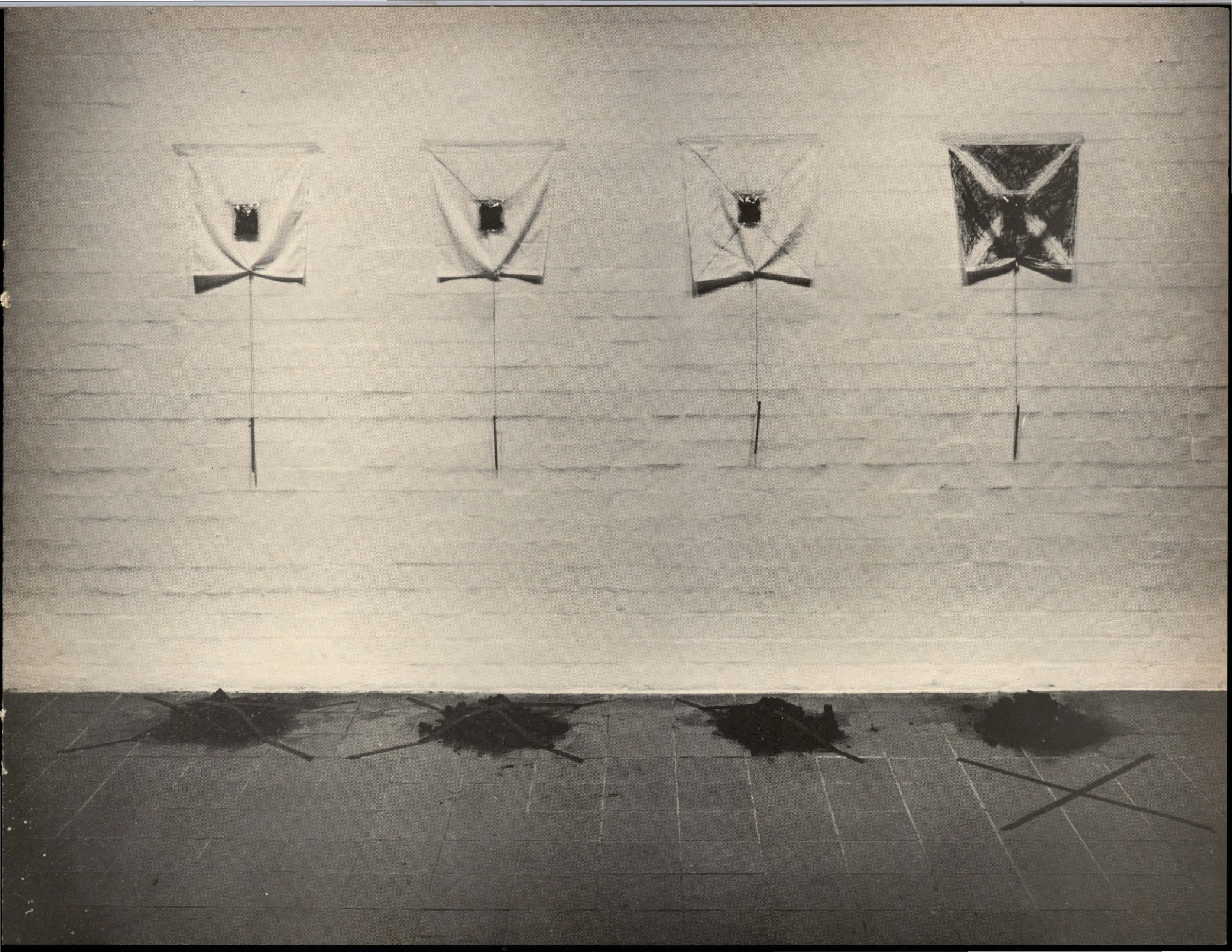
Untitled

height 6 ft width 8 ft

MATERIALS USED: white handkerchiefs, masking tape, string, charcoal pencils,
aniseed packs, charcoal







Spoon-fed (with assisted spoonerism)

height 7 ft width 3 ft 6 in

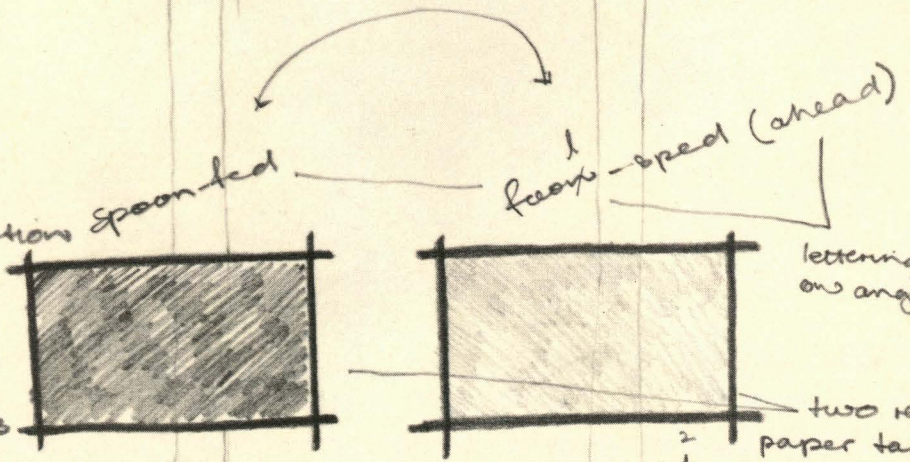
MATERIALS USED: watercolour paper, masking tape, charcoal, plastic bucket,
water, natural sponge, spoon-lure, nylon, spoon

Spoon-fed '75 - (with assisted spoonerism)

- spoon - utensil used for putting liquid food into mouths.
- bright revolving spoon shaped piece of metal used as lure in fishing
- simpletons, silly, fool, behave amorously.
- spoonerism - accidental transpositions of initial letters
- spoon-fed - crammed with information, fed wis.
- sponge - aquatic animal of low order with pores in body wall
- parasite, person who continues to live at another's expense
- wipe, cleanse; sluice water over wipe out, efface
- porous, compressible, elastic, absorbent.

spoon-fed → fon-spel → fool-spel ahead.
 sense → nonsense → between sense
 physical fact → shadow
 multi purpose objects
 meaning → non meaning → in spite of meaning
 The illusion of meaning
 The meaning of illusion
 living → non living → used in living
 to feed a simpleton, a fool
 fool - who hides his wisdom through
 ridiculous acts - impulsive behaviour
 towards negations → reversals

Inversion.
 reversal of normal positions



In setting up a contradiction does the opposite information neutralize each other or remains just opposite or both? The problem is how much information to supply - too much (overload) too little (meaningless) when to suppress and when to supply information

two rectangles of paper taped to wall approx head height Both covered with charcoal and second rectangle then sponged clean leaving traces of previous activity.

spoon lure hanging approx 6" from wall with cast shadow

spoons hanging approx 6" from wall with well defined cast shadows

black penul oval with arrow point around shadow of spoon lure

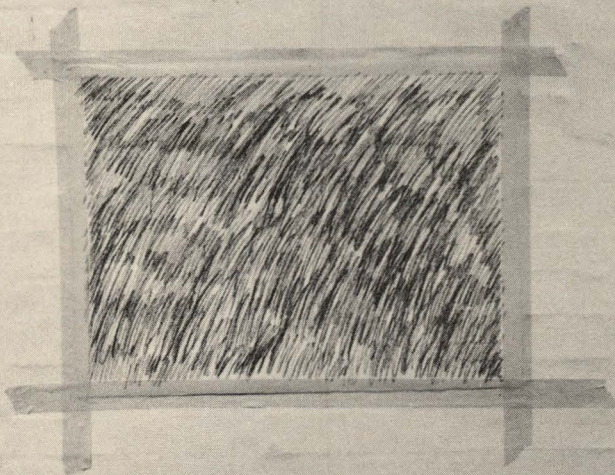
natural sponge on floor.



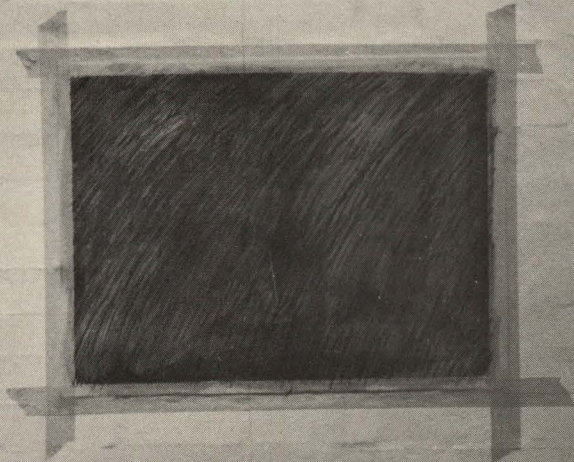
have just water in bucket so that the sponge action follows through 1, 2, 1, 3,

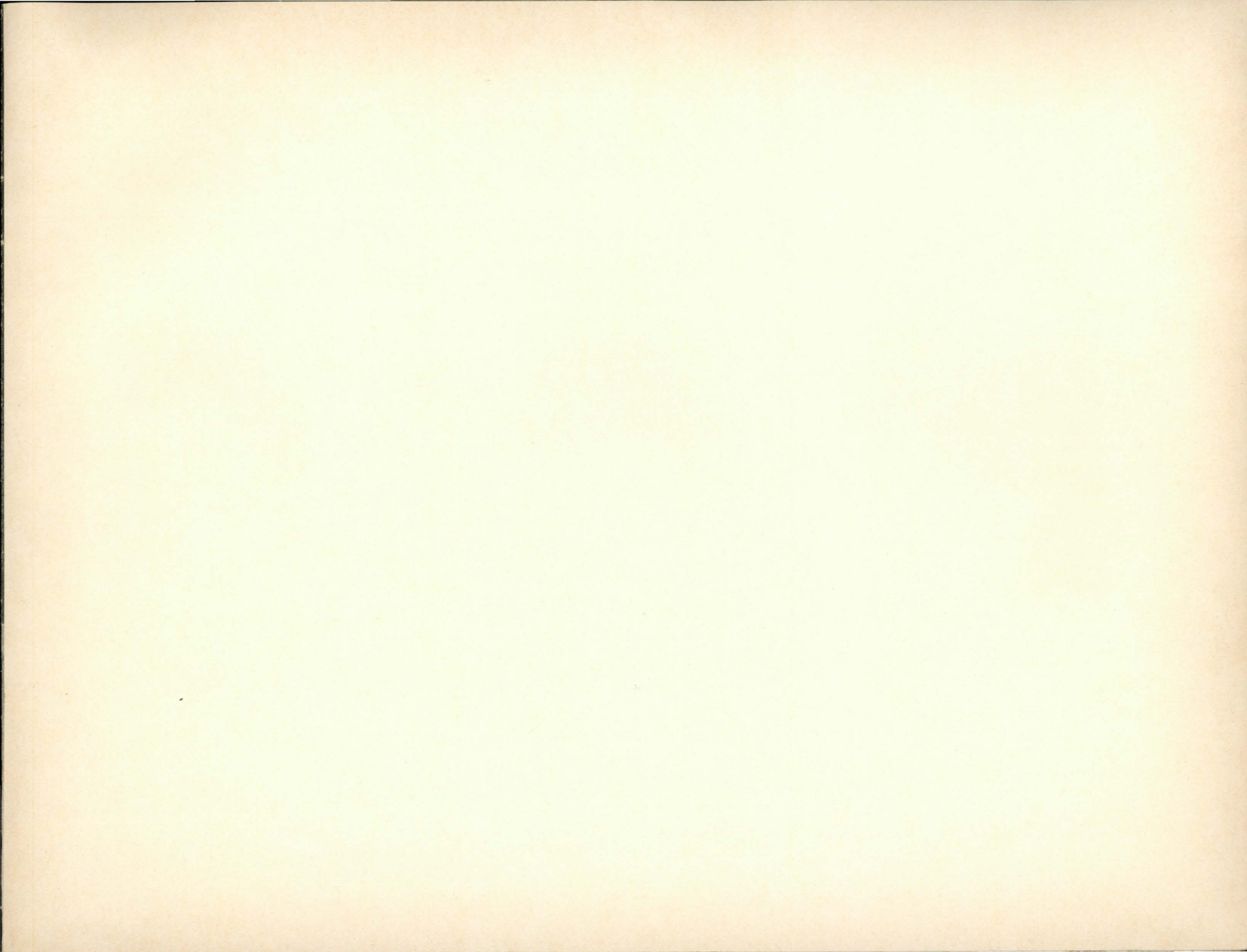
bucket of water filled with water with sponge floating on top. - sponge and water used to clean off charcoal off paper

spoon fed



spoon fed (great)





Infallible Guesswork

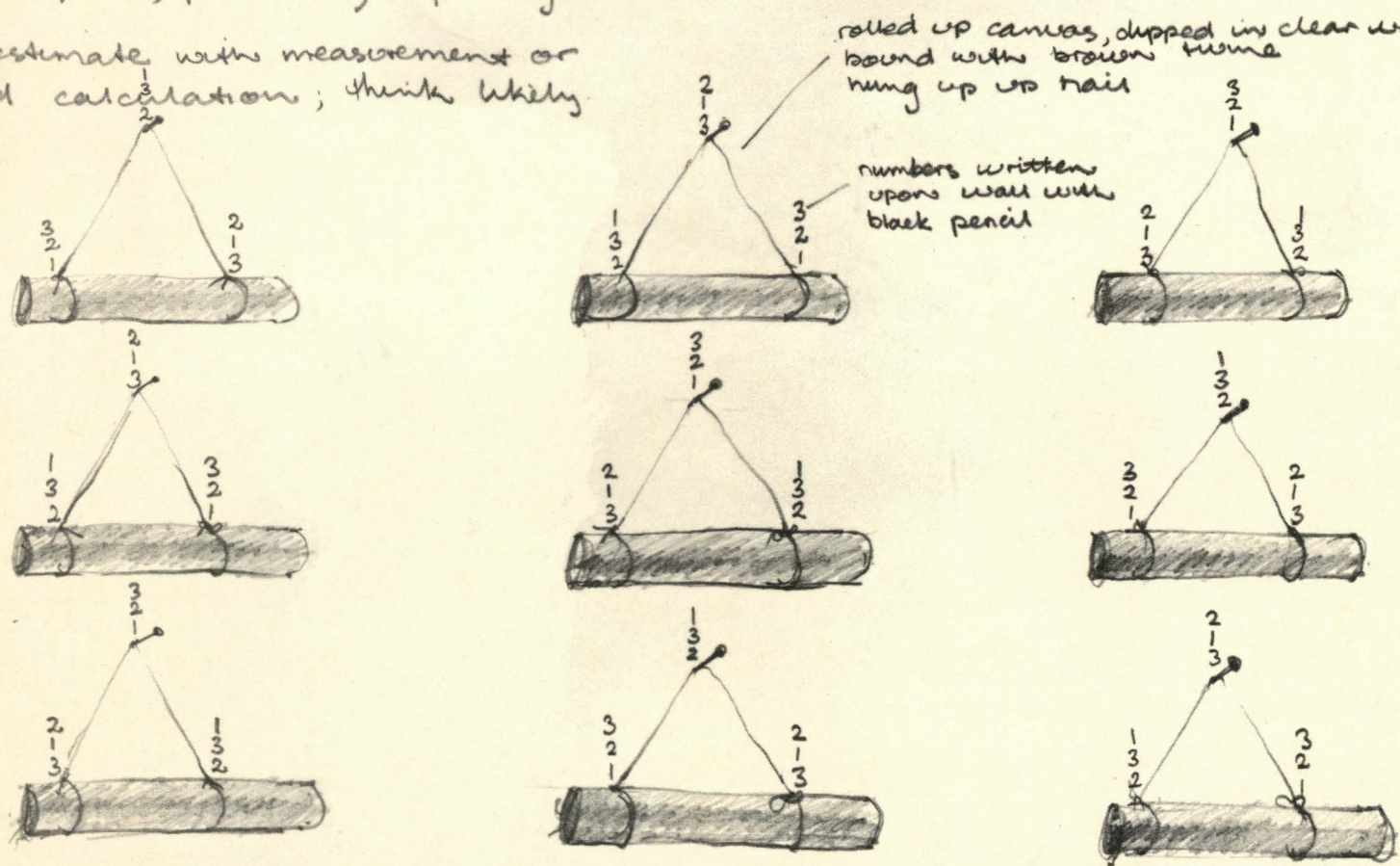
height 6 ft width 9 ft

MATERIALS USED: canvas, wax, string, nails, charcoal pencil

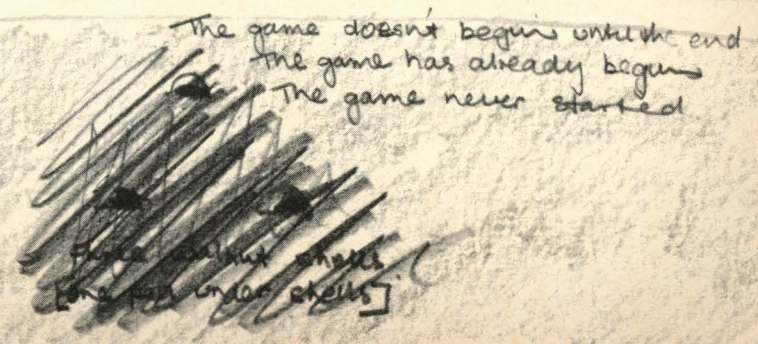
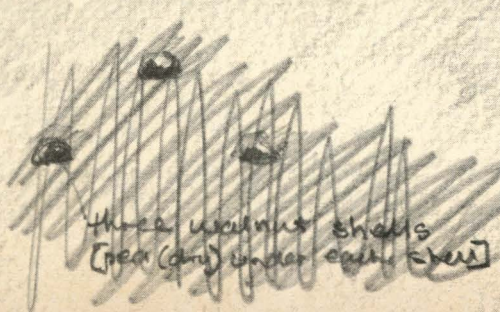
Infallible guesswork 75

infallible - incapable of erring
(of method, test, proof etc) unfailing
guess - estimate with measurement or
detailed calculation; think likely.

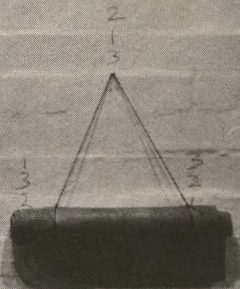
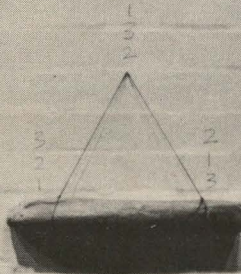
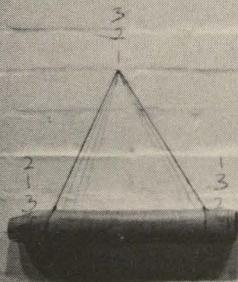
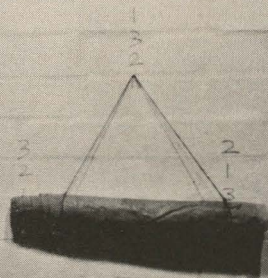
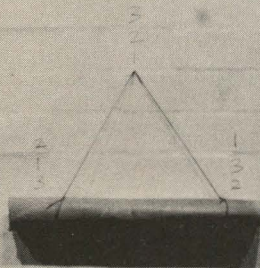
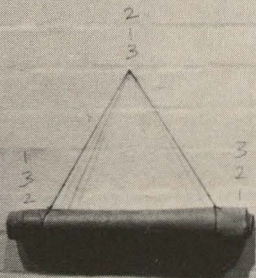
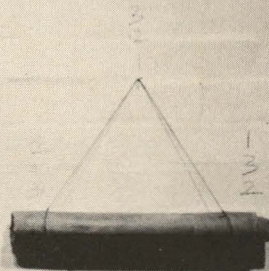
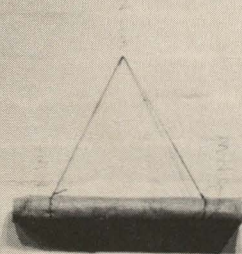
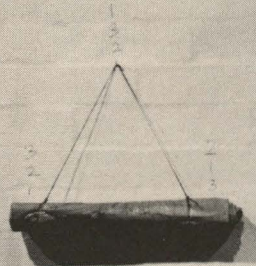
$3 \times 3 = 9 =$ Simple Arithmetic / The placing of nine ^{mental} receipts
 $3 =$ Duration on the wall



known \leftrightarrow unknown.
all permutations known.
what's inside rolls unknown
- has to do with painting on canvas
- wax originally used for sealing
- string used for binding
- two sealing methods
- both invertible
- inside of rolls cannot be known
- the question must be accepted
- to accept the possibility of something or nothing
- of no importance
- ~~triangle shape of string gives more in postage~~



The game doesn't begin until the end
The game has already begun
The game never started



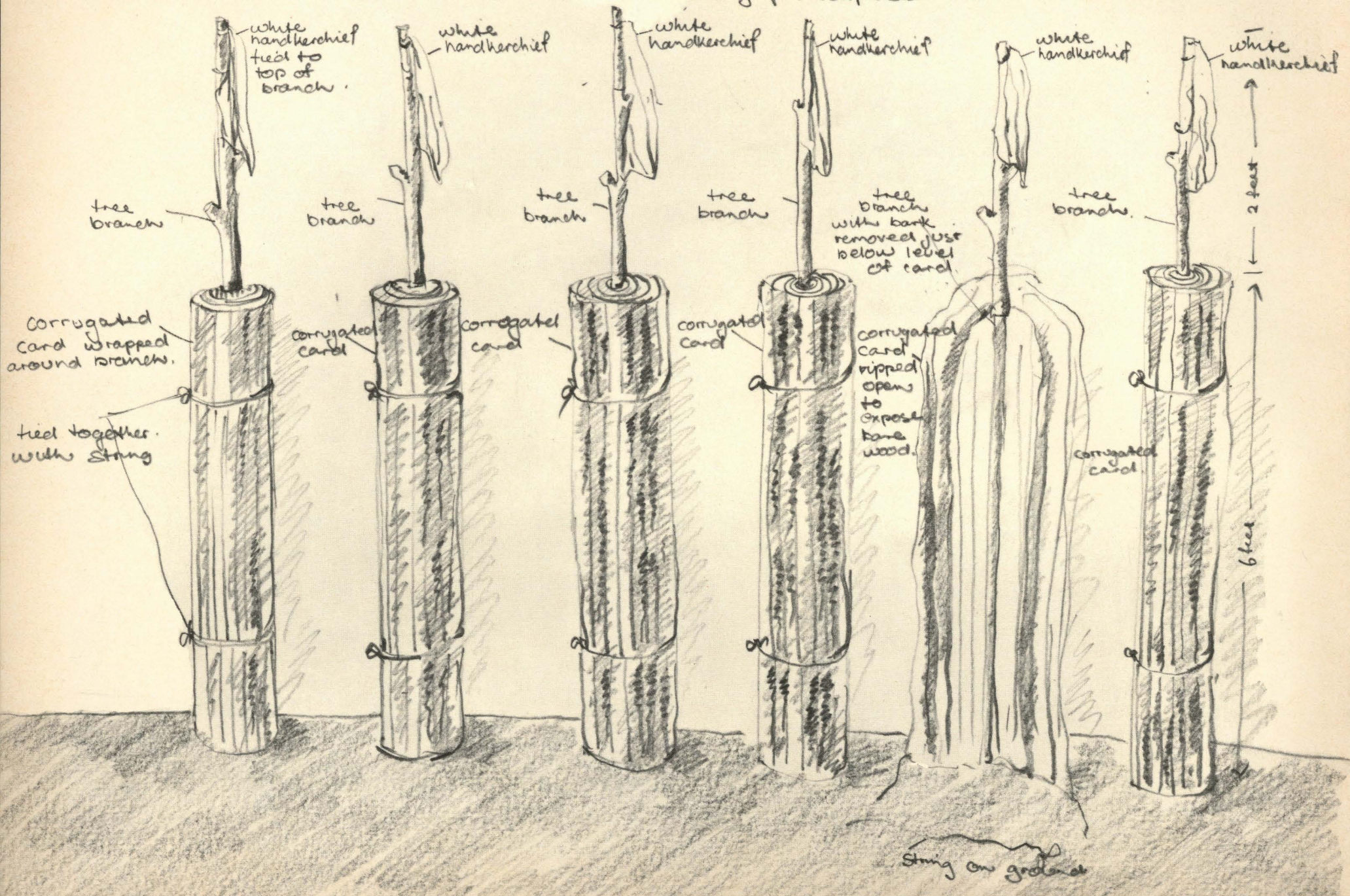
Untitled

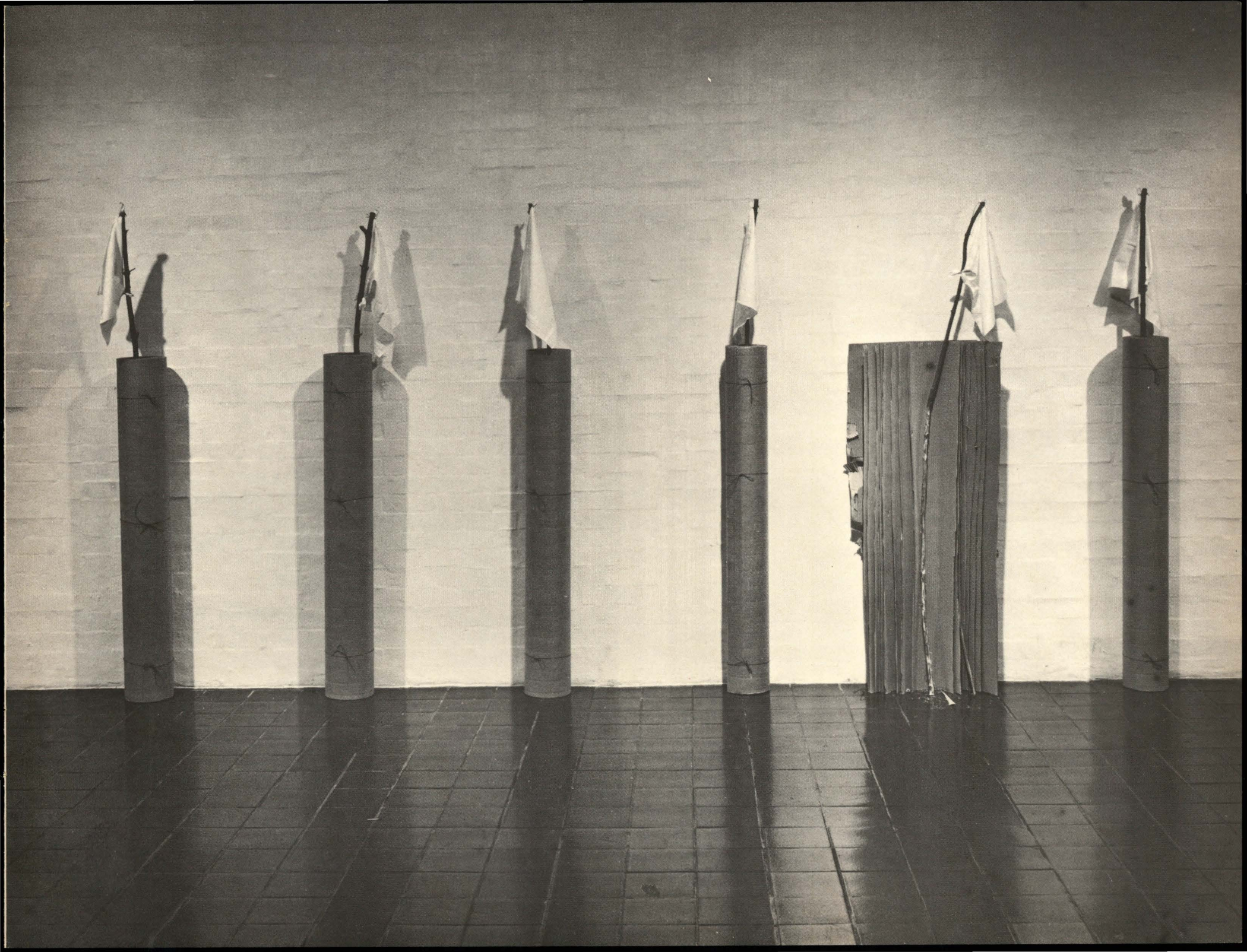
height 7 ft 6 in width 16 ft

MATERIALS USED: corrugated card, string, tree branches, white handkerchiefs,
stanley knife.

Untitled '75

Six polaroid photographs show a person
ripping corrugated card off 5th unit.
Photographs to be placed in a line next to work.









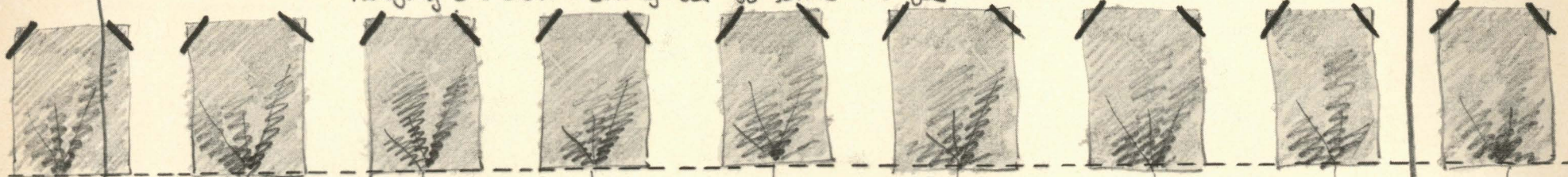
Elsewhere (in, to, some other place)

length 99 ft width 30 ft

MATERIALS USED: jute rectangles, black masking tape, string, carbonettes,
wet sacks, sand bags, dead matches, live matches,
buckets, vaseline, water, electric candles, loop tape

Elsewhere - in, to, some other place '15
 (fifth state)

jute rectangles 2'x3' taped to wall with black masking tape
 units to stretch full length of wall (100 feet) 33 units altogether.
 unit to consist of one unit of jute with one carbonette
 hanging on brown string - set to form triangle



1st ground position - fire potential

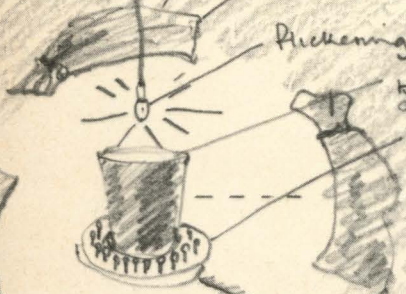
opens format of empty jute sacks - wet

Pickering candle bulbs

bucket - black with petrolum jelly

change bucket to tin

ring of live matches



black masking tape with petrolum jelly spread on top.

Yodel - to be female 15 seconds / male 30 seconds
 to be male - cuckoo yodeller - an awakening

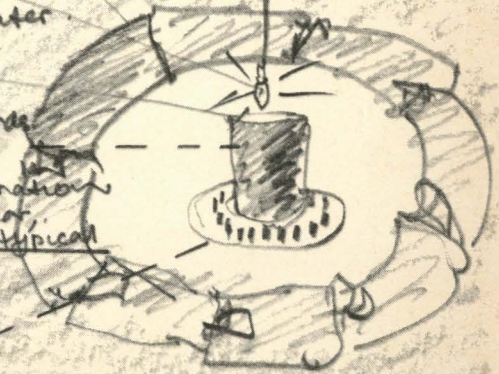
Two states in the same notes

2nd ground position - water potential

closed format of jute sacks filled with sand

Pickering candle bulbs

bucket - black filled with water



yodel - long, male melodious inarticulate sounds
 with frequent changes between falsetto and normal voice

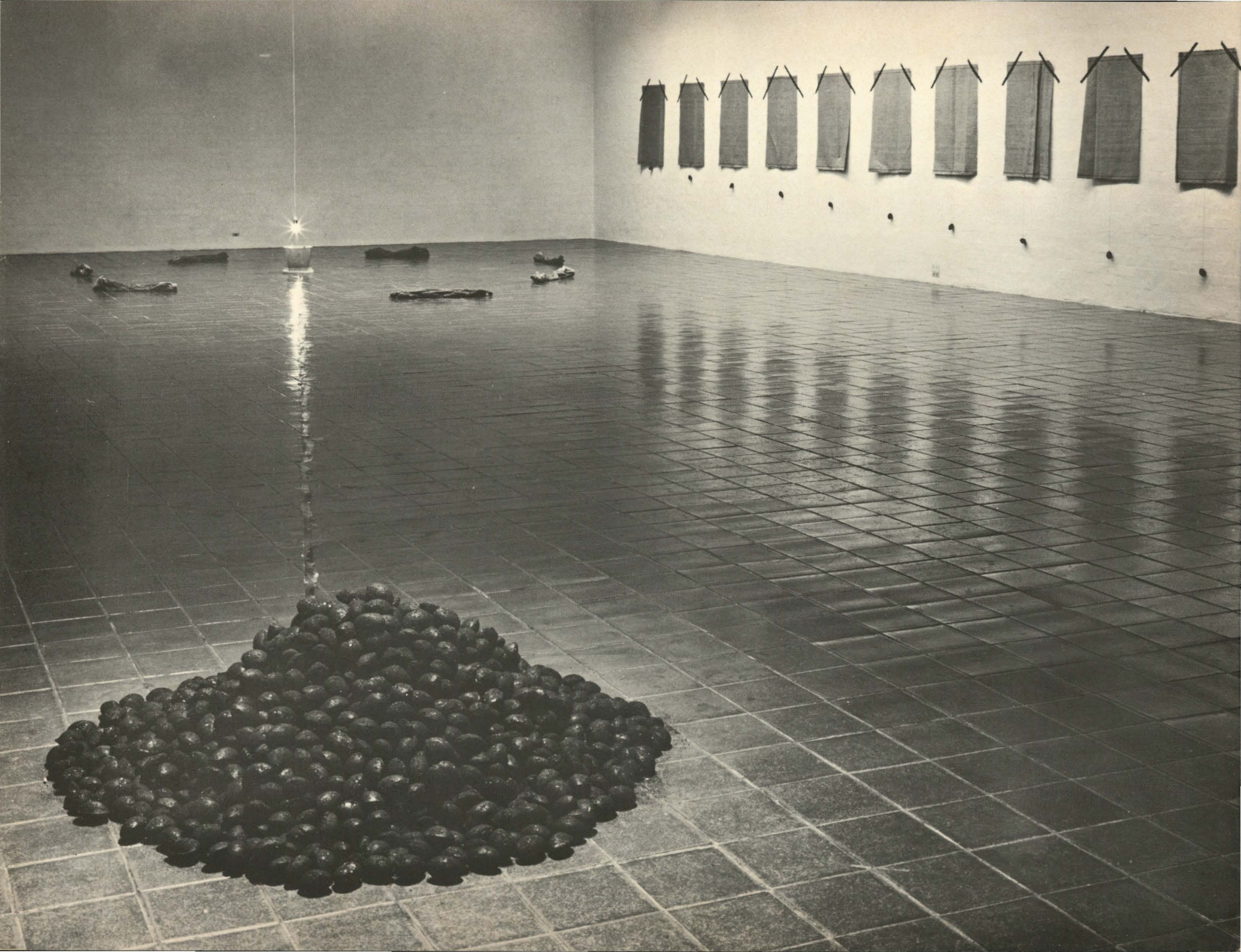
falsetto - head voice in men; often of sham, indignation

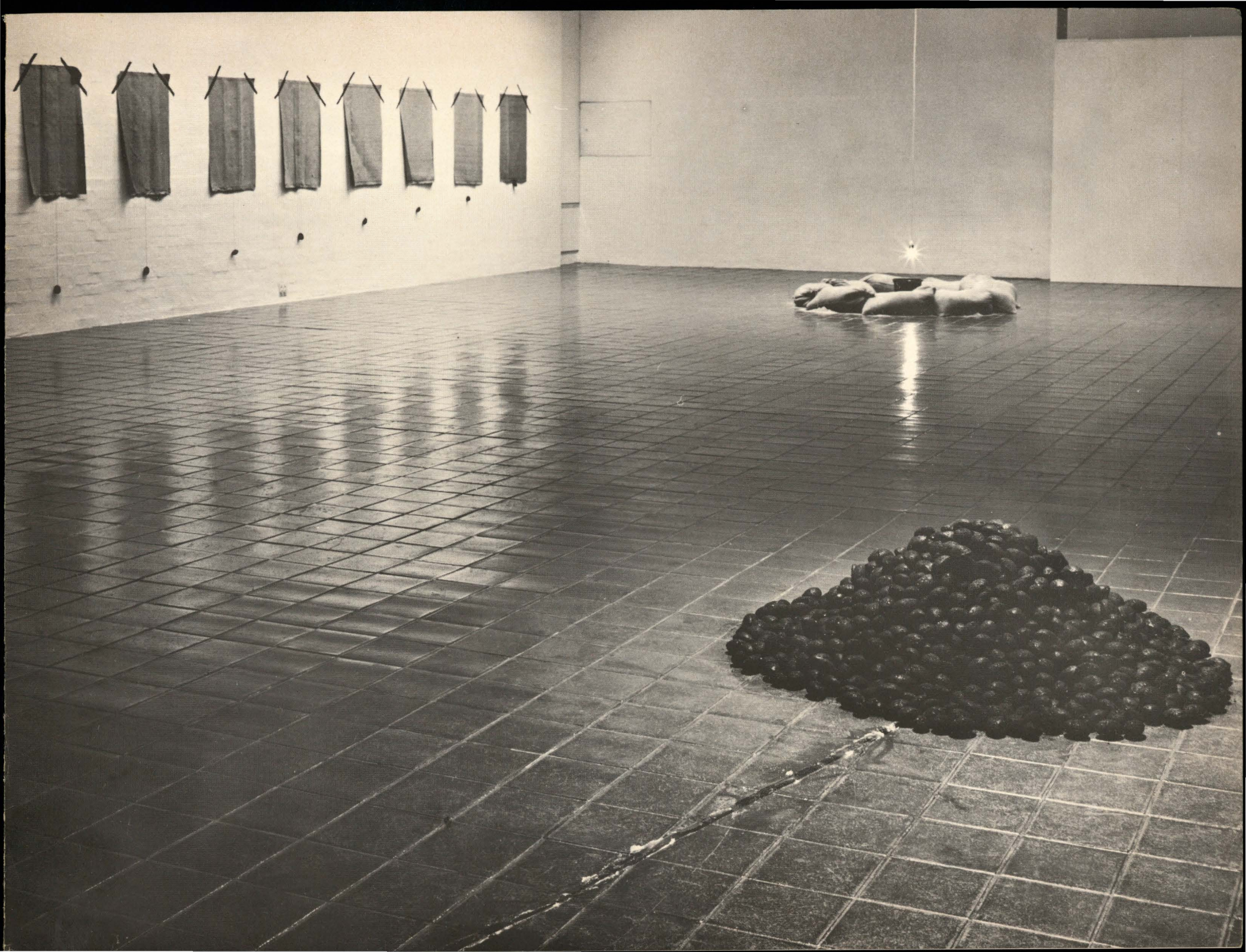
normal - standing at right angles, perpendicular, conforming to standard, regular, usual, typical

large pile of carbonettes with continuous yodel music directly opposite middle point of wall units

from point to pile, from pile to mountain



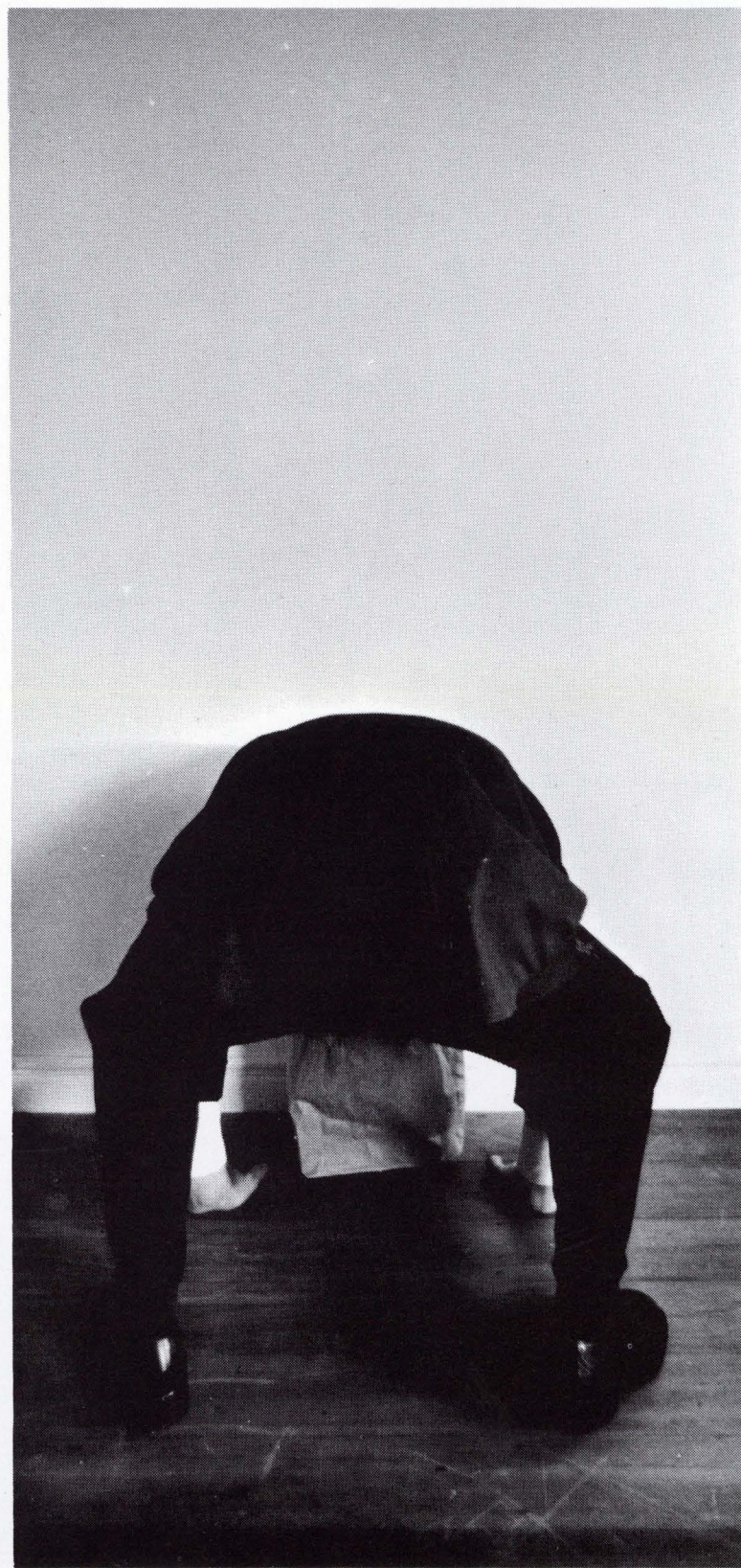




FORMAL

ENIGMA

~~**ENEMA**~~



**AUCKLAND CITY ART GALLERY
JOHN LETHBRIDGE 11-17 OCT
1975**

