

Geoffrey Farmer - Clip 5

## I've always been interested in the inanimate and the animate

The *Puppet Kit* came about because I saw this stool, the photograph of Jim Hensen's stool that he used to animate Kermit and I thought it was a really beautiful object. I thought it was quite complex and then from that I started to think about illusion and I've always been interested in the inanimate and the animate and how things are given a life whether it's through narrative, through a story or through history, that something is given value. And so I was thinking about this experience that I had when I was really young of trying to come to terms with the fact that the puppets on Sesame Street might not be alive. And in that video of the puppets sleeping is a memory of when I was watching Sesame Street to find clues of whether these puppets were actually real or alive. And one thing that really convinced me was when Ernie and Bert were sleeping at night you could see them breathe. So that's how that video came about and the idea of those kits, of the *Puppet Kit*, is that it's like an installation kit. So it would change from gallery, from one installation to another, that it would alter, that new videos would be made and I think that is an example of this desire I have to sort of be using the materials that are around me so that if it were shown in one space I would produce a video in that space using what was in that space. So the work is always being added to and in a sense it's the generator of ideas.

