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BACKROOM SOLO by OLD MASTER OF NEW MEDIA

Jan. 12 - Feb. 17

NEW YORK, NY (1/9/19) —

The Mitchell Albus Gallery is pleased to announce a Backroom Solo Exhibition of *Surreal to Conceptual Photo-Morphs* by “Old Master of New Media,” Barbara Rosenthal. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, January 12th from 6-8pm. The artist will also be present in the gallery to talk with visitors on Sat., Jan. 19, 4-6pm, and the show will run through Feb. 17th.

The exhibition features a selection of six 26”x40” digitally printed, manipulated distortions of full-frame analog 35mm photographs from her ongoing series *Surreal Photos* hung as a contiguous installation, and several 16”x20” *Surreal to Conceptual Photo-Morphs: Wafting Sheafs*.

In each rectangularly framed work, trapezoidal straight or curving slices of dreamlike reality appear to thrust or twist or descend through space. Photographed in international locations, often at night, the subject matter — a horse, a tower, a staircase, a doorway, a church, a roof, a window, a bird — resonates with the viewer’s own psychological undercurrent. The negative space in each plays as dominant a role as the shapes and iconography. Hung contiguously, with the images at different levels within the frames, they form individual multi-block pieces. These configurations bring a musical lilt and implied narrative to her photo-based installations.

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Barbara Rosenthal has been creating highly original photographic works since 1972, and image/text/performance videos since 1976. This exhibition is part of her year-long *Seventieth Birthday International Retrospective*, which began in New York at the Film-maker's CoOperative last summer. The other Jan-Feb 2019 events will take place in Helsinki at the Vuotalo Cultural Center on January 28 and the Lava Klub on January 29; in Brussels at Nadine Laboratory for Contemporary Arts on February 5; and in Berlin at the Boddinale Film Festival on February 9. All will include a selection of her 130 videos, and in several of these events she appears in live performance as a white-encased moving part of a screen upon which her *Surreal to Conceptual Photo-Morphs* combine and overlay to form disturbing distorted landscapes, sometimes with projected textual elements, through which she moves in relation to audio by international composers such as Charlie Morrow (NY/Helsinki) and Matthew Lee Knowles (London).

Rosenthal was born in The Bronx (1948). She was a long-time faculty member of the Photography Department of Parsons School of Design and editor of the *Parsons Faculty Affairs Newsletter*. She also taught Photography at The School of Visual Arts and SUNY/Purchase; Video at Jersey City State College and Manhattanville College; and Writing at CUNY/Staten Island. She holds a BFA from Carnegie-Mellon University and an MFA from Queens College. Five books of her *Surreal Photos* and writings have been published 1981-2019 by Visual Studies Workshop Press and Deadly Chaps Press, and over thirty of her limited edition photo-text artist's books are in the collections of MoMA, The Whitney, The Tate, Artpool Budapest, and Berlin Kunstbibliothek. Her five best known, *Clues to Myself*, *Sensations*, *Homo Futurus*, *Soul & Psyche*, and *Wish for Amnesia* will be available at the gallery.

Mitchell Albus Gallery Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2124021477654955/>