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Tues. Jan. 29, 2019, 8:30pm

## BARBARA ROSENTHAL

### “Old Master of New Media”

A native New Yorker, Barbara Rosenthal is a prolific, idiosyncratic, Media and Performance artist. Her major books are *Clues to Myself*, *Sensations*, *Homo Futurus*, *Soul & Psyche* and the new novel *Wish for Amnesia*. She has made 130 video shorts since 1976, often combining photography, text, philosophy and performance. Her existential work explore the intersection of the individual, the greater aggregate, and the concept of communication.

A pioneer in intermedia, she has been referred to “Media Poet” by The Village Voice and elsewhere since the 1980s. At her 2016 performance at Waterloo Action Center, London, she was introduced as “Old Master of New Media.” Her bookworks are in the collections of MoMA, The Whitney, The Tate, and Artpool Budapest. Here is the video compilation produced in large part about or with elements and people from Finland. Her mediated live performances here tonight are part of the artist’s Seventieth Birthday International Retrospective tour.

**“An Evening of Multi-Hat Informal Performance and Sound” is made possible by MUU and the Charlie Morrow Sound Studio.**

#### TWO MEDIATED PERFORMANCES



##### 1. “I’m Growing Up” (4 mins 45 sec.)

I stand in front of a video cut out of my body, clothed in a concealing white garment like a screen. The face is replaced with a blank rectangle. As I try to stand still for 10 minutes with my arms outstretched like on a clothesline screen of myself, the face area is replaced by the little video “I’m Growing Up Masks Morph.” in an unbroken live performance. “The portraits of herself a different ages morph to create different selves, accompanied by Mike Markham’s harmonica audio track, which was recorded live at Grace Exhibition Space when Rosenthal premiered the first iteration of the work as performance, in 2015. An eerie and elegant use of technology.”



##### 2. “Existential Ultraviolet Photo-Run II” (6 mins.)

“Existential Ultraviolet Photo Run” was first mounted at the Waterloo Action Centre, London, as my solo performance within a night of ten performances called “Ultraviolet Sun” by curator Tom Estes. As a Media Artist, most everything I do involves a camera, and my mediated live performances utilize projections, shadows and sound. In this piece, my “Surreal Photographs” are on a DVD (with original audio by Matthew Lee Knowles and Charlie Morrow), and projected large on a white wall. The photos are of bizarre landscapes I’ve shot all over the world, most of which also appear between the chapters of my new novel *Wish for Amnesia*.\*

I wear a floor-length white costume that covers my face and head so I can only see the strong light beam from the projector. The images and sound get increasingly rapid and chaotic as the 10-min piece progresses, in keeping with the curator’s purpose of attention to ravaging ultraviolet light. I become increasingly disoriented and exhausted due to the problem I set for myself, which is to follow the light beam around the stage as it moves according to the photo-projections, even though I can’t see much through the costume. Physically, that’s my purpose, but philosophically, my purpose, like in all my work, is portraying the existential difficulty and anxiety human beings face in a constantly changing, barely apprehendable universe.

What is most important in this piece is emotional interaction with the audience: only as it goes along is anyone able to understand I’m actually chasing the light, moving erratically in changing surreal landscapes. As they do, they begin to laugh tentatively, then more fully, as the frightening projected scenery, the frenzied arrangement and tempo of images and avant-garde music, and my limited ability to move and follow the light beam, increases.

The event was sponsored by [eMediaLoft.org](http://eMediaLoft.org) (NYC), MoMM: The Museum of Modern Media (NYC) and Art Selectronic (London). It received a comprehensive review in *\*Fad Magazine\**, a London arts publication, which referenced my 1970s work in video and Super-8 performance, and called me for the first time in print, “Old Master of New Media.” I want to express my gratitude for this, and to Tom Estes for inviting me to London to perform, to [eMediaLoft.org](http://eMediaLoft.org) in NY where I mounted it a second time in March, and to *\*Emergency Index\** for continued scholarly performance documentation. In this iteration Charlie Morrow’s 8 minute audio contribution has been segmented in overlays to equal 6minutes, and the earlier variations of the piece have been superimposed as well. I cut the audio tracks partly dependent on how they looked on the computer timelines. And, naturally, this will be videotaped, and the project could grow on and on.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/337216686865404>

Finnish: <http://www.mu.fi/site/?p=13062&lang=fi>

English: <http://www.mu.fi/site/?p=13062&lang=en>

Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara\\_Rosenthal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Rosenthal)

Artist’s website: [barbararosenthal.org](http://barbararosenthal.org)

Charlie Morrow / MorrowSound: [www.morrowssound.com](http://www.morrowssound.com)

Venu and Event: <https://lavaklubi.fi/show/multi-hat-event-an-informal-presentation-of-performance-design-video-music-sound-with-conversation/>