

ubu

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Ann Mandelbaum: Photographs

September 16 – October 25, 1997

Ubu Gallery will open its 1997–1998 exhibition schedule with New York's first commercial gallery showing of the extraordinary photographic work of Brooklyn-based artist, **Ann Mandelbaum**. Mandelbaum's work was last seen in New York in her one-person show at the Grey Art Gallery at New York University in 1995. Ubu Gallery is the first venue in a traveling show of her new works, which consist of images made since that exhibition. It is scheduled to travel to an additional six non-commercial venues in Europe and Australia in 1998-1999.

In the simplest descriptive sense, Ann Mandelbaum's photographs are merely close-ups of portions of the human body—eyes, mouths, nipples, tongues, eyebrows, and necks—ambiguously and sensually presented. In a larger sense, they are rigidly composed images, highly refined into mysterious prints which are the result of hours in the darkroom where the artist solarizes and manipulates them in various ways to create an almost textural viewing sensation. One of her most recent series—extreme close-ups of her parents' aging necks—has resulted in a unique set of “body landscapes” which draw the viewer deep within the surface.

Currently teaching photography at the Pratt Institute, Mandelbaum is well known in Europe, having had numerous one-person exhibitions at museums and Kunsthallen throughout Germany and in Paris. Her work is in the collections of the Bibliotheque nationale in Paris, the Brooklyn Museum, The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the National Gallery of Australia and many other private and public collections.