

RAFFAELLA CORTESE



Barbara Bloom Biography

Barbara Bloom was born in Los Angeles in 1951. She lives and works in New York.

Through photography, installation, film and books, Bloom explores notions of museology, design, collecting, taste and our investment in the objects we surround ourselves with. Her gaze does not focus on single items or images, but rather on the relationships between these objects, and the inherent meaning carried by their positioning and juxtaposition. Though enthusiastically visual, Bloom's practice is rooted more in the traditional act of literary production rather than that of painting or sculpture making. She has often compared herself—and the viewer of her work—to a detective, who is confronted with disparate clues and is asked to form a visual narrative. Her seductive use of shadows, traces, Braille, broken objects and watermarks, all demonstrate an unwavering interest in visualizing the fragile workings of memory, the ephemeral, and the absent—invisible presences activated by our gaze.

Bloom's solo exhibitions include: *Accord*, Galleria Raffaella Cortese, Milan (2025); *...The Whole Grand Pattern of Human Endeavor*, Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne (2023); *Works on Paper*, David Lewis, New York (2021); *The Weather*, Kunsthall Aarhus, Denmark (2020); *Barbara Bloom: The Rendering (H X W X D =)*, Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art, Cleveland (2018); *Two Artists Books by Barbara Bloom with Susan Tallman*, Fleming Museum of Art, University of Vermont, Burlington (2017); *The Weather*, Galleria Raffaella Cortese, Milan (2016); *Barbara Bloom: Framing Wall*, Museum of Modern Art, New York (2015); *As it were... so to speak*, Jewish Museum, New York (2013); *The Collections of Barbara Bloom*, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin (2008); *Absence-Presence*,

Palazzo delle Papesse, Siena (2007); *Never Odd or Even*, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (1992); *The Reign of Narcissism*, Serpentine Gallery, London (1990); *The Gaze*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1985).

Her work has been included in group exhibitions at: *For Dear Life: Art, Medicine and Disability*, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego (2024); The Verbund Collection, Albertina, Vienna (2024); *Influence and Identity*, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2023); *ThisPlay*, Arter, Istanbul (2022); *Joan Didion: What She Means*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2022); *Wagnis der Öffentlichkeit*, Halle für Kunst, Lüneburg, Germany (2020); The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield (2019); The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C. and MoCA Pacific Design Center, Los Angeles (2018); *Hamburger Bahnhof*, Berlin (2017); *BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts*, Bruxelles (2016); *Kunsthalle Wien*, Vienna (2015); *Pérez Art Museum*, Miami (2015); *Museum Morsbroich*, Leverkusen (2014); *Palazzo Cavalli Franchetti*, Venice (2011); *Palais the Tokyo*, Paris (2010); *De Appel*, Amsterdam (2009); *Fotomuseum Winterthur*, Winterthur (2008); *Duolun Museum of Modern Art*, Shanghai (2005); *Kunsthau Graz*, Graz (2004); *Cooper Hewitt Design Museum*, New York (2004); *Museum Fridericianum*, Kassel (1999); *Art Institute of Chicago*, Chicago (1998); *Museum of Contemporary Art*, Los Angeles (1996); *SITE Santa Fe*, Santa Fe (1995); *MAK – Austrian Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Art*, Vienna (1994); *Fundacion Caja de Pensiones*, Madrid (1992); *The Israel Museum*, Jerusalem (1990); *The New Museum*, New York (1988); *Secession*, Vienna (1982); *Westkunst*, Museen der Stadt, Cologne (1981).