

artspeak



artspeak ^{Sep 16} Penny Slinger

"50% Unboxed"

[Pace Gallery \(https://www.pacegallery.com\)](https://www.pacegallery.com)

New York, 540 West 25th Street

On view in the gallery's first-floor library, the exhibition, titled *50% Unboxed*, will feature selections from Slinger's iconic artist investigates the mapping and unveiling of the feminine subconscious. Alongside these historic works, the exhibition (21). Pace's presentation follows Blum & Poe's 2021 exhibition of Slinger's work, titled *50/50*, in Los Angeles.

Originally created in 1969 as a hand-constructed, snakeskin-bound book for the artist's thesis project at the Chelsea School of Art, the book is a discovery of Surrealism, which has had a pivotal impact on her practice. An homage to Max Ernst, the book includes the fraught portrayals of women and the void of feminine authorship in the male-dominated surrealist milieu. "Having to create a language for the feminine psyche to express itself," the artist has said. The book's binding alternates between transparent tissue paper, allowing the prose to interact directly with their visual counterparts beneath. Words take on a life of their own.

In 2021, Slinger released a new edition of her book *50% The Visible Woman*, presenting her photomontage works and dialogues between Slinger and fellow artist and friend Linder.


Among the works from this series in Pace's forthcoming exhibition is *The Dialectics* (1969), an image of a totem of dissonance and others are plucked from an image of a woman in mime costume, with shadows reaching in every direction.

Slinger appropriates Surrealism's language and themes—woman's body as object, dream-state as entrance into the realm of Surrealism itself and its culture. Slinger inserts herself into this art historical lineage and takes ownership of a visual language. The exhibition is accompanied by a sonic accompaniment produced in collaboration with musician Lydia Lunch.

Another highlight of the presentation is *My Body in a Box*, which Slinger created during the pandemic as part of an exhibition from the 1960s, the artist uses her own image and body—photographed by her creative partner Dhiren Dasu—as subject.

In conjunction with this exhibition, Spectacle Theater in Brooklyn will present *Alchemy & Ecstasy*, a screening series of films in tandem with the works in Pace's exhibition, as well as a recent animated feature. The artist will participate in a live Q&A.

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