

JULIE SAUL

GALLERY

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PRESS RELEASE

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PENELOPE UMBRICO
ABSTRACT PHOTOGRAPHS

DATES: March 27 - May 1, 1992³
RECEPTION: Saturday, March 27, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

The Julie Saul Gallery is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of recent abstract photographs by Penelope Umbrico.

Umbrico's work is part of a tradition of abstract photography going back at least to the photograms of Moholy Nagy and Man Ray. Yet Umbrico was trained as a painter, and approaches the photographic medium from a fresh almost naive perspective, using processes, forms and materials in untraditional and unconventional ways. Her vocabulary of forms is biomorphic, and the source for her images range from "photographs of the ends of things" to shapes developed on the computer and transposed to photographic negatives.

The work is almost always serial, forms and colors evolving in rhythmic progressions. In this exhibition she will create an installation of 196 computer generated images which evolve through a multitude of shapes and colors. There will also be a series of her "digit" works, which combine two prints, and suggest mirror imaging and reproduction. Finally, a group of black and white images of ovoid shapes form a formal and metaphoric counterpoint to the digits.

This is Umbrico's first solo show at a New York gallery. The International Center of Photography held an exhibition of her work May 1 - July 26, 1992 entitled Variants as part of their New Directions series. Umbrico's work was also included in the Museum of Modern Art exhibition More Than One Photography in May 1992, and in group exhibitions at the Lieberman and Saul Gallery in 1990 and 1992, the Sandra Gehring and Art in General (both in 1992), and The Drawing Center "Selections 41" in 1988.

Her work is included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the International Center of Photography, New York, and numerous private collections.

Attached is a very informative essay by Willis Hartshorn from the brochure accompanying her ICP exhibition.