

ART

STRUCTURE, REPETITION and "The body"

Robert C. Morgan



Barbara Rosenthal *Starfish/Fossil/Twins*
32"x32" (4 panels) b&w silver photographs 1991

I like Barbara Rosenthal's "retrospective" of conceptual photographs a lot. The space at 450 Broadway is a bit shabby, but somehow the display of her black and white photographs—many of which were appropriated from various sources, like swim manuals, was quite effective. Rosenthal is a media artist and film-maker. She uses autobiography and narrative in her work, but she also has an inventive manner of presenting and juxtaposing images that carries a certain freshness. In spite of their standard scale, Rosenthal's photographs manage to tell the story—not just literally, but metaphorically as well.

Barbara Kruger's Gallery is a mannerism that doesn't need to happen. Regular images. Audiotape and vomiting are projected while an anonymous male voice with a nasal & M undertones berates his subjects. Kruger has run her course in this direction. After the Whitney Biennial, the "message" has lost its impact. It appears anachronistic as if on the verge of intellectual terrorism. Somehow the comment has been submerged into the same flow of images and sound-bites that we absorb through the media every day.

THE UNDERGROUND NATIONAL

SO ARE APRIL \$2