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SENSATIONS
BY BARBARA ROSENTHAL

Sensations, Barbara Rosenthal, Visual Studies Workshop Press, Rochester, New York, 1984;
48pp.; softcover, \$8.95 U.S.

"I have hundreds of self-portraits. Who is this person I call my 'self?' And why the hell am I so concerned about her?" With this challenge, the narrative voice poses the book's struggle with questions of identity, experience, growth and environment. But Rosenthal goes beyond the seductive pull of solipsistic theatre: in the interplay between text and photograph, she constructs an elaborate study of self in relation to others, seen through the filmy complexity of dream and memory. The photos themselves are enigmatic snippets, full of shadows, blurred lines, dark places; the accompanying texts tell stories which, paradoxically, both locate the images in the context of the narrator's persona and open them up to varied cultural associations. Although this opposition is itself played within the book's emphasis on disorientation and obstruction, *Sensations* is about growth, moments of revelation; the barriers poised between text and photo are finally translated into triumph.