

CORKIN GALLERY



Barbara Astman, *Untitled, I was thinking about you... Series, 1979 -1980*

In *Untitled, I was thinking about you...*, Astman used herself as the model, typing spontaneous letters to friends directly over her own image. Assuming a simple, frontal pose, her figure resembles a fragment of ancient statuary. Astman's stance creates a vague sense of longing; while the composition fits and fills the square purposefully. Without the eyes showing, it removes the emphasis on herself as a subject. The text is triggered by remembrances of each of her friends. Starting as photographs, the works explode to the scale of life size images.

Here the image and text are fused, becoming philosophical narrations expressed through this conflation. It is impossible to reach the figure without penetrating the text. Likewise, to decipher the narrative without being conscious of the figure is equally difficult. The dialogue is about nearness and inaccessibility, existing between the present and memory...and left unresolved.