

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *Real Spaces*

Robin Crookall

December 8th, 2020—December 15th, 2021

Monday—Friday 2-6pm. By appointment only.

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**Penumbra Foundation is pleased to present a selection of seven images from the work *Real Spaces*, by artist Robin Crookall.**

*Real Spaces* reimagines the interstices of domestic and urban spaces with nods to the history of photography. Contrasting photographic imposters with contrived images, this series consists of models that portray similar subjects explored by renowned artists such as Gordon Matta-Clark, Lee Friedlander and Robert Adams.

The task of building a model to emulate an existing image, and then photographing it becomes absurdly humorous, as it attempts to mock reality. Juxtaposed to these reproductions are artificial pictures, structured to emulate the artists own drawings. By contrasting replicas of previously photographed places with concocted ones, Crookall is subverting attention and unraveling truths. "[... ] It's the pursuit of the uncanny that drives me to create mundane objects and spaces for the subjects of my imagery" sais Crookall. "I build and photograph, architectural models; small dioramas, made of cardboard, tape, and hot glue, because they can be molded into something precious, convincing, and drab. Simple materials, turned into elaborate objects aide in my drive for realness through the unreal.[ ...]"

These photographs examine the dynamics of space, property, and the illusion of environmental possession and permanence. The artist deconstructed her own perception of ownership and recreated specific places, in order to make them her own. These imitations specifically facilitate a narrative of (re)construction. Presented in this series of photographs are records of time and location, imagined or real, that invites the viewer to question the quality of our own perception and ownership of reality.

### **About the artist**

Robin Crookall came from Washington State to New York to pursue her Masters in Fine Arts. In 2016 she received her MFA, from New York University. There she continued to fine tune her sculpture and photography skills to create uncanny images of small scale architectural

models. Robin Crookall is a recipient of the **2020 Penumbra Workspace Program** and a recipient of a 2019 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellow in photography from The New York Foundation for the Arts. In 2017, she participated in a group show at Seattle's Soil Art Gallery, exhibited at Art Basel in Miami, and completed a two person show at Brooklyn's McCarren Park. Robin was interviewed in July 2016 by local artist and writer, Wenxin Zhang, for an online Chinese photography magazine, IndieFoto. Previously in 2013 she completed a solo show at Seattle's 4Culture Gallery and her post bacc at University of Montana. She is currently living and creating in Brooklyn.

### **About Penumbra Project Space**

A 300 square foot space that offers emerging and mid-career artists a place to present new work. The installations are developed in conjunction with Penumbra's editorial or educational programs. All works are for sale. All sales support the artists and Penumbra Foundation.

### **About Penumbra Workspace Program**

Penumbra Workspace Program facilitates six emerging artists with time, workspace, resources and support to get them and their work closer to the distribution platform that is the city of New York. By emerging artists, we are referring to artists who are seriously practicing their art but who are still in the early stages of their careers; artists who, on top of taking risks and embracing challenges, have not yet established a solid reputation amongst other artists, curators, producers, critics, or arts administrators.

### **About Penumbra Foundation**

Penumbra Foundation is a nonprofit organization that brings together the Art and Science of Photography through education, research, outreach, public, publishing and residency programs. Its goal is to be a comprehensive resource for photographers at any level, artists, students, professionals, historians, researchers, conservators and curators. Penumbra specializes in advancing the use of historic and alternative photographic technologies for contemporary image making.

For more information about the exhibition and artists please visit:  
[penumbrafoundation.org/project-space-real-spaces](http://penumbrafoundation.org/project-space-real-spaces)

Editor's note: Exhibition details and photographs are available upon request.  
For more information about Penumbra Foundation, please visit [penumbrafoundation.org](http://penumbrafoundation.org).

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