

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release**
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Gail Rebhan, About Time

March 22–August 17, 2025

UCR ARTS, California Museum of Photography

Spring Reception

Saturday, March 22, 3–6 p.m.

*Free and open to the public***Gallery Talk**

Saturday, March 22, 3:45 p.m.

Artist Gail Rebhan in conversation with
guest curator Sally Stein

Image: Gail Rebhan, from the series *Living*, 2022. Archival pigment print. Courtesy of the artist.

UCR ARTS presents a major retrospective of artist Gail Rebhan's work, *Gail Rebhan, About Time*, exploring the themes of change, time, and social engagement through four decades of photography. The exhibition transforms our understanding of photography's relationship with time, challenging the medium's traditional focus on capturing singular moments.

Through her lens, Rebhan documents the gradual metamorphosis of everyday life—from intimate family portraits to social justice movements. Her distinctive approach involves creating photographic sequences that unfold over hours, days, or weeks, revealing the subtle poetry of change in both domestic spaces and public spheres.



Image: Gail Rebhan, *Gray Hair*, 1995, Collection of UCR ARTS/California Museum of Photography. Image courtesy of the artist.

“I am very interested in change,” says Rebhan. “Things are always changing. In some work, the intervals are brief, in others days or years. I often use dates to indicate the intervals. This shifts the way you look at the image.”

This attention to change, whether in the home, the environment, or in the body itself, runs throughout her career. Whether documenting her own family’s evolution, the shifting dynamics of social spaces, or the transformation of everyday objects, Rebhan’s work asks us to ruminate on the larger time and space frames of photography’s oft isolated moments.

“The irony is that she uses a medium like photography, which is meant to capture the perfect moment,” notes curator and renowned American photo historian Sally Stein. “Rebhan instead reveals how each photograph is merely one frame in life’s ongoing process.”

Debuting at UCR ARTS, this iteration of the exhibition will feature a major new body of work, *What questions do we ask?* (2024). To make these works, Rebhan delved into the U.S. Census Bureau’s archive to catch shifts in lines of inquiry, methodically assembling her findings in a serial manner.

“Though framed by a patriotic flag motif,” Stein points out, “the series is hardly complacent.”

As in much of her work, here Rebhan raises questions while offering no easy answers.

In *Living*, another installation that brings together text and time, Rebhan defies our youth-obsessed values with new studies of her body as a retort to the many slurs deriding the presence and commanding vision of mature women.

In recent years, Rebhan has returned to her documentary roots, using her photography to support grassroots activism to support a largely African American community group working to salvage a historic Black cemetery. This intersection of personal history and broader social issues is central to Rebhan’s work, and the exhibition at UCR ARTS offers a rare opportunity to experience her artistic journey in full.



Image: Gail Rebhan, *Gail's and Mark's Dishrack*, January 13, 14, 15, 16, 1981, 1981, from the series, "Sequential Still Life".
Chromogenic prints.
Courtesy of the artist

"I hope people get a chance to connect this exhibition to their own lives," Rebhan explained. "A lot of the issues are very personal and specific to me, and I just think I am representative of what a lot of Americans go through in their stories. Even though it is extremely specific in each piece, there's a universal quality to this exhibition."

"Taken together," reflects Joanna Szupinska, senior curator at UCR ARTS, "Rebhan's work demonstrates not only a commitment to a lifelong photographic practice but also attests to the belief that the personal and the political most always overlap and interact."

The exhibition, accompanied by a publication from MACK (2023), offers unprecedented insight into Rebhan's artistic evolution.

UCR ARTS will complement the exhibition with public programs throughout its run, creating opportunities for deeper engagement with themes of time. On Saturday, March 22, the museum will host a tour of the exhibition led by Rebhan and Stein, with a public reception to follow. For complete exhibition details and program schedule, please visit UCR ARTS online.

Gail Rebhan, About Time is curated by Sally Stein, Professor Emerita, Department of Art History, UC Irvine, and is accompanied by a publication of the same title (MACK, 2023). The exhibition was originally conceived for the American University Museum, Washington, DC, where it was on view in 2023. Joanna Szupinska is coordinating curator of the exhibition for UCR ARTS. Programs at UCR ARTS are supported by the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) and by the City of Riverside.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gail Rebhan (born in Chicago, IL, 1953) is Professor Emerita of Photography at Northern Virginia Community College, where she taught from 2000 until 2019. She earned her MFA in Photography at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), Valencia, in 1981, and her BA in Communications at Antioch College, Ohio, in 1975. She lives and works in Washington, DC.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Sally Stein (born in New York, NY, 1949) is Professor Emerita of Art History at UC Irvine, where she taught from 1990 until 2008. Previously she also taught in the History of Art Department at UCR, and the Visual Arts Department at UCSD. She earned her PhD in American Studies at Yale University, New Haven, in 1991, her MFA in Photography at the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, in 1976, and her BA in History at Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, in 1972. She currently lives and works in New York.

ALSO ON VIEW

Lost in the Wilderness: Ansel Adams in the 1960s

Curated by Douglas McCulloh

January 2–September 28, 2025

Meggan Gould: Shadow Archive

Curated by Kathryn Poindexter-Akers

February 22–July 27, 2025

Off Reservation: Sofia Valiente and the Photo Students of Sherman Indian High School

Curated by Kathryn Poindexter-Akers and Lindsey Hammel

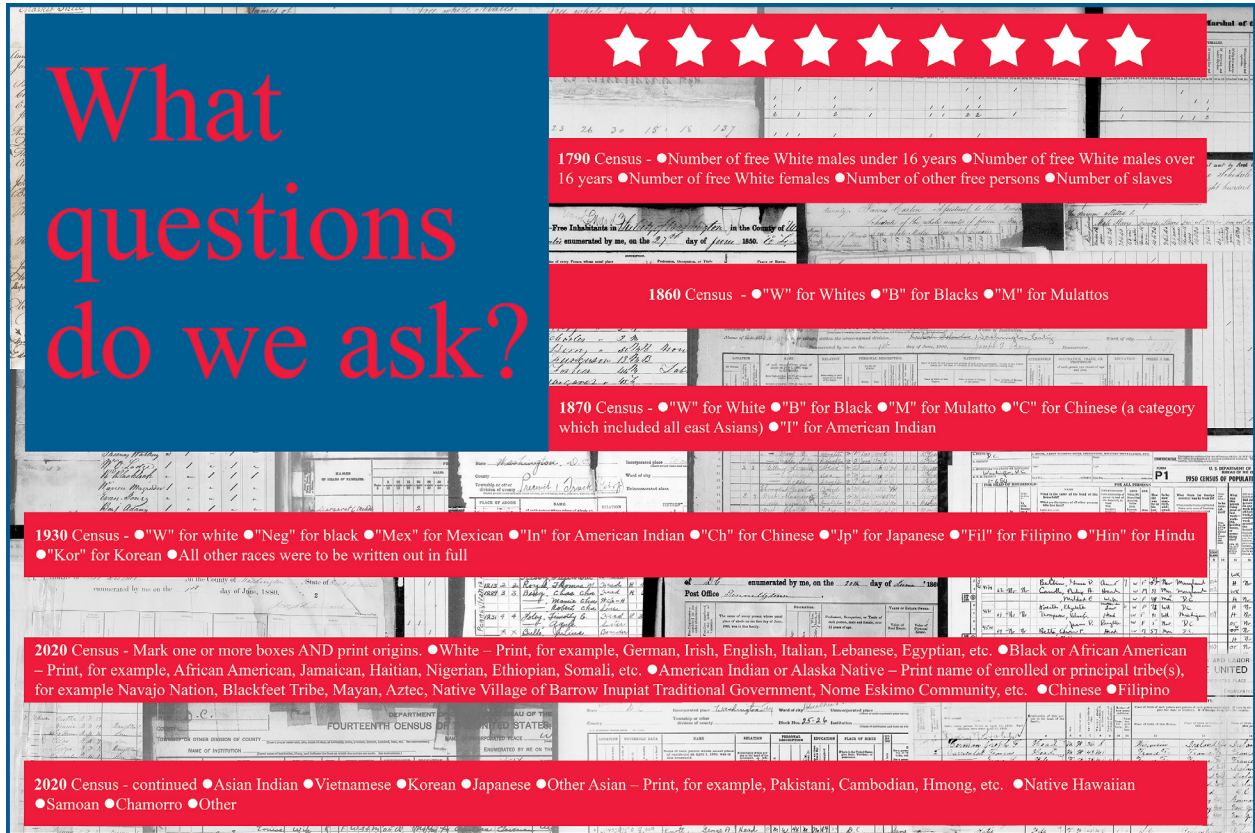
May 3–November 2, 2025

ABOUT UCR ARTS

UCR ARTS is the California Museum of Photography and the Culver Center of the Arts. Founded in 1973, the **California Museum of Photography** is the photography museum of the University of California. With more than 500,000 objects, it holds one of the major photography collections in the United States. The museum serves diverse local, national, and international audiences through research, exhibitions, education, programming, and publications. The **Culver Center of the Arts** advances the understanding and appreciation of the arts through extraordinary experiences in contemporary visual and performing art, as well as a rich ongoing film program. Culver Center facilities include a 72-seat screening room, computer lab, dance studios, Sweeney Art Gallery and other exhibitions spaces, and a black box studio and recording studio.

UCR ARTS is located at 3824 + 3834 Main Street, downtown Riverside.

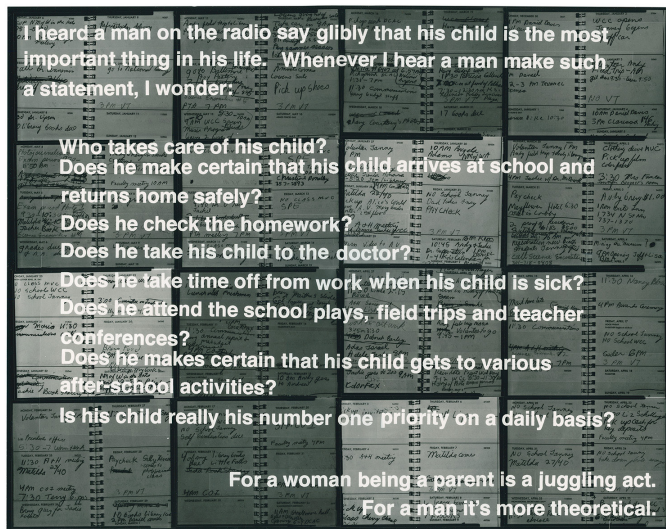
Hours are Thursday + Friday, noon–5 p.m., and Saturday + Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. • ucrarts.ucr.edu



Images, top to bottom:

Gail Rebhan, *What questions do we ask? – Race*, 2024. Archival pigment prints mounted on aluminum. Courtesy of the artist.

Gail Rebhan, *Home Alone*, 2021, from the series "Immigration/Assimilation". Archival pigment prints mounted on aluminum. Courtesy of the artist



Images, top to bottom:

Gail Rebhan, *My father with Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel, and Pope John Paul II*, 2004, from the series "Aging". Archival pigment print. Courtesy of the artist.

Gail Rebhan, *Most Important*, 1992. Gelatin silver print. Courtesy of the artist