

# ARTNEWS

## Beg, Borrow, Steal: With Several Exhibitions Involving Appropriation, New York Has a Second 'Pictures' Moment

by Alex Greenberger  
August 21, 2017

**On Louise Lawler, Dara Birnbaum, Robert Longo, Rachel Harrison, Barbara Bloom, Leslie Hewitt, Marlon Mullen, Jef Geys, Tabor Robak, Sara Cwynar**



Barbara Bloom, *Vanity*, 2017, vanity mirror and lighting, mirrored vanity, table, photograph-etched small vanity mirror, digital archival photograph, and movie scripts, 72½" x 42½" x 19". David Lewis. MAX YAWNEY/COURTESY THE ARTIST AND DAVID LEWIS, NEW YORK

At Barbara Bloom's exhibition at David Lewis, a clever use of mirrors made it appear as if viewers were part of the artworks. A reflection on reflections, this elegant show appropriated photographs of Vladimir Nabokov, Elizabeth Taylor, and Marilyn Monroe. (The images were mostly shot by Magnum photographers.) The most touching work was *Vanity* (2017), a dressing table upon which sits a bound screenplay and a round magnifying mirror on a stand. Under the table's glass top is an Eve Arnold photograph of Joan Crawford, who is shown reading a script. Within the Arnold picture, a tabletop mirror, similar to the one in the sculpture, reflects Crawford's hand moving through her hair; Bloom blew up that detail (the benday dots are left visible) and placed it in *Vanity*'s real mirror. Crawford was obsessed with her own image, and no doubt Bloom was interested in the picture for that very reason.