

## PRESS RELEASE

# Jack Pierson

Independent, New York

March 8–11, 2018



*Diamond Life*, 1990

Cheim & Read will present works in various media from the early nineties by Jack Pierson at the 2018 Independent Art Fair.

Centered on the iconic 1990 sculpture, *Diamond Life*, which was included in the retrospective exhibition, *Five Shows From The Nineties*, at the Aspen Museum of Art in 2016, the presentation will focus on Pierson's study of his personal, quotidian routine, and a poetic suggestion "that someone was just there." *Diamond Life* is a domestic tableau made up of everyday items, including a linoleum floor and yellow wall paint the artist observed in his daily life. "Little lyrical rooms to die in," the poet Eileen Myles called them.

In the wake of the AIDS crisis, queer artists turned to their own lived experience, especially during the Romantic Conceptualist movement in New York during which Pierson worked alongside his contemporaries and friends Felix Gonzales-Torres, Robert Gober, and Mark Morrisroe.

In a painful drawing from 1991, Pierson addresses the viewer as a lost lover: "Do you ever, even for a second, wake up and think it's me next to you?" It is this romantic and confessional approach that takes banal everyday activities — smoking a cigarette, looking out the window — and elevates them to issues of life or death.

**Cheim & Read** 547 West 25 Street, New York