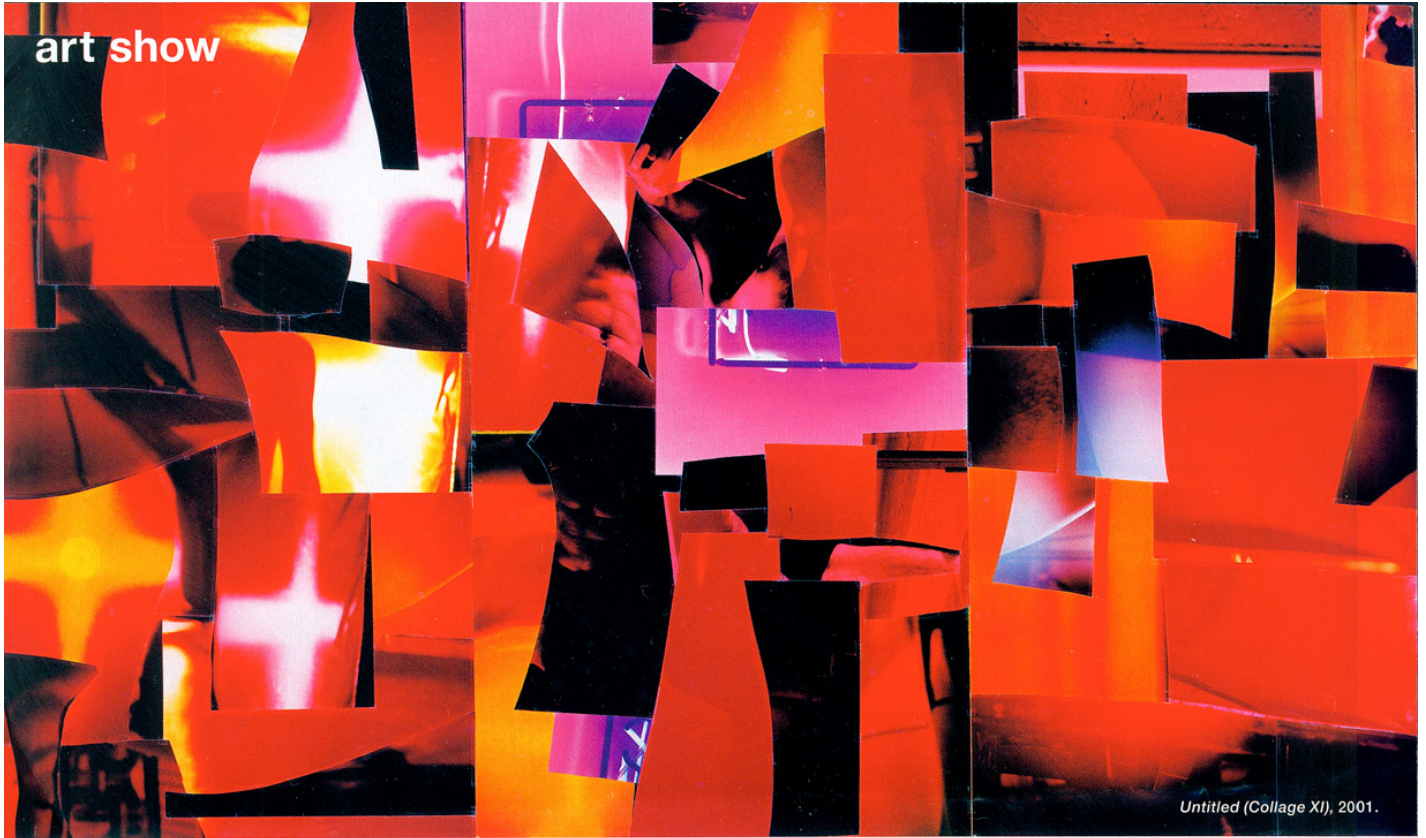


CHEIM & READ

art show



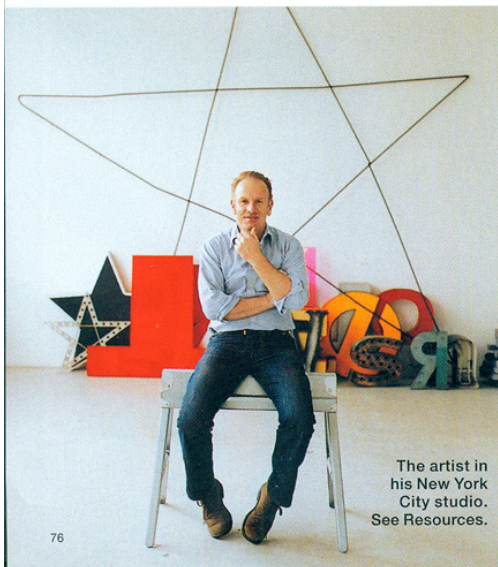
Jack Pierson

From striking photographs to poignant letter sculptures, this versatile artist is one of today's most sought-after stars

By Vicky Lowry

way-out, was art," he explains. He later segued into photography, and, in the predigital age of the late 1980s, he began blowing up some of his snapshots into poster-size prints. "They were out of focus," he recalls, "but you couldn't complain: They only cost me \$10 each. But I could tell they were good." Maxing out his credit card with the 20-by-30-inch images, he was able to garner his first solo show at New York's Simon Watson gallery.

The itinerant Pierson moves easily among various states—he splits the year between New York; Provincetown, Massachusetts; and the California desert—as well as art mediums, an admittedly disjointed way to work he describes as "pure torture." Besides his photography, which includes celebrity portraits and editorial work for fashion magazines like *Vogue Hommes International* and *Purple*, he does drawings, paintings, and collages, plus installations that recall offbeat movie sets. The latter are vignettes filled with personal items from Pierson's former apartments and inspired by belongings he's seen laid out for sale on blankets along the sidewalks of New York. "On the street I'd see an ashtray from Capri, great Polaroids, porno magazines," he says. "You could read them like a book." This transparency appealed to >



The artist in his New York City studio. See Resources.

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