

Jack Pierson

Angel Youth

Maccarone
98 Morton Street, New York
November 4 - December 23, 2017



Neon Baltimore, from the series *Angel Youth*, 1990
Photo courtesy Cheim & Read, New York

"I don't care what anyone says, photography is nostalgia."
-Jack Pierson

Maccarone is pleased to present an exhibition of Jack Pierson's *Angel Youth* series in the 98 Morton space from November 4 to December 23, 2017.

Consisting of 13 chromogenic prints mounted on archival board, the snapshot-like series, *Angel Youth*, pulls from a body of Pierson's work from the early '90s. Highlighted in the recent publication, *The Hungry Years*, the photographs align the seemingly banal (*Some peaches*) with illusions of luxury (*In Every Dreamhome a Heartache*). Simultaneously evoking familiarity and distance, Pierson began his career with such grainy, amateur-like photography to create his own version of "found" photos. Sourcing generic imagery from his cross-country road trips, they seduce the viewer with a sense of voyeuristic intimacy.

While each photograph depicts specific moments or people in Pierson's life, the personal narrative parallels a larger, historical dialogue of the American '90s. *Fascination* vignettes a hazy night-scene on 42nd Street in New York, where the artist's studio was located at the time; a starkly ordinary façade depicts the Hollywood apartment building where Janis Joplin overdosed in *A Woman Left Lonely*; and in *The Call Back*, he casually snapped a shot of a Lucile Ball impersonator post-audition. These era-specific dichotomies of iconoclasm, desperation, and doomed glamour resonate in our contemporary disillusionment.

Each of the 13 prints are lined on the reverse with a variety of vintage posters and wallpapers, and collectively come with a trimmed, burnished, wooden portfolio case – like treasures kept in a cigar box. Therein retaining its original objecthood nearly thirty years on, *Angel Youth* unapologetically embodies the nostalgia of a particular Americana, and the current dismantling of its presupposed dream.

This exhibition is presented in collaboration with Cheim & Read, New York.
For more information, please contact press@maccarone.net.