

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Regen Projects
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JACK PIERSON: Self Portrait
June 4 - July 3, 2004
Opening reception: Friday, June 4, 2004, 6-8pm
Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10am-6pm

Regen Projects is pleased to announce an exhibition of photographs by **Jack Pierson** entitled Self Portrait. In these new photographs we see the development of **Pierson's** life through body doubles. The photographs are simply titled and numbered, beginning with *Self Portrait #1* which depicts the artist as a naked little boy chopping wood. As we move through his life, from childhood to adolescence, and eventually to adulthood, we find these "stand-ins" maturing both physically and sexually. Some of the sitters appear distant and reflective, others are clearly emboldened by their sexual prowess, flirting with the viewer. In a recent catalogue published on **Pierson's Self Portrait** series, Marina Grzinic writes, "The photographs might appear controversial to a conventional audience, but as an array of characters joined together to form a "gang" of identities, they definitely explore the pressure between the absence and presence of an individual life, and between achieving and losing a sense of individual identity."

As evident in his earlier work, **Pierson** uses the medium of photography to explore the juxtaposition of the real and fictional. Grzinic adds, "Jack Pierson's photographs move, or rather migrate, from documentation to fiction, from reality to places that were not designed for them but which Pierson dares powerfully (re) imagine. Pierson's self-portraits are strong mediations between numerous lives within life, between multiple presentation strategies within photography, between different constructs of identity."

A selection of photographs from **Jack Pierson's Self Portrait** were recently included in the 2004 Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. In 2002 a survey exhibition of Jack Pierson's work opened at the Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami. He was also included in 2002 exhibition *Visions of America: Photographs from the Whitney Museum of American Art from 1940-2001*.

Regen Projects will also be exhibiting the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) "Photography Portfolio 2004" curated by **Jack Pierson** at 629 North Almont. The portfolio includes 18 photographs with work by Tina Barney, Cecily Brown, William Eggleston, Steven Klein and others. All proceeds will be donated to amfAR.

An opening reception for **Jack Pierson Self Portrait** and the amfAR "Photography Portfolio 2004" will take place on Friday, June 4th from 6:00 to 8:00pm at Regen Projects.

For further information please contact Shaun Caley Regen, Lisa Overduin or Sarah Cohen at the gallery at 310/276-5424.