



I really thought I was getting much better about newspapers. I can now read a paper that someone else has already looked at without too much trouble. And although it's still my habit to take a paper from the middle of the stack, I can cope with the top copy, even if it's torn or creased. But the other day I was in one of those cafés where they leave papers for you to read with your coffee. The paper I usually read was not available so I took another one I don't much care for. Then I saw it. On a nearby table. And the woman eating her soup wasn't even reading it. Perhaps it was her own copy, I thought, making impossible the little performance in which one sidles up to the table and places a hand on the paper, saying "May I?" As it became clear that she was in fact about to leave, the tension rose. Would she leave the paper? And if so, would I get it first or would some other newsprint-deprived intellectual sidle in ahead of me? There was an awkward moment before I could give up pretense but then I accepted it: "Hello. My name is Nicholas and I'm a newspaper addict."

As habits go, newspapers are reasonably cheap and fairly harmless. Like all addictions, they can lead you into peculiar and unsociable behavior. It need hardly be said that for the true paper gourmand, only the right printed pulp will do. In my case, it's *The Guardian*, sometimes referred to by the more affected addict as *The Manchester Guardian*. It's a liberal, dissenting journal, originally from the northern English manufacturing town of Manchester. Now the offices are located in Clerkenwell in London, across from the Marx Library with its memorabilia of Lenin, and the gate to which John Ball led the Peasant's Rebellion in the fourteenth century. In this neighborhood, not long ago, lost causes were easily forgotten in the many pubs of the area. Now they are increasingly gastro-pubs, with fine wines and restaurant-quality food, targeting a more conservative audience.

Nicholas Mirzoeff Newspapers

When I was younger, just finding a copy of *The Guardian* was often an achievement. With its vaguely left politics and conservative returns policy (meaning that if a shop didn't sell a copy it was stuck with it), *The Guardian* was hard to find. This simply appealed to the collector in me. With a Labour government in its second term in Britain, *The Guardian* is now ubiquitous there. Even in Europe, a slimmed-down version can be found quite easily in the major cities of France, Italy, and Spain—all countries with impressive newspaper habits. From a recent trip, I can report that while the paper is everywhere in Stockholm, it is not yet available in the Arctic cities of Sweden—I did try, yes.

In the United States, a collector can still find some sport. As a resident alien, my mental map of major U.S. cities is distorted by the routes required to pass by *Guardian* vendors. It's Situationism for the newspaper addict, an apparently random walk, concealing a personal and political purpose. In New York, for instance, the appeal of NoLita is not the ludicrously expensive fashion-victim stores but the little South Asian grocery that is a reliable *Guardian* source. If going to the Strand, New York's still-surviving secondhand bookstore, get off the subway a stop early to hit the newspaper shop on 23rd and Broadway. On St. Mark's Place, there's a shop with an amusing variation. Here they print out copies of the same day's paper from an online supplier onto broadsheet-size paper. I still prefer the day-old copies on newsprint, but the new version will do in a pinch. Why not? Or why not simply access the very good website? It's about the body and a

Wang Youshen.
Newspaper Series, 1993.
View of performance,
Beijing, China. Courtesy of
the artist.

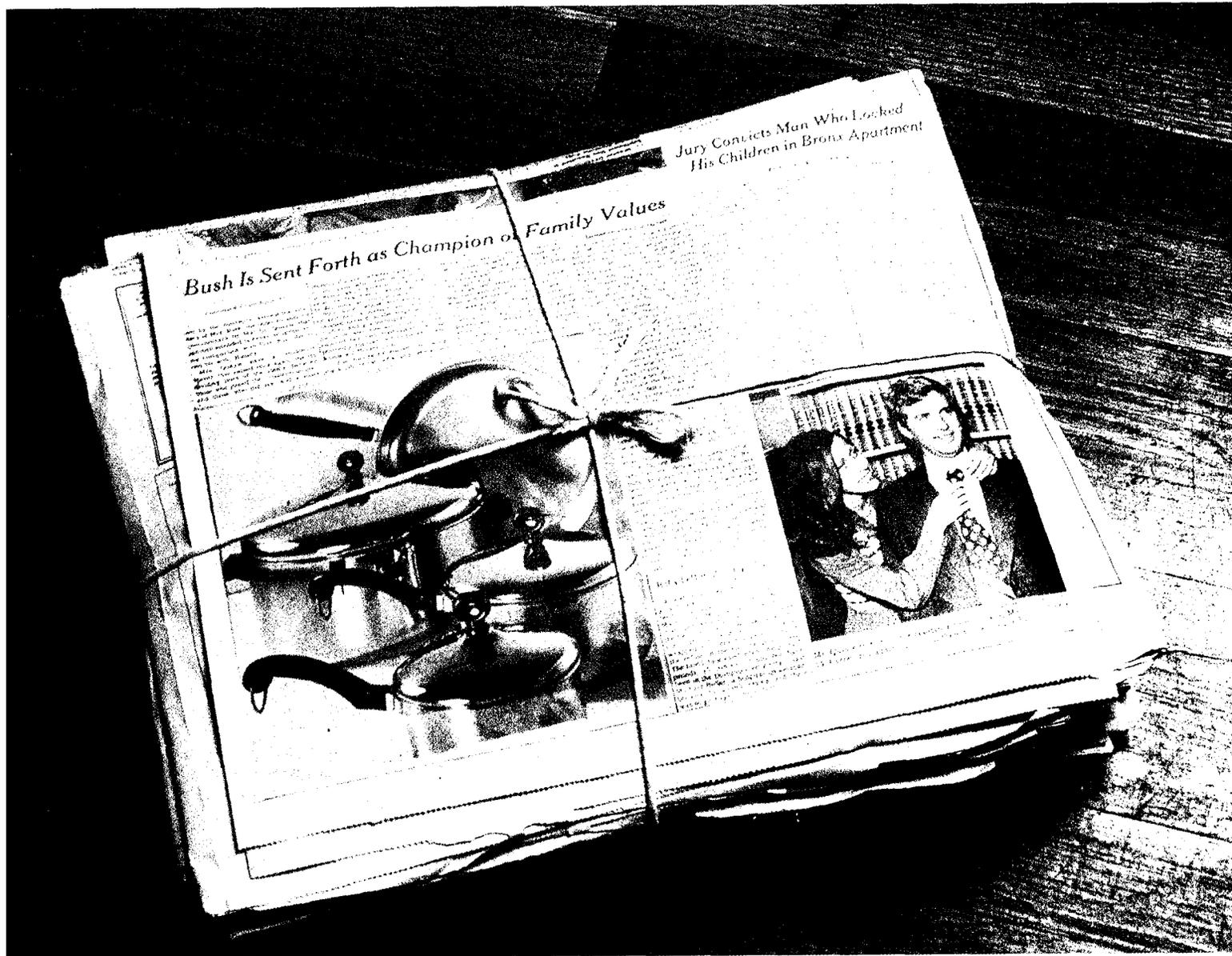
certain comfort that comes from the feel and smell of a commodity that has become an old friend, which the hunched, impersonal reading of a laptop screen cannot replicate. I grow old.

On the West Coast, things are harder. When I lived in Los Angeles ten years ago, you had to get to the Westwood newspaper stand on the day that the weekly overseas *Guardian* came out or forget it for another week. Now things have happily improved. Next to the fashionable King's Road Café on Beverly—the new Melrose, apparently—is a newspaper stand that could often supply my habit. I could sit reading as don't-even-think-of-looking-at-me supermodels passed by with their loud, attention-seeking dogs.

So what's it all about? Newspapers seem to be a guy thing on the whole. My father was known as The Newspaper to my friends, who saw nothing of him except his hands clasping the upheld paper in the corner of the room. Within the family he was notorious for reading clips out of the paper at mealtimes to prevent conversation. So the classic organ of the public sphere is also a rather effective masculine device for avoiding the private realm of the home. It's a gesture of weakness as well, a refusal to engage in social life. Some of this charge sticks to me, for even though my favorite place to read the paper is in a café or bar, that certainly implies the absence of children and is really a solitary pursuit.

There's more to it than that. In L.A., one of the more interesting cultural divides was between readers of the *Los Angeles Times* and its grayer sibling the *New York Times*. As a supplement to my global reading, I always read local papers, so I reveled in the odd mix of conservative editorials and spaced-out showbiz gossip that is the *Los Angeles Times*. People who defined themselves as local—a tricky question in L.A., as in other diasporic capitals—would get very irate at *New York Times* readers. Perceived as a declaration of East Coast supremacy, the *Times* question heated more than one dinner party. *Guardian* readership in the U.S. tends not to be so controversial, as its strong foreign news coverage, and editorials that occasionally take issue with Washington, make it respectable liberal reading rather than Anglophile pretension.

I left England with few regrets. So why do I waste time and money chasing down old copies of a British newspaper? The hard truth about identity is that only so much of it can be chosen. The rest is what you've got to deal with. I have to deal with Englishness, much as I would rather not. My newspaper allows me an intensely critical engagement that turns emotion into righteous indignation. Behind that layer, inevitably, is another. Today's *Guardian* sports a designer-friendly logo in blue italics and black roman font. It's starting to look dated now, a product of the first wave of 1980s postmodernism. Behind that logo, I see the ghost of another masthead, in simple block capitals, black throughout and rather smudgy. This resolutely antidesigner broadsheet was the *Guardian* that my parents used to read when I was a small child in the terraced house, converted like so many others from a working-class cottage by means of "knocking-through" the downstairs rooms, transforming them into one living space, and adding an indoor bathroom. When they moved to a grander semidetached, they started to take the *Times* of London, then still the "paper of record." In finding each fresh, untouched copy of the *Guardian*, do I detect a hint of that early childhood security in which everything seemed safe and enticing, a world yet to be read? Perhaps—but it really is a good paper.



Robert Gober. *Newspaper*, 1992.
Photolithography on archival
(Mohawk Superfine) paper, twine.
6 x 16¼ x 13¼ in. (15.2 x 41.3 x
33.7 cm). Courtesy of the artist.
Photograph: Geoffrey Clements.

"All the News That Fits"

The New York Times

Late Edition

VOL. CXLVII No. 51,256

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1998

Lewinsky Again Faces Jurors as Starr Seeks To Compare Accounts

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 — In her second appearance before a grand jury today, Monica Lewinsky testified that she had given President Clinton a blue dress with a pink stripe. She also testified that she had given him a white dress with a pink stripe. The events surrounding the gifts are potentially the most serious for the President because prosecutors are seeking to determine whether he instructed Ms. Lewinsky to turn the gifts over to his secretary, Betty Currie.



Monica S. Lewinsky testified today that she had given President Clinton a blue dress with a pink stripe.

Unabomber's Kin Collect Reward Of \$1 Million for Turning Him In

David Kazaynski and his wife have been offered a reward of \$1 million for turning in their brother, the Unabomber, to authorities. The reward is the highest ever offered for the capture of a terrorist. The Unabomber, whose real name is Theodore J. Kaczynski, is a man who lives near him and his wife, who lives near him and his wife. The reward is the highest ever offered for the capture of a terrorist.

INSIDE

In Permafrost of Norway, Hunt for the 1918 Flu Virus
The bodies of six Norwegians killed by the 1918 flu epidemic will be studied in hopes of finding the nature and structure of the virus that caused the world's deadliest plague. Page A5

GUILTY PLEA IN PROM DEATH
A man with a stark confession, the New Jersey woman who disposed of her newborn at a school dance pleaded guilty to manslaughter. Page B1

Inquiry on Olympics
Officials are looking into the possible role of tampons in the sale of balls from David Wilks's perfect game. Sports Friday, page C18

A Homer Show at Shea
Mark McGwire hit his 50th and 51st home runs in a doubleheader against the Mets. Sports Friday, page C19

U.S. CRUISE MISSILES STRIKE SUDAN AND AFGHAN TARGETS TIED TO TERRORIST NETWORK



U.S. Says It Has Strong Evidence Of Threat Justifying Retaliation

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 — American strikes in the Sudan today came after the State intelligence and law enforcement agencies had gathered what officials described as the strongest evidence ever obtained in a major terrorist case. The strikes were aimed at a number of targets, including a training camp in the Sudan and a network of targets in Afghanistan. The strikes were part of a broader campaign against terrorism.



President Clinton after announcing attacks on the Sudan and Afghanistan yesterday, before leaving Martha's Vineyard for Washington.

LAUNCHED BY SHIPS

Plots Were Imminent, President Reports — No U.S. Casualties

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 — President Clinton today reported that he had learned of a plot to assassinate him and Vice President Al Gore in the next few days. The plot was allegedly organized by a group of terrorists who were planning to launch cruise missiles from ships in the Indian Ocean. The plot was foiled by the intelligence community.

CRITICS OF CLINTON SUPPORT ATTACKS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 — Some critics of President Clinton's decision to launch cruise missile attacks on targets in Sudan and Afghanistan said that the strikes were a disproportionate response to the threat. They argued that the strikes would do little to reduce the threat of terrorism and that they would result in civilian casualties. Some critics also questioned the intelligence that led to the strikes.

United States Eyes On 2 Continents

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 — The United States is looking for signs of terrorism on two continents, the Sudan and Afghanistan, after launching cruise missile attacks on targets in both countries. The strikes were part of a broader campaign against terrorism. The United States is also looking for signs of terrorism in other parts of the world.

Continued Page A11

Continued Page A11

Nancy Chunn.
August 21, 1998 and
September 11, 1996,
from the series
Front Pages,
1996-99. Ink and pas-
tel on newspaper.
21 1/2 x 13 1/4 in. (54.6 x
34.9 cm). Courtesy
of Ronald Feldman
Fine Arts, New York.
Photographs: John
Black.

Iraq Repairing Air-Defense Sites Hit by Missiles, Pentagon Says

U.S. Threatens New Strikes to Punish Defiance

By PHILIP SHENON
WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 — The Pentagon said today that Iraq is repairing air-defense sites hit by U.S. missiles in a bid to evade a U.S. ultimatum to allow international inspectors to return to southern Iraq and threaten another strike in two weeks if the ultimatum is not met.

HURRICANE SLAMS INTO PUERTO RICO

At Least 7 Air Dead as Rain and Wind Swamp Island

SAN JUAN, P.R., Sept. 10 — A tropical storm, which became a hurricane, slammed into Puerto Rico today, bringing heavy rain and strong winds that caused at least seven deaths and left thousands of people without power.

Russian Power Shift For Yeltsin's Surgery

President Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia, preparing for his heart surgery, formally handed over authority for national security and law enforcement to his vice president, Anatoly Lukin, today.

At Refugee's Body Is Intact but Her Family Is Torn

HALI ZAVRE, a 27-year-old Bosnian refugee, was found dead in a ditch in the parish of her dead husband's family on a recent stormy morning. She had come to beg his forgiveness for having helped his daughter escape away from her homeland.



With small events in small towns like Hixon, La., Bob Dole has had trouble getting national news coverage.

Perot Chooses An Economist For His Ticket

By ADAM NAGORNEY
WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 — For the second time in four years, Ross Perot has chosen an economist for his vice-presidential pick.



Ross Perot again chose a political unknown as a running mate. But Choate, an economist and author.

Dole Is Moving To Add Spark To Campaign

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE
MR. DOLE'S CAMPAIGN team Sept. 10 probably moved on three fronts today to invigorate his campaign.

Problem in Brooklyn Clouds Primary Vote

Would be voters in yesterday's primary were turned away from a polling place in Brooklyn because of a problem with the ballot boxes.

FROM OBSCURITY TO OBLIVION

Mr. Choate introduced Mr. Perot to the nation tonight in the last segment of his televised commercial, first with a video presentation that revealed Mr. Choate's political resume, and then with a five-minute chat with each of them settled in brown leather arm chairs.

SENATORS REJECT BOTH JOB-BIAS BAN AND GAY MARRIAGE

50-49 ON DISCRIMINATION
Close Margin on Employment Bill Is a Surprise — Same Sex Unions Lose 85-14

PHOBICS ON THE HILL

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 — The Senate today rejected a bill to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and also rejected a bill to ban discrimination on the basis of marital status.

ROOTS OF EXILE

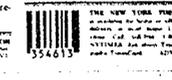
Her \$1,500 inheritance was not enough to run away, but she found her own Africa in the United States.

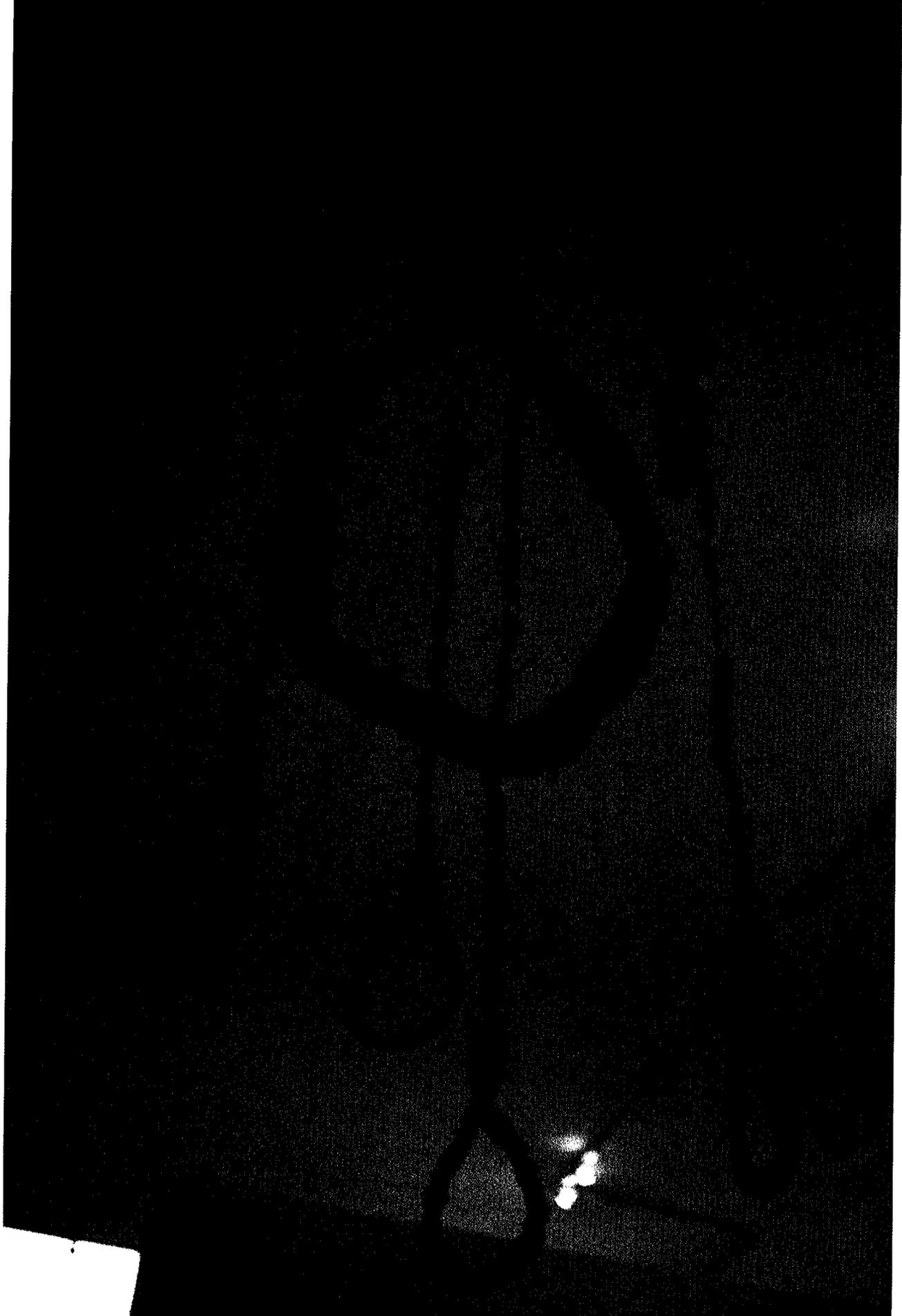
FAMILY VALUES

That she was now safe, and so Mrs. Kassindja had come to the dusty courtyard of the patriarch's house in Kpalime, (pronounced kpa-lee-MAY), a town of about 50,000 in this small West African country.

INSIDE

- U.N. Supports Test Ban**
The United Nations General Assembly voted 158-3 to endorse the nuclear test ban treaty. This India still said it would not sign, vowing to keep it from becoming law. Page A3
- Offer for Private Schooling**
To stave off concerns about educating public school students in Catholic schools, businesses have offered to pay for the private schooling of some of the students. Page B1
- Water Pact Is Endorsed**
Federal officials endorsed a water protection pact drawn up to guard New York City's water supply from pollution upstate. Page B3
- Companies Fight Sarcophagi**
Corporate America is fighting the latest set of United States trade sanctions, fearing lost customers and retaliation. Page D1
- Nalanyahu at Rebbe's Grave**
The Israeli Prime Minister repaid a political debt in New York by visiting the grave of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubliner's leader whose followers backed Mr. Netanyahu's election. Page B3
- News Summary**
A3
- Arts** C11-12
- Business Day** D11-12
- Editorial** C10-11
- International** A13-16
- Living Section** C13-14
- Market** C15
- Nations** B11-12
- Sports Wednesday** A12-14, A16
- Special** C17
- Books** C18
- Health** C11, 13, 14, 16, 18
- Opinion** C12, 14, 16, 18
- Travel** C19
- World** B13-14







Michael Arcega. *Weekly Noose*, 2000. Newspapers and acrylic. Dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist.

For each installation, Arcega makes nooses from newspapers, one for each day of the week. Relating the work to its material, the artist calls it "a physical translation of most of its content."

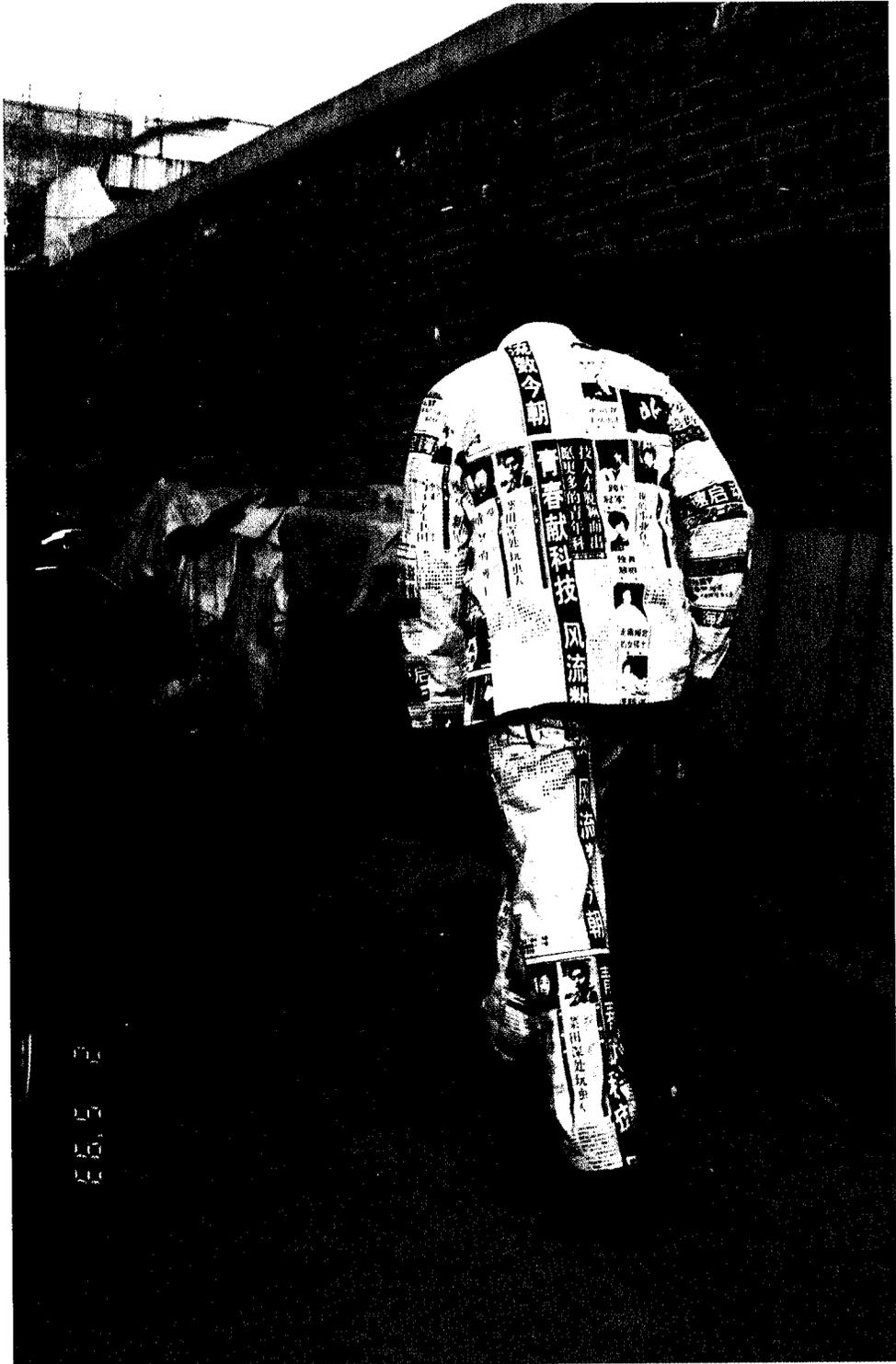
Steven Siegel. *Scale*, 2002. Newspaper. Installation view, Abington Art Center, Jenkintown, Penn. 17 x 16 x 7 ft. (518.1 x 487.7 x 213.4 cm).

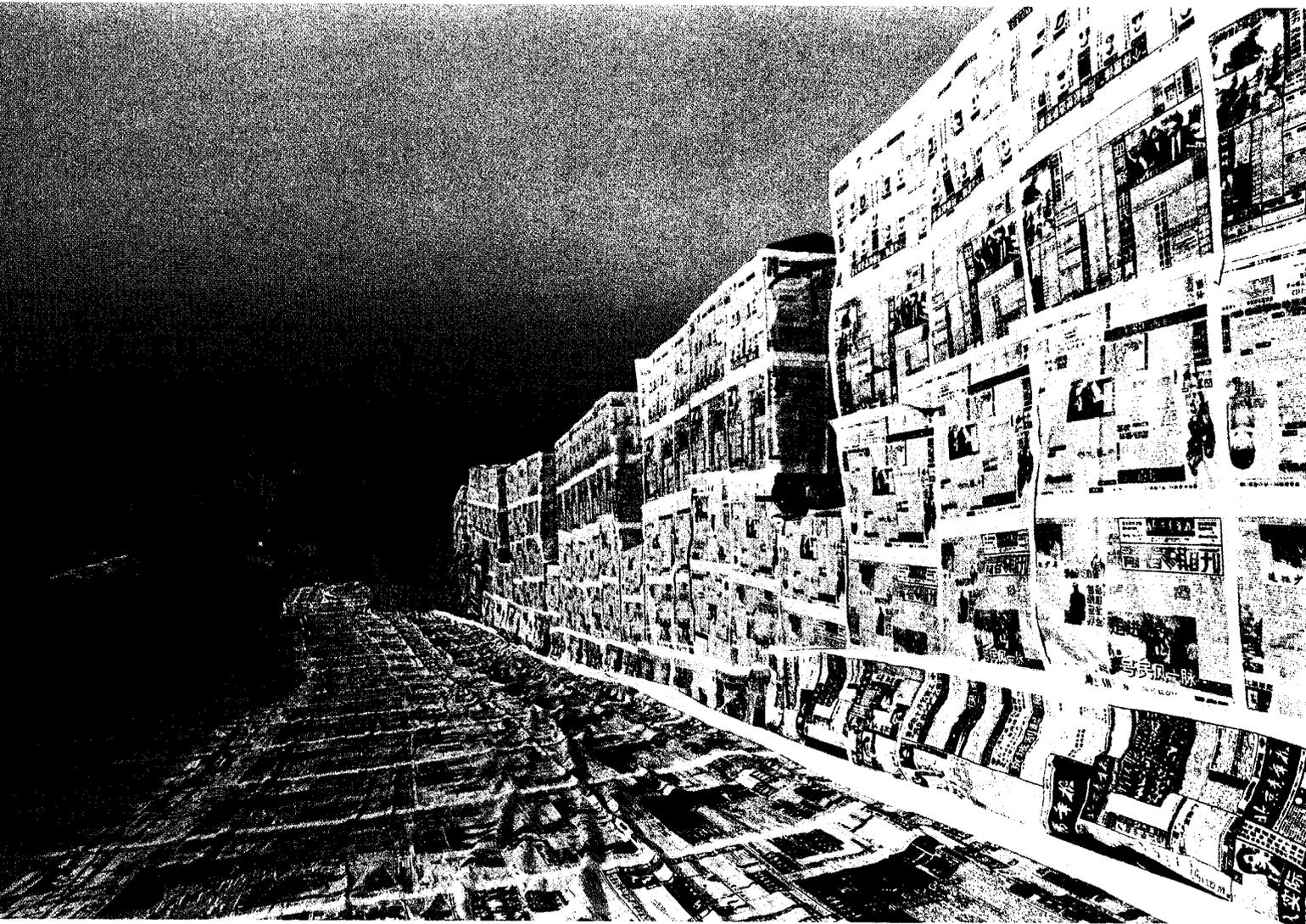


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Yin Peet. *Zadar Zen Garden*, 2001.
Newspaper. Two installation views,
Zadar City, Croatia. 7 x 40 x 40 ft.
(213.4 x 1,219.2 x 1,219.2 cm).
Courtesy of the artist.





Wang Youshen. *Newspaper Series*, 1993. View of performance, Beijing, China. Courtesy of the artist.

Wang Youshen. *Newspaper-Advertising*, 1993. Silkscreen on cotton cloth. Installation view, Great Wall, Beijing, China. Dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist.



FELT AS IF THE WAY
WERE OPENING TO THE

UNKNOWN NOURISHMENT

Lesley Dill. *Hindi Girl with Kafka*, 2000. Cast newspaper, glue, matte media, wax. 78 x 52 x 15 in. (198.1 x 132 x 38.1 cm). Courtesy of George Adams Gallery, New York.

Nicholas Mirzoeff is Professor of Art and Comparative Literature at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The images that accompany this essay were compiled by Emily Watson, the editorial assistant to *Art Journal*. She holds a B.A. from Oberlin College and this May received her M.F.A. in Metals from the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Michael Arcega is an interdisciplinary artist working primarily in sculpture and installations. His art, though visual, revolves largely around language. He lives and works in San Francisco.

Nancy Chunn is a two-time recipient of the National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship. The series *Front Pages* is published in book form by Rizzoli (New York: 1997) and was exhibited at Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York, N. Y., in 1997 and the Corcoran Museum of Art, Washington, D.C., in 1998.

Lesley Dill has been the subject of several museum exhibitions, including *Lesley Dill: A Ten-Year Survey*, organized by the Samuel S. Dorsky Museum at the State University of New York, New Paltz, and currently traveling to Colorado, Hawaii, Arizona, and Washington, D.C. This year, Dill will have her sixth solo exhibition since 1995 with the George Adams Gallery in New York City.

Robert Gober's work has been exhibited at the Paula Cooper Gallery, the 49th Venice Biennale, Dia Center for the Arts, Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles), Walker Art Center, and the 2000 Whitney Biennial, as well as numerous other sites worldwide. His most recent exhibition, *Robert Gober Displacements*, was shown at Astrup Fearnley Museet for Moderne Kunst, Oslo, through April.

Steven Siegel has sited pieces in Italy, Denmark, Russia, and England and all over the United States. They are placed in nature conservancies, universities, sculpture parks, and art centers. A graduate of Hampshire College (1976) and Pratt Institute, Siegel resides in the Hudson River Valley of New York.

Wang Youshen is the current art editor of the *Beijing Youth Daily*, published in Beijing. He has participated in exhibitions in Australia, Germany, Italy, the United States, and China.

The sculptor Yin Peet was born in Taiwan. Her work pushes the boundaries of the use of conventional sculptural materials into media that include time, sound, movement, and text. Her work has frequently been seen in the United States, Taiwan, Croatia, England, Hungary, Hong Kong, and Nepal and has received numerous awards. www.yinpeetsculpture.com