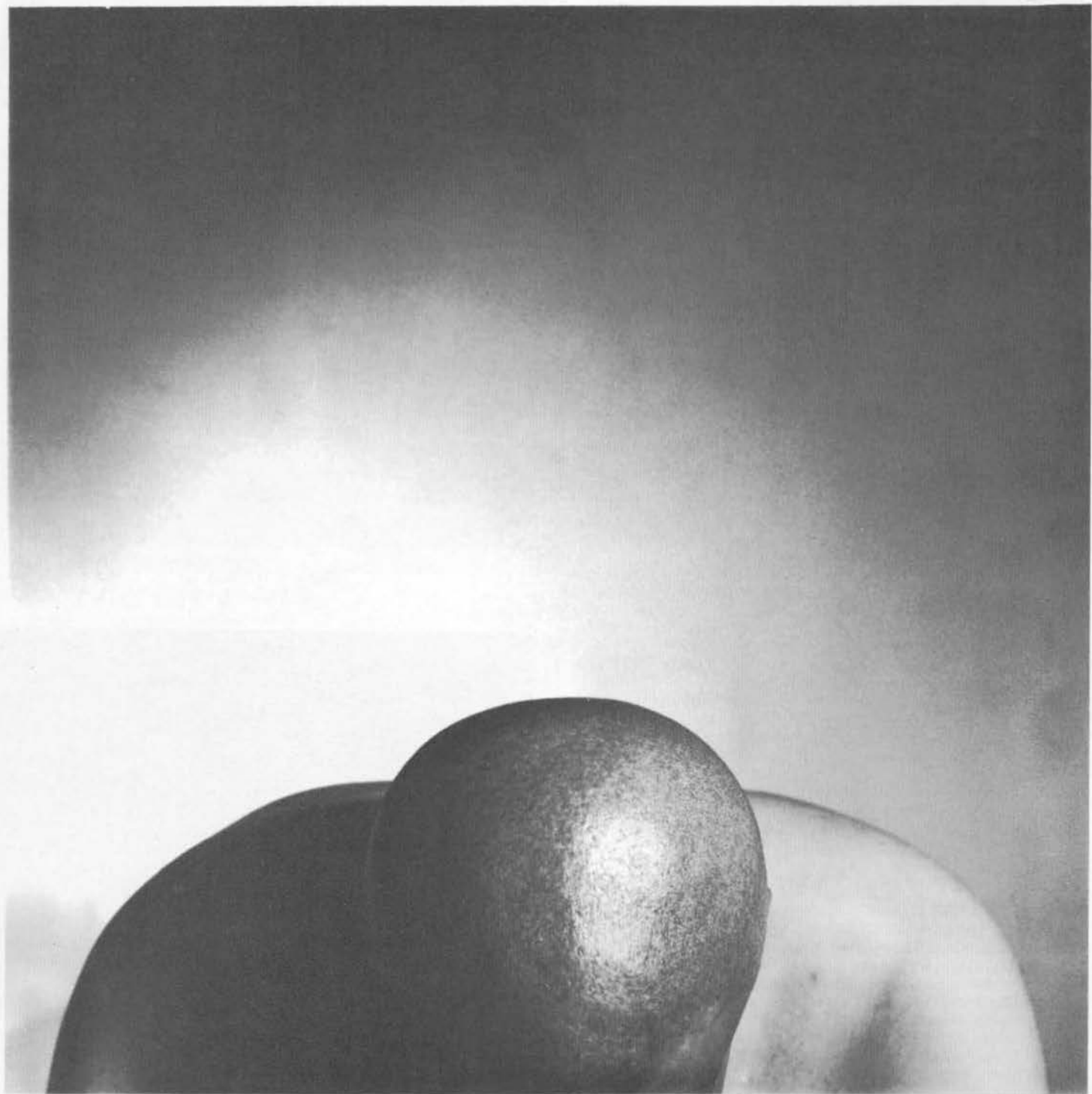


THE ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE GALLERY



He likes Cameras, Coke, Kools, and Crisco. He is, in fact, his Hasselblad. His camera eye peels faces, bodies, and trips. He rearranges reality in his Soho loft in Manhattan. His studio is his space for living, balling, and shooting. He lunches afternoons at One Fifth Avenue. He maneuvers after midnight at the Mineshaft. He photographs princesses like Margaret, body-builders like Arnold, rockstars like his best friend Patti Smith, and night trippers nameless in leather, rubber, and ropes. He's famous for his photographs of faces, flowers, and fetishes.

His name is Robert Mapplethorpe.

Mapplethorpe is no "concerned" photographer smug with social significance. He shoots portraits only of people he likes. He chronicles SM fetishism from the inside out. He's a man who knows night territory. He likes guys with strong trips and stronger raps on their trips. His take on life and people is open, very sensual, and totally upfront. His frank honesty matches his camera work.

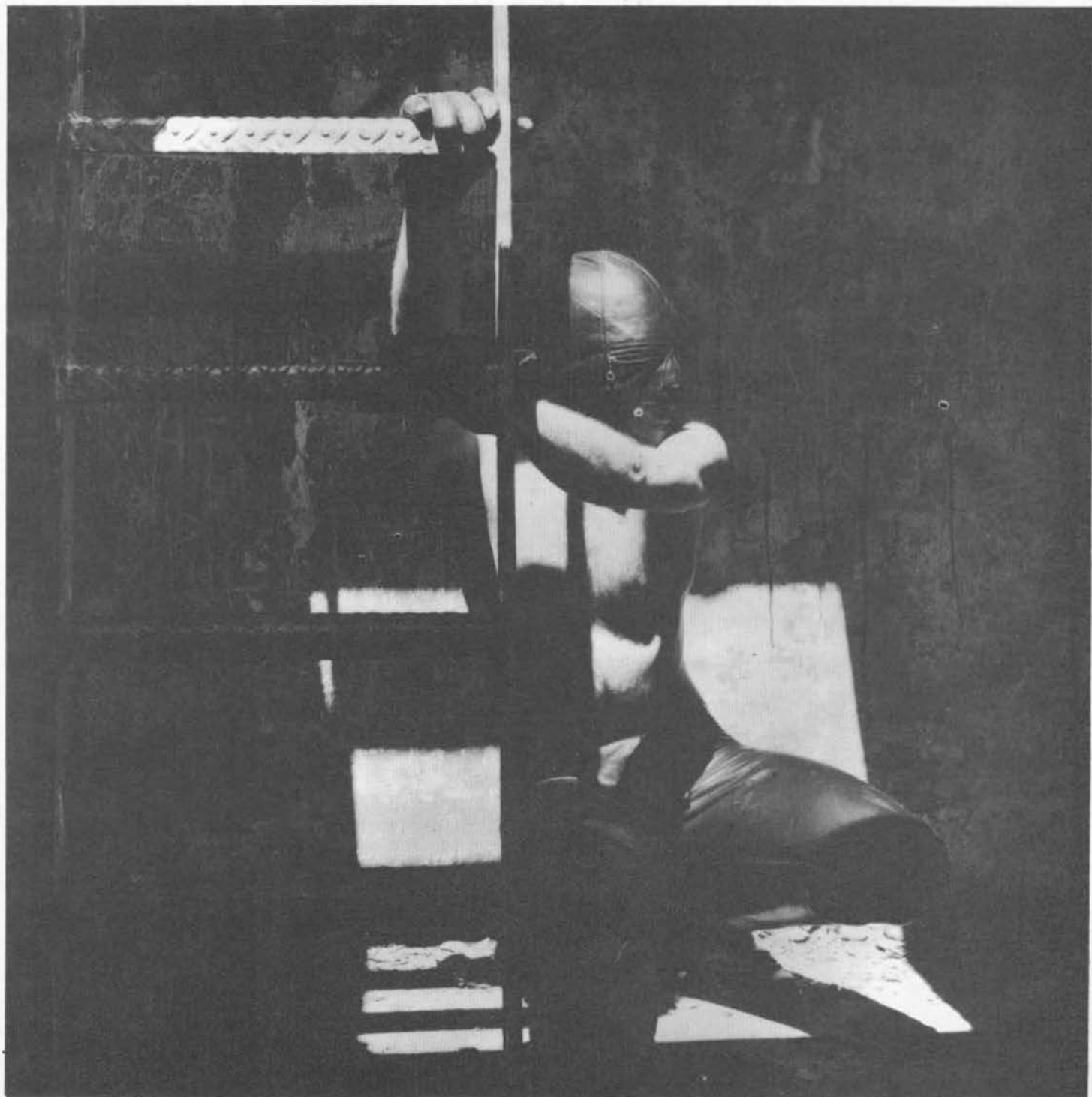
Mapplethorpe sees.

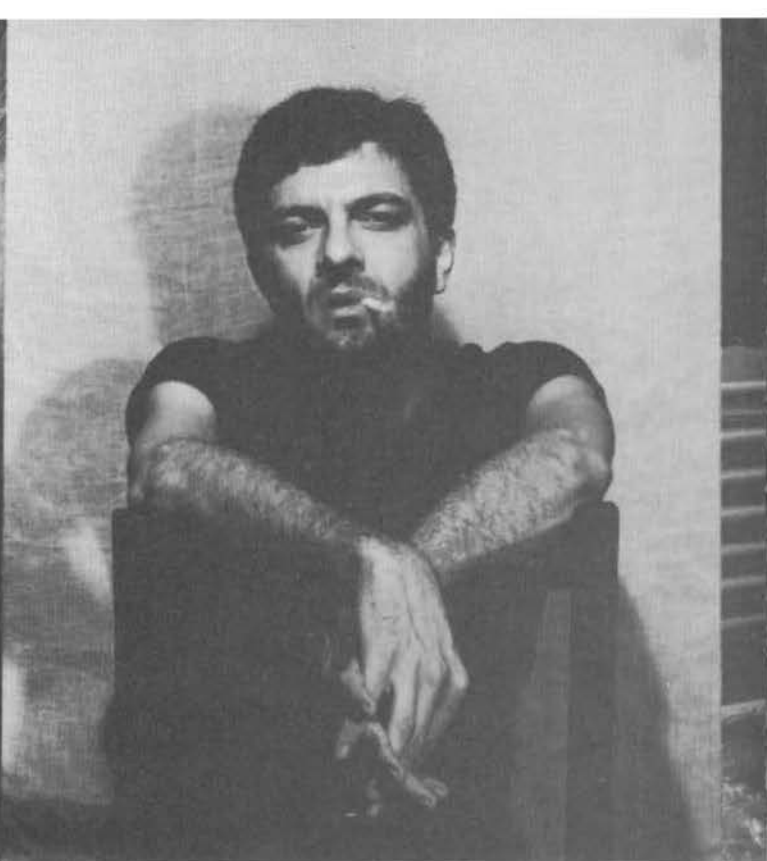
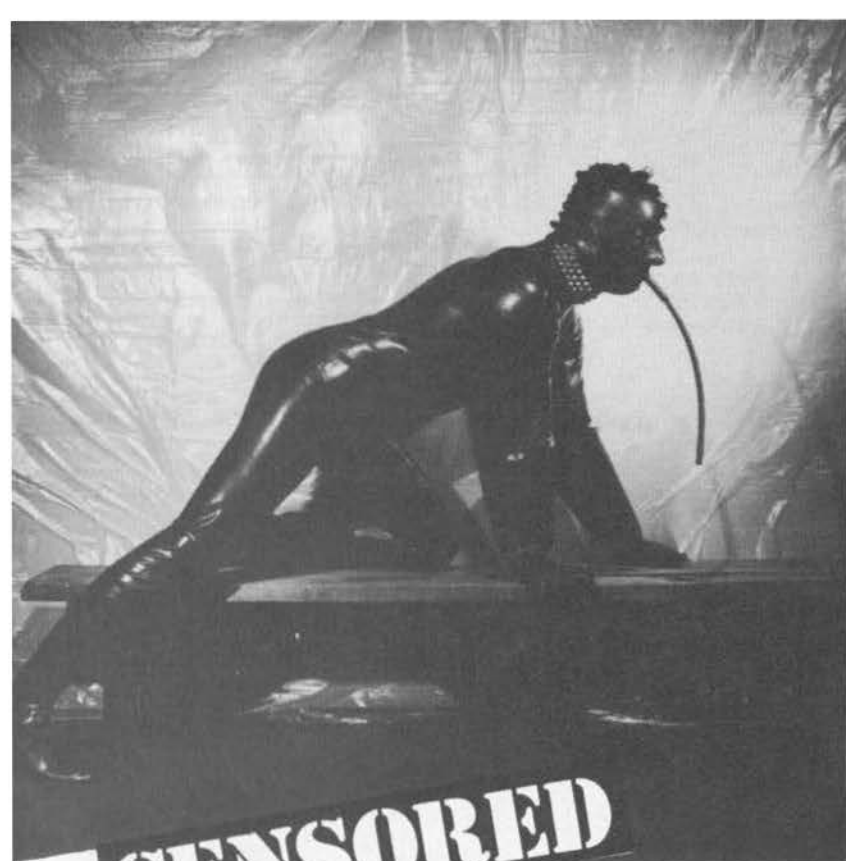
"You can tell," he says, "who's interesting, who's sick by the way they say *uh huh*. You can tell who's dirty by their eyes. I look for dark circles. Interesting people have dark circles."

Mapplethorpe provides the lights and the camera. His subjects are the action: sniffing jocks, piercing cocks, wearing locks. Without exploitation of his subject, Mapplethorpe manages to capture essential passion of both a beautifully bored society woman and a two-hundred-pound Village man in baby drag. He can explain to guests at his international gallery openings what they need to know when they ask, "I like your photo of the man in full rubber, but what does it have to do with sex?"

Mapplethorpe knows.

He is a collector of satanic bronzes, Mission furniture, 19th century photography, and 20th century foxes. His latest favorite book is *End Product: The First Taboo*. His





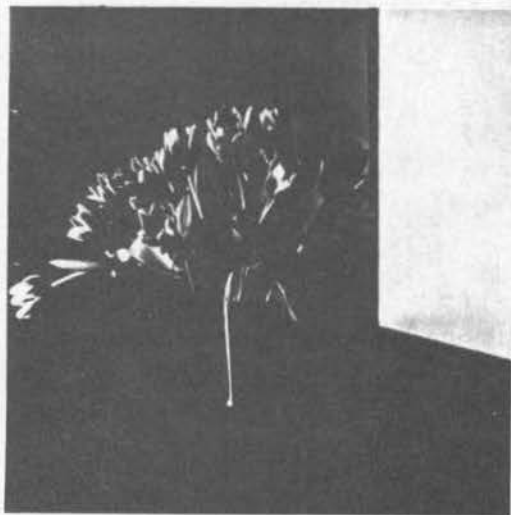
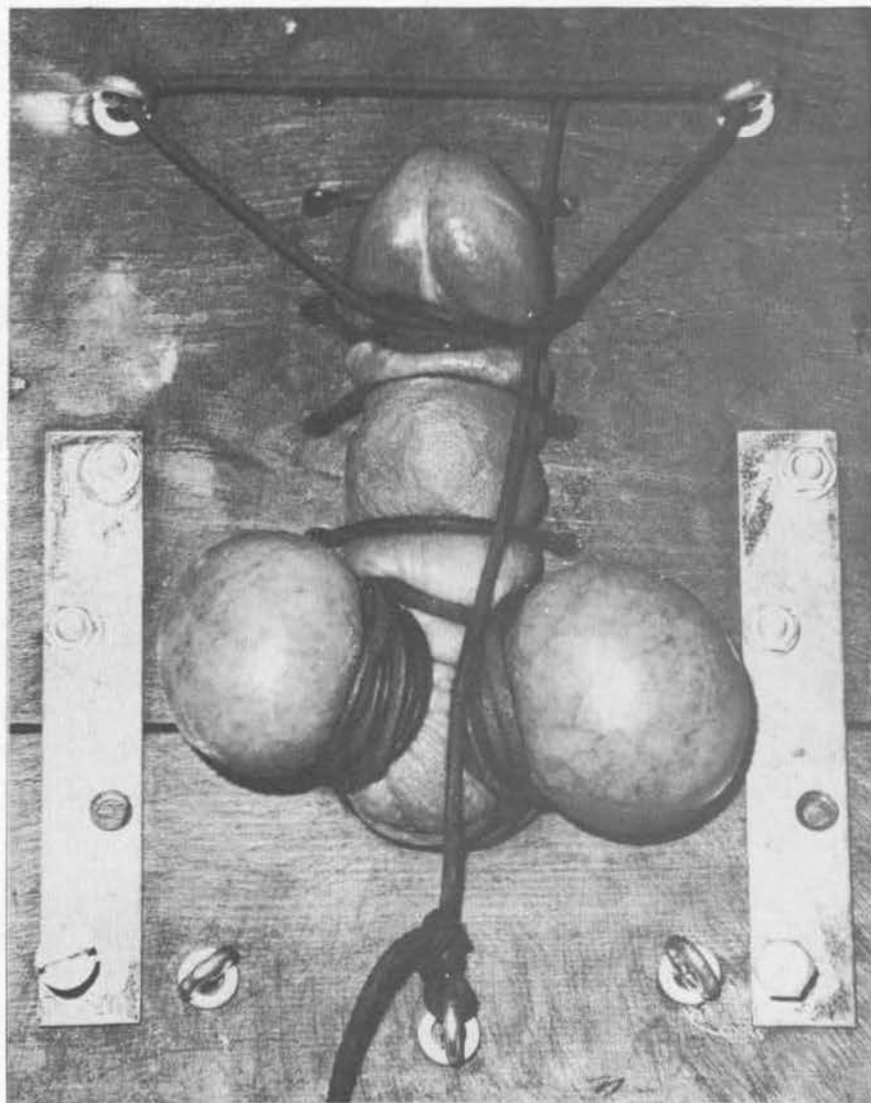
CENSORED

latest project, in addition to a show with Patti Smith, is an authentic SM fetish photography book. Any men with suitable trip and heavy enough rap should contact Robert Mapplethorpe through DRUMMER.

Auditions, held nightly, are something else!

Mapplethorpe himself is a transmorph. This is his first reincarnation in 3,000 years. His satyr's honey-gold eye knows pleasure and excellence as ends in and of themselves.

Jack Fritscher





Portrait of the Artist as a Young Satyr

