

For Immediate Release:

# Michael Lavine

*Pin-ups*

19 February through 18 March 2000

Team Gallery will present a solo exhibition of new work by Michael Lavine from 19 February through 18 March 2000.

Michael Lavine's photographs have been principally defined as work made in the studio, but his latest exhibition unlocks the joy of location shooting. Many of the images which make up this solo were taken outdoors: on city streets, in wooded areas, in suburban locales. And those that were produced indoors use authentic spaces that reveal their lived-in quality in the surfeit of small details recorded on the picture plane. Lavine shot the work locally — in New York City and in upstate New York — sometimes enlisting friends and acquaintances as protagonists, further grounding the work in the realist tradition.

The resultant images were then printed on eight-foot-tall sheets of photographic paper that are attached to the gallery's walls with bulldog clips. The pictures wrap around the space, engulfing the viewer in a mysterious narrative: human figures propelled across spaces, or trapped in suffocating interiors. The dramatic shift in scale from the artist's earlier work ascribes a confrontational quality to these weighty images. However, although oppressive in size, their naked presentation — bare to the viewer — lends the work a certain fragility.

The highly artificial color Lavine uses for much of his studio work has been replaced here by a more naturalistic palette. Although the color is saturated, it underlines the realism of the images; the lighting, rather than being an element that remains distinct in the image, is used in the service of the photograph's seamless, never calling attention to itself.

The turn here is towards the cinematic: not only in terms of the scale of the images but in the way they feel torn from some greater story. A feeling of action issues from the pictures, proof that some unravelling narrative has been arrested. Neither portraits, nor production stills, these new photographs possess the great purposelessness of art.

Lavine's exhibitions have been the subject of articles in *The New York Times*, *Artforum*, *Art in America*, and others. His photographs have appeared in *Details*, *GQ*, *Interview*, *Newsweek*, *New Musical Express*, *Paper*, *Premiere*, *Rolling Stone*, *Sounds*, *Spin*, *Time*, *Us*, and *Vanity Fair*. His book of rock photography, *Noise from the Underground*, was published by Simon & Schuster in 1996.

This is Lavine's third solo exhibition at Team. The gallery is located at 527 West 26th Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues, on the ground floor.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm. For further information and/or photographs please call 212 279 9219.