

Koestenbaum, Wayne, "Best of 1998", pp. 100-101

ARTFORUM

DECEMBER 1998



3. Glenn Ligon,
Untitled, 1976–77,
silver-gelatin prints in a
photo album, 12 x 18".

3 **Glenn Ligon** (*Max Protetch Gallery, New York; Philadelphia Institute of Contemporary Art*) This painter, sculptor, and installation artist, also photographer, who was given a major retrospective this year at the ICA, continues to break new, difficult ground. In his most recent gallery show, at Max Protetch, I was most moved by a scrapbook of photos the artist took, as a boy, of his fornicating neighbors, a not conventionally photogenic couple of great sexual inventiveness and zeal. These deadpan, diurnal, decidedly nonglamorous snapshots, cheerful and calm and unperturbed, teach the interpenetration of *homemaking* and *pornography*: porn's subject is the home body, the arts of the home. Also in the show were walls of *cartes de visite*—calling cards, with the artist's name below gay porn shots from the recent past. Ligon's willingness to identify the unspeakable, and to identify with it, is an inspiration.