

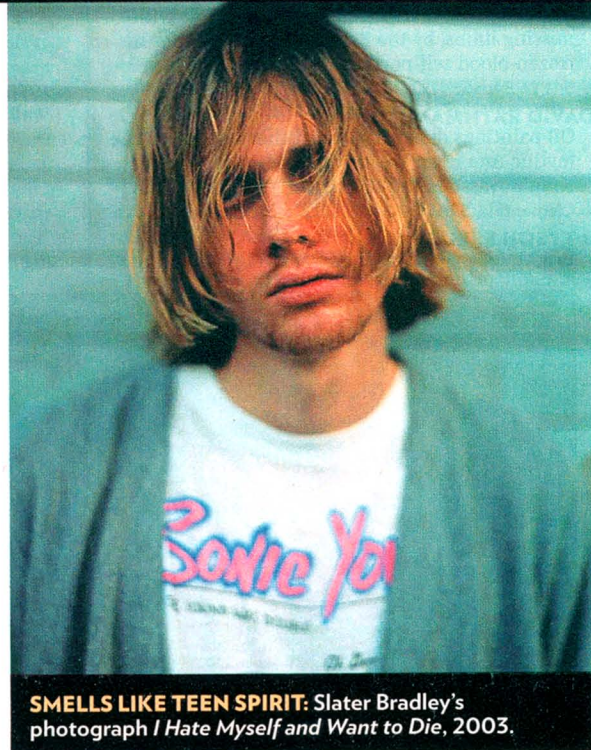
# NEW YORK

FEBRUARY 23, 2004

## OPENING COME AS YOU ART

SLATER BRADLEY TAKES AIM AT THE NEW YORK ART WORLD AND THE CULT OF COBAIN.

**I SAW NIRVANA THREE TIMES; I** loved them," says **Slater Bradley**. The 29-year-old artist's fourth solo show at Team is a tribute band with a twist: an elegaic fiction in photo and video, marking the tenth anniversary of Kurt Cobain's death. The show hinges on a faked Nirvana performance (*Phantom Release*, 2003) starring Bradley's own "doppelgänger," Benjamin Brock, who, dolled up in stringy coif and gray hausfrau cardigan, is also a dead ringer for Cobain. Bradley (also showing in the Whitney Biennial next month) claims inspiration from the Website *digitalnirvana.net*, where obsessive fans trade video clips of the band's performances. He and Brock have pulled a similar stunt before, in 2002, with "live" footage of suicidal Joy Division frontman Ian Curtis. Just a block away, Bradley will also open his first New York curatorial effort, "I, Assassin." (The title refers to artists, curators, collectors, critics, and dealers; "it is simply their targets that vary," he writes in the press release.) As a collector himself, Bradley is something of a sharpshooter. He proudly recalls a Murakami purchase from 1998 and claims to have spotted "the next John Currin" in little-known British painter Richard Wathen. Bradley's selections at Wallspace



**SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT:** Slater Bradley's photograph *I Hate Myself and Want to Die*, 2003.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF TEAM GALLERY, NEW YORK.

include Brad Phillips's painting of a Joy Division poster and Jay Battle's homages to Martin Kippenberger, and if his taste in moody, charismatic performers is any indication, we're in for quite a show. (At Team February 21 through March 27 and Wallspace February 19 through March 27; see "Galleries: Solos—Chelsea" and "Galleries: Group Shows—Chelsea.")

K.R.