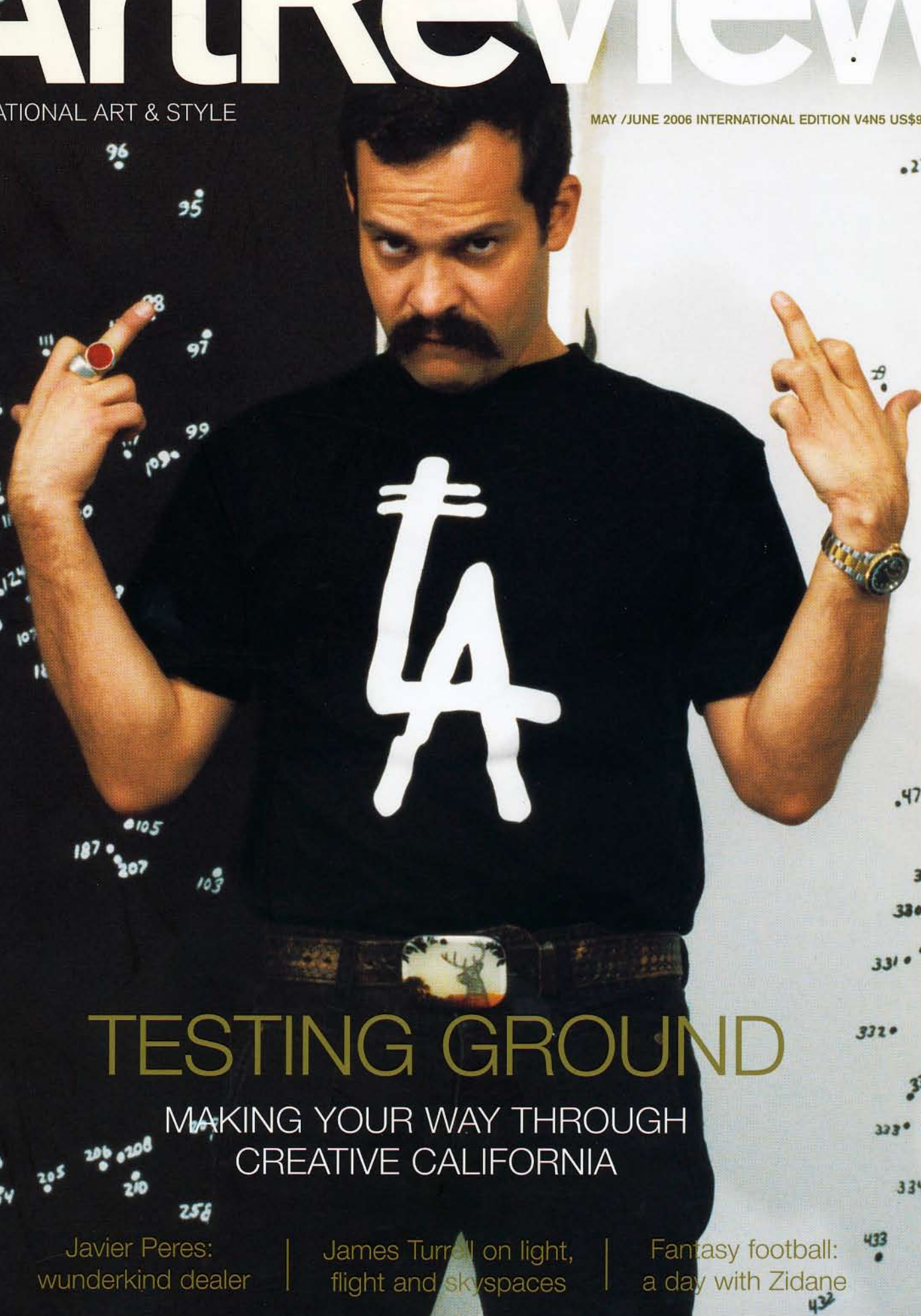


# ArtReview

INTERNATIONAL ART & STYLE

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## TESTING GROUND

MAKING YOUR WAY THROUGH  
CREATIVE CALIFORNIA

Javier Peres:  
wunderkind dealer

James Turrell on light,  
flight and skyspaces

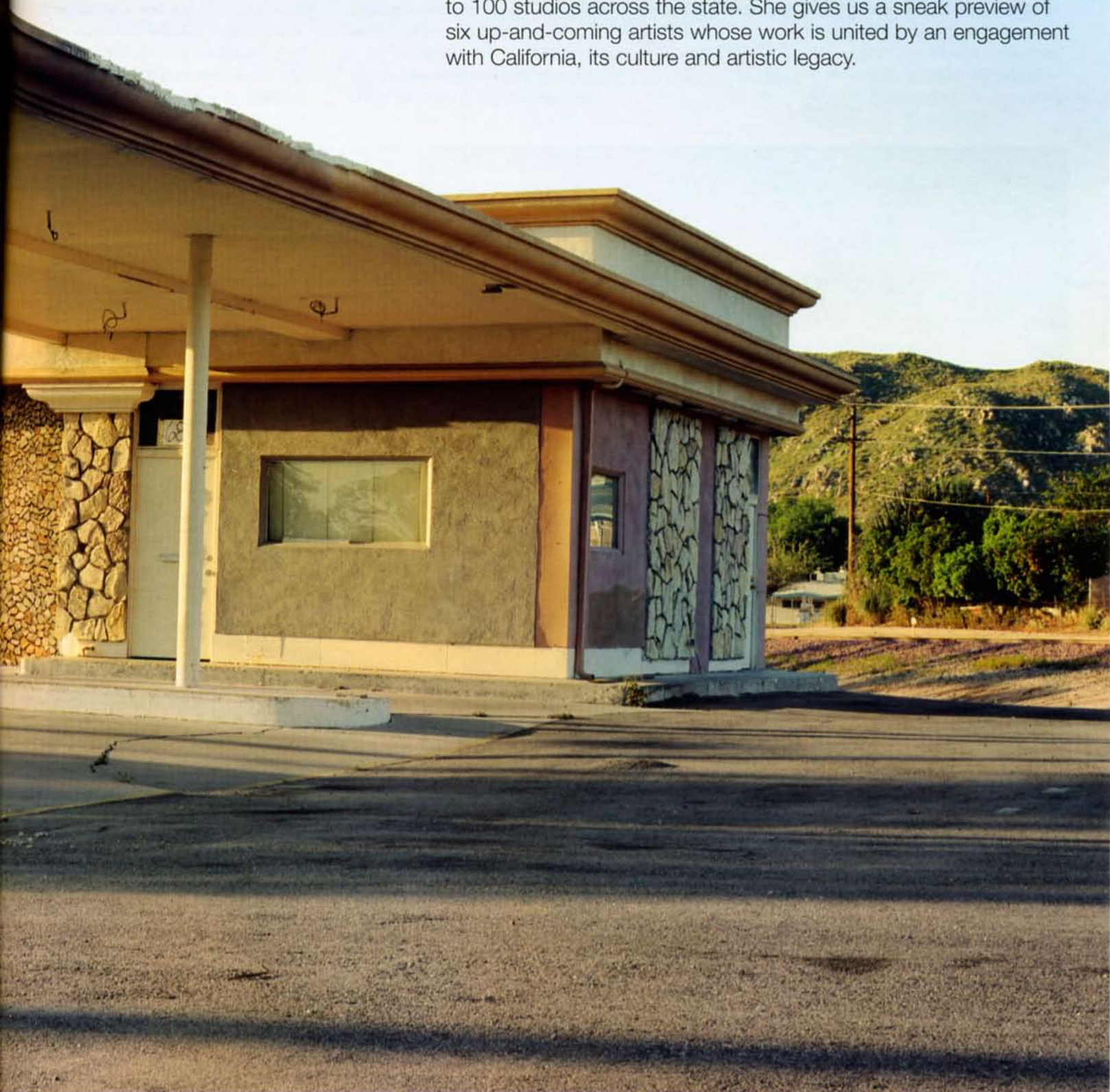
Fantasy football:  
a day with Zidane





# California above all

**Elizabeth Armstrong** and the other curators of this year's California Biennial – Rita Gonzalez and Karen Moss – have just visited close to 100 studios across the state. She gives us a sneak preview of six up-and-coming artists whose work is united by an engagement with California, its culture and artistic legacy.



## Amir Zaki

It is the built landscape of Los Angeles that feeds the art of Amir Zaki. His rigorously formal examination of the city provides a fresh and witty look at an unusually disjunctive environment.

Working with photography, video and sound, Zaki consciously builds on and extends the recent history of conceptual and landscape photography.

He brings to such trends as 'new topographics' his own illusionistic perspective, an interest in architectural curiosities and digital technology.

Zaki applies his formal, modernist perspective to LA's hybridised structures

and raucous artifice. Los Angeles has a highly eclectic architectural mix, and the paradoxes found in the city – the famous blend of 'sunshine and noir' – are further confounded by Zaki's nuanced use of digital alteration. Photographs that look like straight takes and vice versa.

Ambiguity of function is amplified by Zaki's deep appreciation of the balance of banality and wonder.

Below, clockwise from left: Amir Zaki, *Untitled (OH\_19)*, 2004, *Untitled\_62-63*, 2005, *Untitled\_83*, 2005, and *Untitled\_91*, 2005, all Ultrachrome Archival Photographs, 145.4 x 114.3cm

