

# AD

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

## Hammer Museum Shows Paintings by *Nest* Magazine Founder Joseph Holtzman



Installation view of "Hammer Projects: Joseph Holtzman."

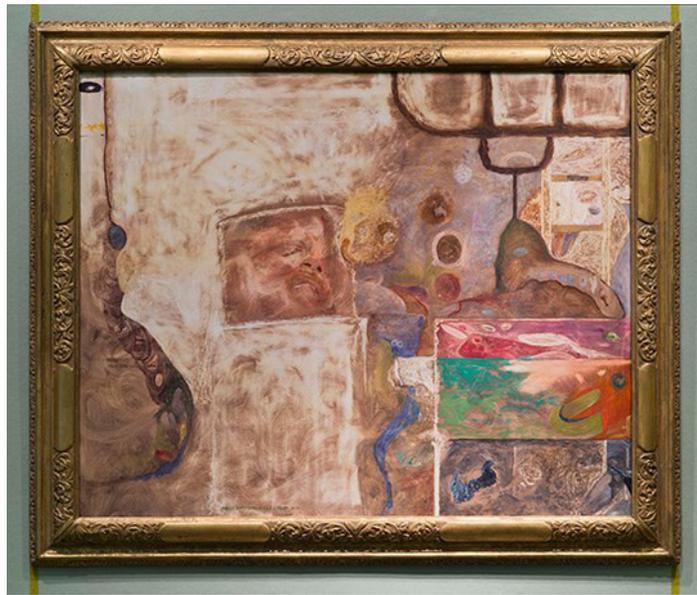
Few design aficionados who were awake and alert at the turn of the millennium will forget *Nest*, the avant-garde quarterly that upended conventions of the shelter magazine category with stories on everything from a diaper fetishist's lair to a child's playroom skinned in Farrah Fawcett posters. Published from 1997 to 2004, the magazine was the brainchild of Joseph Holtzman, its delightfully eccentric founder, editor, creative director, and publisher.

Not much has been heard from the Holtzman camp in the past decade, save for a few more traditional design stories on his own residences—a psychedelic Palm Beach retreat here, a whimsical New York country cottage there. But that doesn't mean he hasn't been working.

Eleven years ago, Holtzman returned to painting after a hiatus of nearly a quarter century, and the fruits of his labors are now on view at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. The artist begins by applying thin layers of oil paint on pieces of polished slate and marble. He then uses a tool to carve into the paint, marking the surface with scratches. His subjects are historical figures (Jane Austen, Mary Todd Lincoln, et al.) as well as friends and family.

Mayer Rus, "Hammer Museum Shows Paintings by *Nest* Magazine Founder Joseph Holtzman." *Architectural Digest* (June 30, 2015), accessed online.

Not surprisingly, Holtzman has created a site-specific installation to showcase his work, converting a gallery into a domestic salon replete with toile-covered sofas and lounge chairs, a decorative carpet, and felt wall panels that suggest interior architecture. Altogether it's a finely feathered nest (get it?) for contemplating not only Holtzman's work but also received ideas of how we are meant to experience art in general.



*Robert Offit Dying with AIDS, 1989, 2006, oil and acrylic on slate.*

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