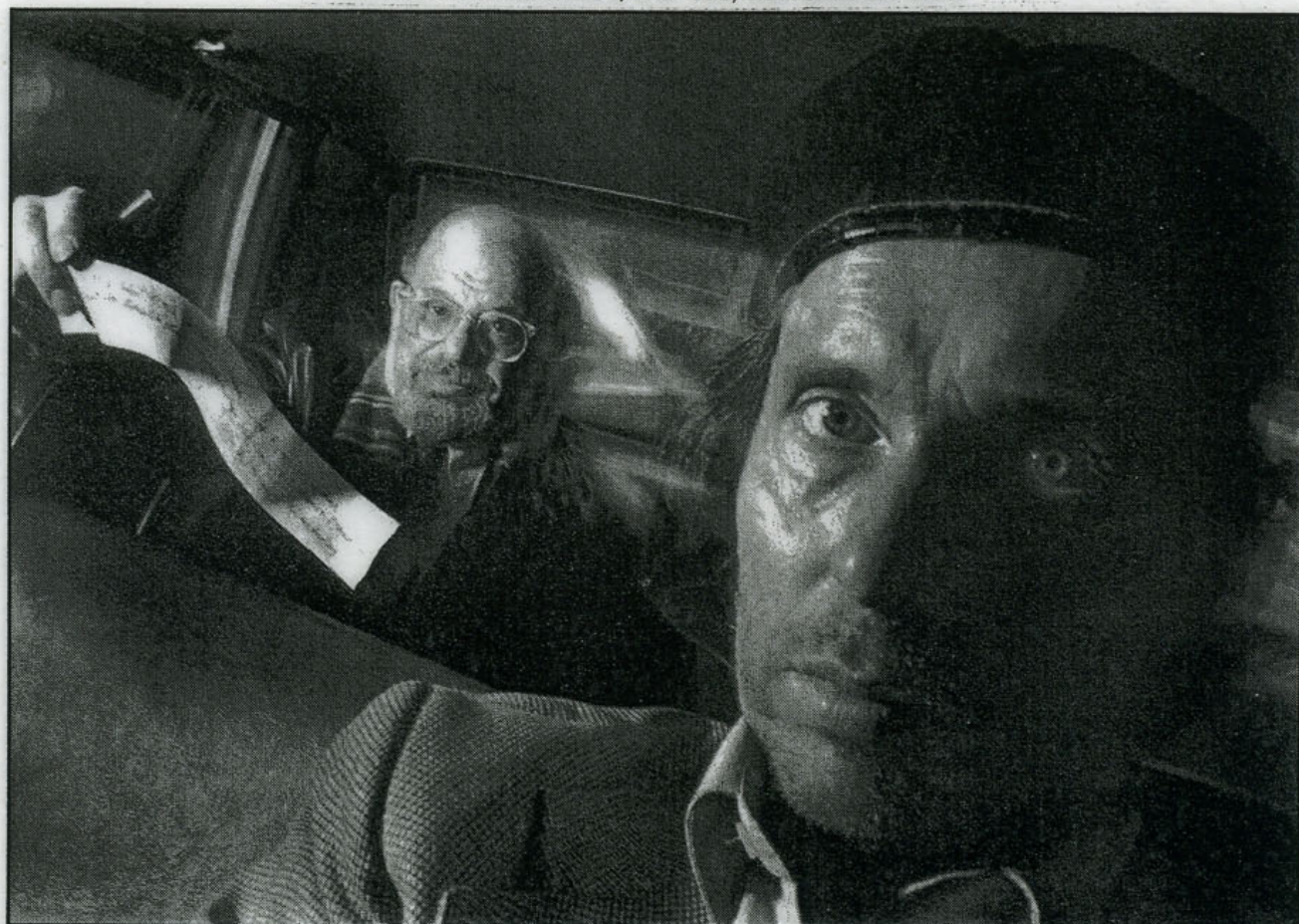




THE ART NEWSPAPER WHAT'S ON

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Courtesy Bruce Silverstein Gallery, New York

Ryan Weideman: in my taxi 1982-2002 **Bruce Silverstein Gallery**

Fresh out of art school in California, Ryan Weideman moved to New York in 1980 with ambitions to become a street photographer. To earn his rent, he became a taxi driver and started snapping photographs of his passengers—a motley crew, many of them colourful creatures of New York's nightlife. One night, poet Allen Ginsberg happened to flag down his cab and graciously penned a little ode to the taxi, "Backseat of a New York taxi is a human zoo" (1990; shown above). Weideman, who has won numerous grants, including Guggenheim and NEA fellowships, wandered into Bruce Silverstein's Chelsea gallery last year, and Silverstein, taken by the freshness of these photographs, decided to give him a show. This is Weideman's first show at the gallery (until 5 January), and the group of pictures is a composite portrait of taxi culture; part of these pictures' charm—and it would be a gimmicky touch if it were not pulled off so successfully—is the presence of Weideman's stock-serious mug in every shot.