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ART & CULTURE

MAGAZINE



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JULIA WACHTEL

Julia Wachtel first emerged alongside the Pictures Generation of artists in the early 1980s, but, in common with a number of her contemporaries from that epochal moment which defined postmodernism for many, her appropriation-based practice has continued to grow in richness in the subsequent decades. At once cartoonish and cryptic, absurd and ambiguous, the effect of Wachtel's work—in particular, *Narrative Collapse I and II*, which feature a sequence of six posters arranged horizontally in a four-metre band—has been compared to channel-hopping: disparate images (Judy Garland in a gold lamé suit, Che Guevara, Elvis; Raquel Welch, Mussolini, an otter) succeed one another in a flow of unsettling, ironic, seemingly random juxtapositions that take a knowing, witty tilt at our media-saturated landscape.



COURTESY THE ARTIST AND ELIZABETH DEE, NEW YORK