



Art | Basel **Miami Beach**

NIC NICOSIA  
*Real Pictures (1987-89)*

December 5 - 7, 2025  
Booth S04  
Survey Sector

ERIN  
CLULEY  
GALLERY





Portrait of the Artist.

## Nic Nicosia

Nic Nicosia (b. 1951, Dallas, TX) received a BS in 1974 in Radio-TV-Film from The University of North Texas with a concentration in motion pictures. He subsequently applied his cinematic mind-set for the making of a still image and is recognized as a pioneer of the staged photographic movement that came into prominence in the early 1980s.

Following a 1982 solo exhibition at Artists Space in New York, he was included in the 1983 Whitney Biennial, and the Guggenheim's 1983 Exxon National Exhibition. He has been included in several biennials including Documenta IX in 1992, and a second Whitney Biennial in 2000. In 1999 the Contemporary Arts Museum, in Houston, launched a 20-year retrospective of Nicosia's work; Nic Nicosia, Real Pictures 1979-1999. A 2nd major survey of his work was exhibited at CASA in Salamanca, Spain, in 2003.

Museums that have acquired Nicosia's work include: The Guggenheim Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, The Whitney Museum, The Los Angeles County Museum, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, The Dallas Museum of Art, and The Houston Museum of Fine Arts. Grants and awards include a 2010 Guggenheim Fellowship, a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation grant in 1984, Awards in the Visual Arts -AVA 11 in 1991, and The Tesuque Foundation, Artist Fellowship Grant in 1998.

The University of Texas Press produced a major career retrospective, Nic Nicosia, released in October of 2012. The book includes over 160 images, and film stills from 1980 through 2011.

Nic Nicosia currently lives and works in Dallas, TX.



## Nic Nicosia, *Real Pictures* (1987-89)

Over the course of the last four decades, Nic Nicosia has captured the surrealist heart of suburbia through photography, film, and sculpture. Pioneering the field of staged photography, Nicosia's postmodernist work from the 1980s and 1990s explores the stilted performance of late-century American culture. Alongside artists such as Ed Ruscha, John Baldessari, and Sherrie Levine, Nicosia deconstructed implications of photographic truth and the mass proliferation of image culture.

Nicosia's *Real Pictures* series presents the artist at a point of conceptual and aesthetic maturity: themes he explored previously concretized into tight, poignant photographic tableaux. *Middletown* (1997) expands *Real Pictures*' penchant for unsettling domesticity into a 15-minute film. Filmed in the artist's native North Dallas neighborhood, *Middletown* captures a series of suburbanites as they go about extranormal activities. Strapping the camera to the top of a car, Nicosia adopts the perspective of omniscient Southern deity: revealing the uncanny in the unremarkable.

This presentation marks the first time the artist's *Real Pictures* series have been presented together since his 1999 retrospective at the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston (CAMH). Paired with Nicosia's 1997 film *Middletown*, the presentation of lens-based works captures Nicosia's early-career innovations and surrealist wit.

Nicosia's inclusion in Art Basel Miami Beach 2025 comes ahead of a planned major retrospective of his sculptural and lens-based work post-2000 at The Nasher Sculpture Center in May 2026.







*Real Pictures #10*  
1988

Archival print on photo paper  
Edition 3 of 5  
36 3/4 x 84 3/4 x 2 in (framed)  
(93.34 x 215.27 x 5.08 cm)  
\$25,000





*Real Pictures #10 (installation view)*





*Real Pictures #8*  
1988  
Archival print on photo paper  
Edition 10 of 10  
49 x 53 x 2 in (framed)  
(123.19 x 130.18 x 5.08 cm)  
\$50,000





*Real Pictures #8 (installation view)*







*Real Pictures #9*  
1988  
Archival print on photo paper  
Edition 3 of 10  
73 x 49 x 2 in (framed)  
(185.42 x 124.46 x 5.08 cm)  
\$36,000







Real Pictures #9 (detail)



*Real Pictures #11*  
1988  
Archival print on photo paper  
PP 1/1  
80 x 49 x 2 in (framed)  
(203.20 x 124.46 x 5.08 cm)  
\$100,000







*Real Pictures #11 (installation view)*







*Real Pictures #15*  
1989  
Silver gelatin print  
Edition 3 of 3  
48 1/2 x 51 1/2 x 2 in (framed)  
(123.19 x 130.18 x 5.08 cm)  
\$32,000







*Real Pictures #15 (installation view)*







*Real Pictures #18*  
1989  
Archival print on photo paper  
Edition 1 of 3  
49 x 61 x 2 in (framed)  
(124.46 x 154.94 x 5.08 cm)  
\$36,000









*Middletown*  
1997  
Black and white digital video, 1990s television  
14 minutes 53 seconds  
Price on request







Middletown (still)



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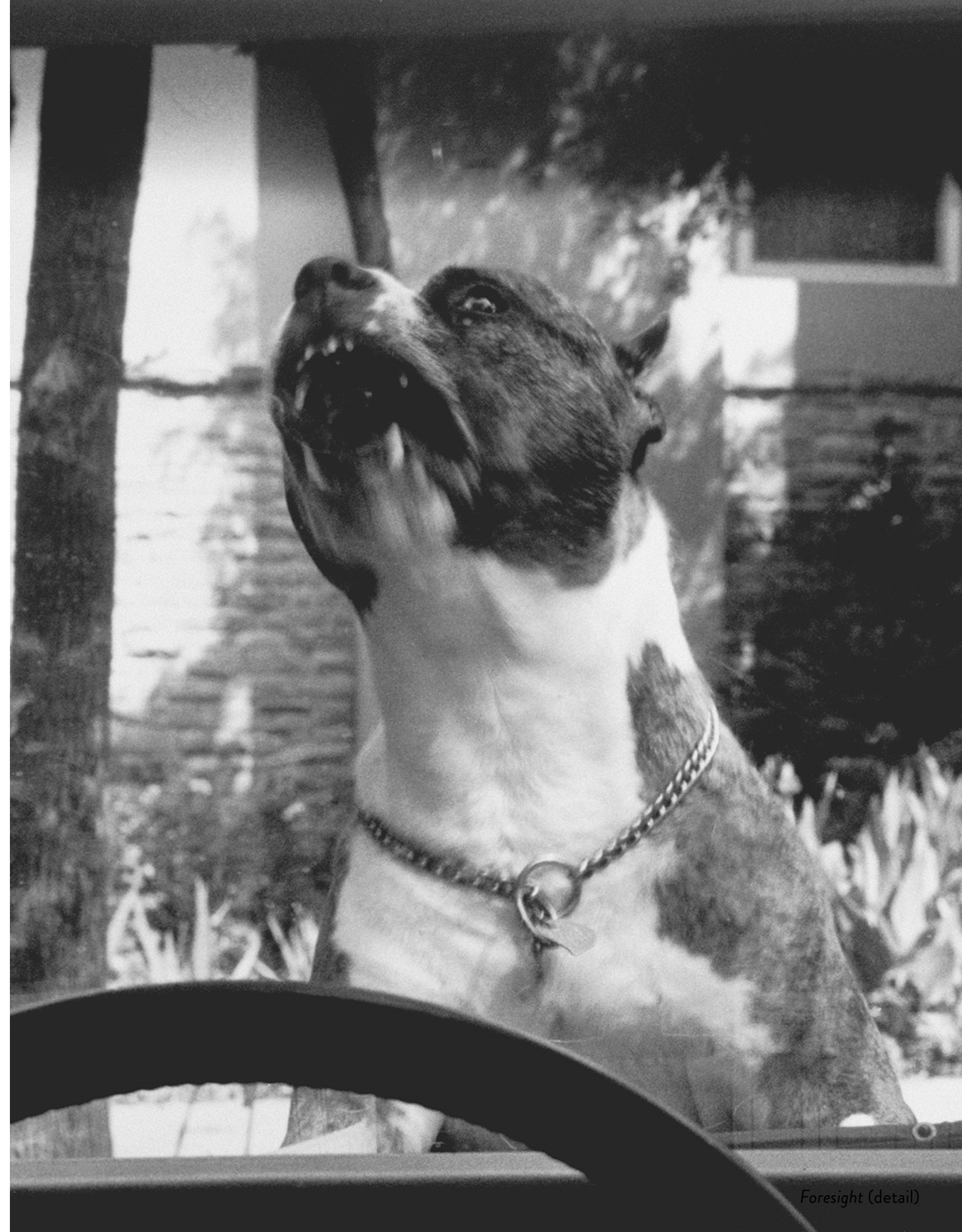
*Real Pictures (1987-89)*

Nic Nicosia

**ERIN CLULEY GALLERY**

DALLAS, USA

erin@erincluley.com | +1 214 538 1148



*Foresight (detail)*