

ADRIAN PIPER, "Food for the Spirit,"
Thomas Erben Gallery, 476 Broome Street,
(212) 966-5283 (through Jan. 31). In 1971, during a Conceptual phase of her work, Ms. Piper was studying Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason." She felt her own self-identity shaken by the power of the philosopher's thought. To affirm her existence, she looked in the mirror from time to time while repeating his words, taping her voice and photographing herself in the process. The 14 black-and-white self-portraits, shown together for the first time, were taken in very low light, with Ms. Piper sometimes nude, sometimes partly so. They provide barely readable images. But then, we are told, they were intended merely to record a moment of consciousness. These 14 moments are fleeting indeed (Glueck).
