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COURTESY JULIE SALL GALLERY



"Songs of Sentient Beings #1138, 1994" by Jacobson.

bill Jacobson, 41, takes pictures of ghosts. The simplicity of his portraits is deceptive. The figure is out of focus; barely visible, his subjects recede into the background as if they were disappearing before our eyes. "The work is optically difficult, to the point where it borders on abstraction," Jacobson says. "It represents the world between fact and fiction, the space between dreams and reality." The images are his response to living in the age of AIDS. "I felt that the faded

images were an appropriate metaphor for losing friends," says the photographer. The poignancy of the work has not been lost on curators—or collectors. In the past two years Jacobson has had shows in New York, San Francisco, Atlanta, and Frankfurt, Germany, while the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York has been actively buying his photographs. You can too—prices start at \$1,200 and move up to \$4,000 for his large-scale pieces, in editions of three.

BILL JACOBSON