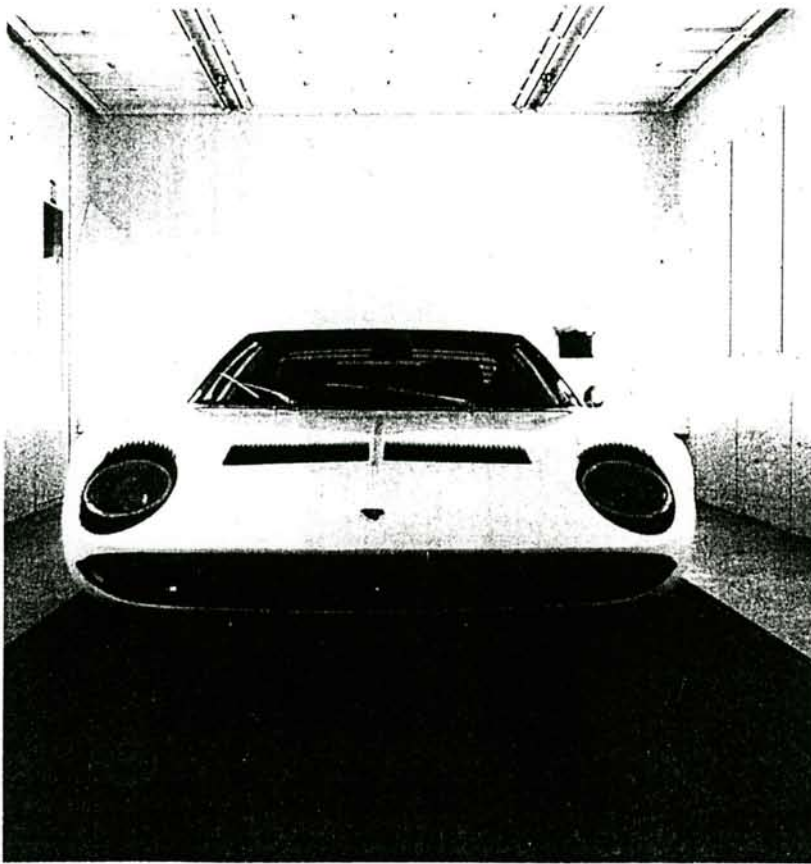


Shambelan, Elizabeth, *New Film*, *V Magazine*, Spring Preview 2005 (ill).



NEW FILM

Shot during the run-up to the 2004 Academy Awards, British-American artist Sarah Morris's short film, *Los Angeles*, achieves a level of A-list access that Bert Fields might envy. Morris's latest cinematic portrait of an American metropolis includes footage of Brett Ratner changing his clothes in his limo (coming perilously close to the full monty in the process), Brad Pitt looking surprisingly dorky as he rehearses a fight scene, and Robert Evans getting a shave from a topless blonde. Morris also stakes out the red carpet during the pre-Oscar photo ops, recording the awkward millings-about of the talent, their handlers, and the media. While the celebrity walk-ons are voyeuristically fascinating, the real stars of the show are Morris's stylized images of industry habits and haunts: the interior of a John Lautner house; a smoky screening room; Harry Winston baubles; Botox injections. Set to Liam Gillick's sound track, which suggests Bernard Herrmann by way of Kraftwerk, the film is a dreamlike look at a city's inner life. *Los Angeles*, of course, has been many things to many people—Tinseltown, Autotopia, and (in Brecht's succinct formulation) Hell. Morris's vision seems to strip the projections away, capturing L.A. doing what it does best: playing itself. **Elizabeth Schambelan**

Still from *Los Angeles*

Artwork Sarah Morris © Parallax 2004 Photo Sean Dack

Courtesy Friedrich Petzel Gallery, NYC

"Los Angeles" runs January 29–February 26, 2005 at Friedrich Petzel Gallery, NYC