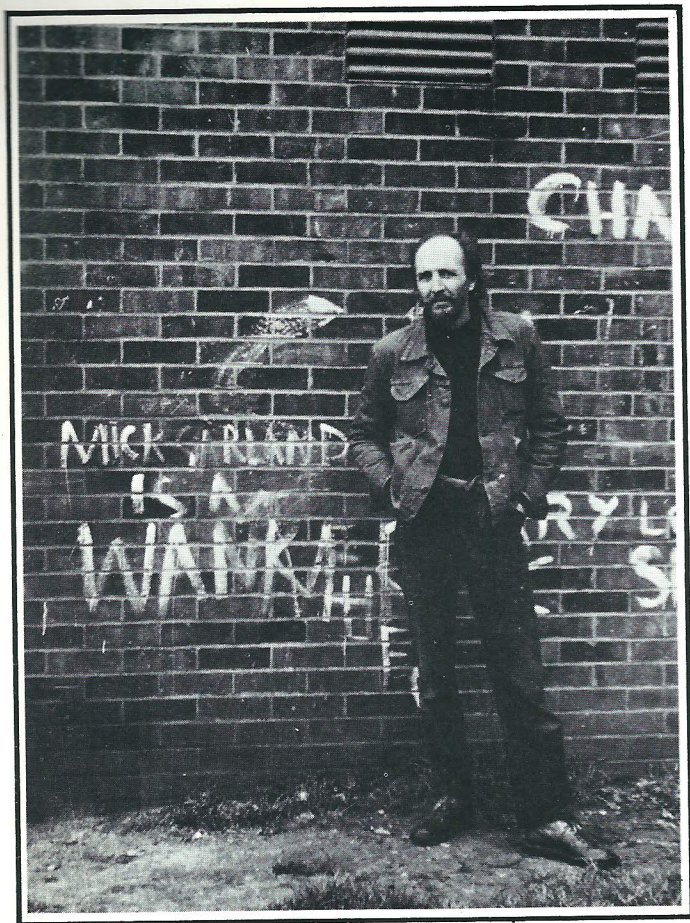


SUPER



HUMANISM
A BRITISH ART MOVEMENT



MIKE FRANCIS

Born 1938 in London. He is self-taught.

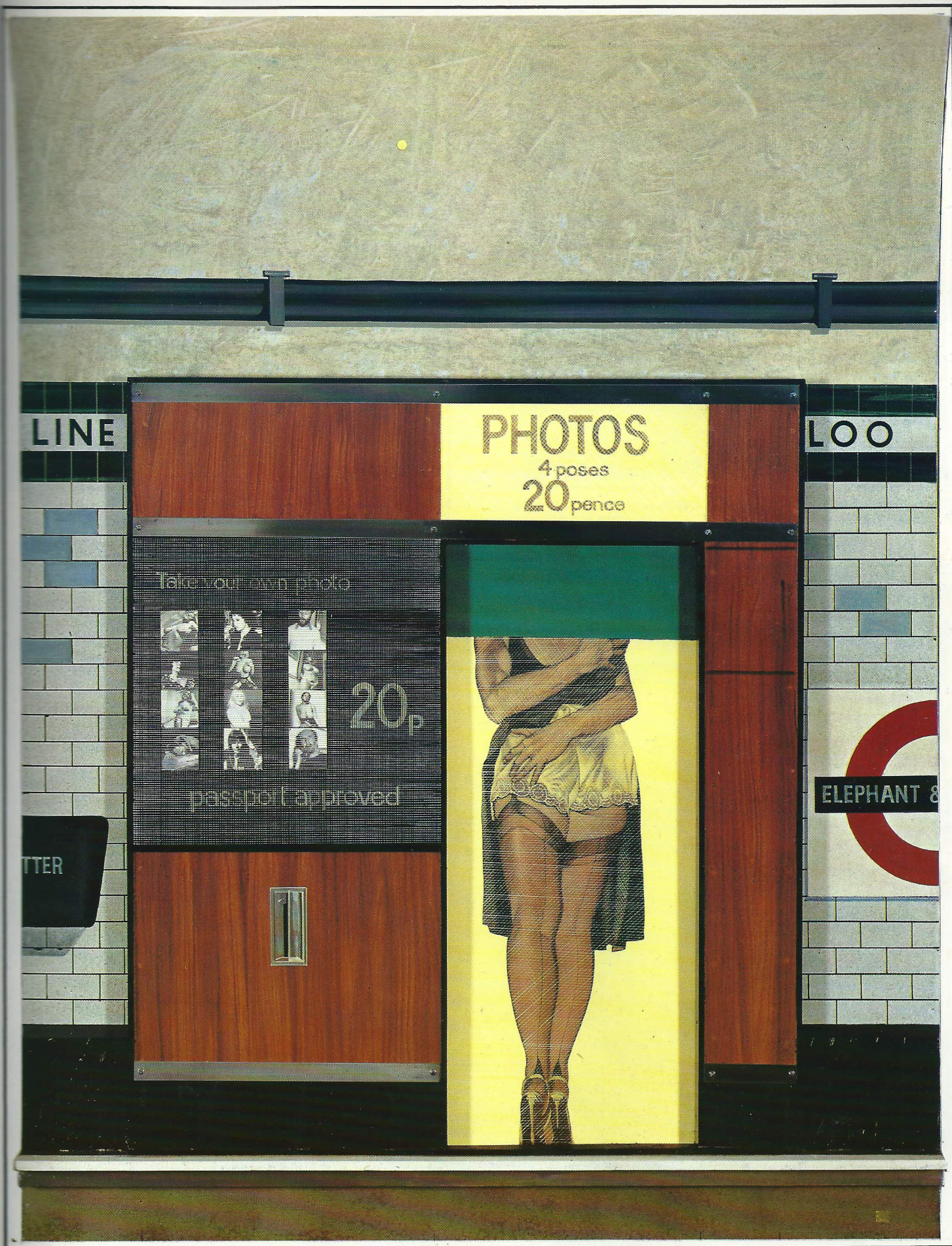
Mike left school at fifteen, although he was working as a greengrocery boy while he was still at school and briefly after he left. He had painted in his spare time for as long as he could remember and believing he had some flair for art, he applied for a job in a commercial studio. He was still fifteen when he began working there as a messenger/teaboy. He didn't know that grants existed, otherwise he might have gone to art school and he is still not sure if he regrets this. The studio had about forty artists, who each specialised, either in cars, figures, lettering or whatever. Mike was at that studio for twelve years, and believes he learnt the discipline of painting there as well as the ability to improvise in almost any technique and he developed a 'mature' sense of humour from a very young age. Of course, he continued his own painting in the evenings and at weekends and had his first London exhibition in 1965.

Today, Mike Francis lives in the London suburbs with his wife and two children. His studio is a converted garage at the end of his

garden and he is often working there late into the night. His paintings continue to be about the fantasies and day to day life of the urban man, and are always constructed very formally with a strong abstract sense. A few years ago, he began using painted relief effects and found objects in his work to make it more interesting for himself, he said, and to add an optical element for the viewer (has he painted it or is it real?)

In life, he is a joker and he teases the viewer in his work and he just cannot resist adding one more little joke. One rarely sees a Francis painting, no matter how serious the subject, which doesn't include at least a hint of his weakness for female sexuality, and as you can see from the reproduced work, it is usually more than that.

Aside from art, Mike's other interest is football (soccer) and although he doesn't play anymore himself, he helps train and acts as 'medic' for the team of his eleven-year-old son.



Mike Francis
Kiosk Me Quick

Acrylic and Mixed Media on Board 1978
91 X 121 X 11 cms



Mike Francis
Two Pints of Best

Oil and Acrylic on Board 1978
122 X 122 cms



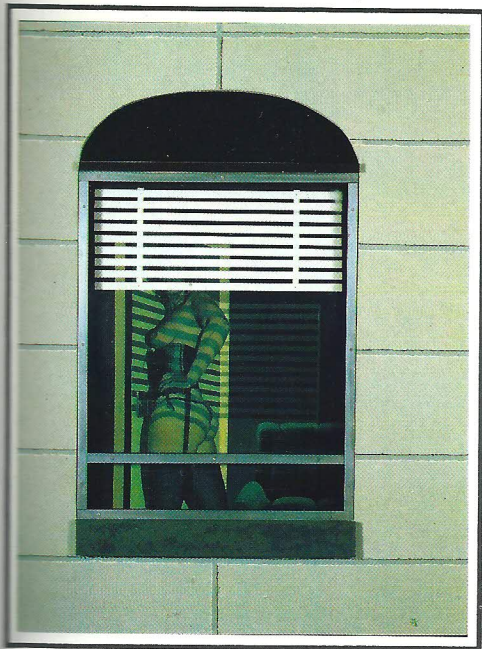
Mike Francis
Sugar and Spice and...

Acrylic and Mixed Media on Board 1978
122 X 122 X 7 cms



Mike Francis
Studying Form

Acrylic and Mixed Media on Board 1978
152 X 122 cms



Mike Francis Acrylic and Mixed Media 1979
Blind Date on Board 92 X 122 cms



Mike Francis
Christmas Diner

Acrylic on Board 1977
122 X 122 cms