



# THE NEW YORKER

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## **LOU REED**

One gallery would have been enough for the photographic work of this all-purpose rock legend. Reed's style is earnest, romantic, and shockingly unoriginal, and his subjects are camera-club staples: sunsets, clouds, the surface of the river, deserted streets. The Empire State and Chrysler Buildings crop up in some arty abstractions of neon squiggles at night, but the skyline in most of Reed's shots is, unfortunately, New Jersey's. Perhaps in homage to Robert Mapplethorpe, both shows include black-and-white closeups of Reed's shrewd, probing eyes. It's hard to believe that this is all they see. Through Feb. 25. (Hermès, 691 Madison Ave. 212-751-3181; Kasher, 521 W. 23rd St. 212-966-3978.)