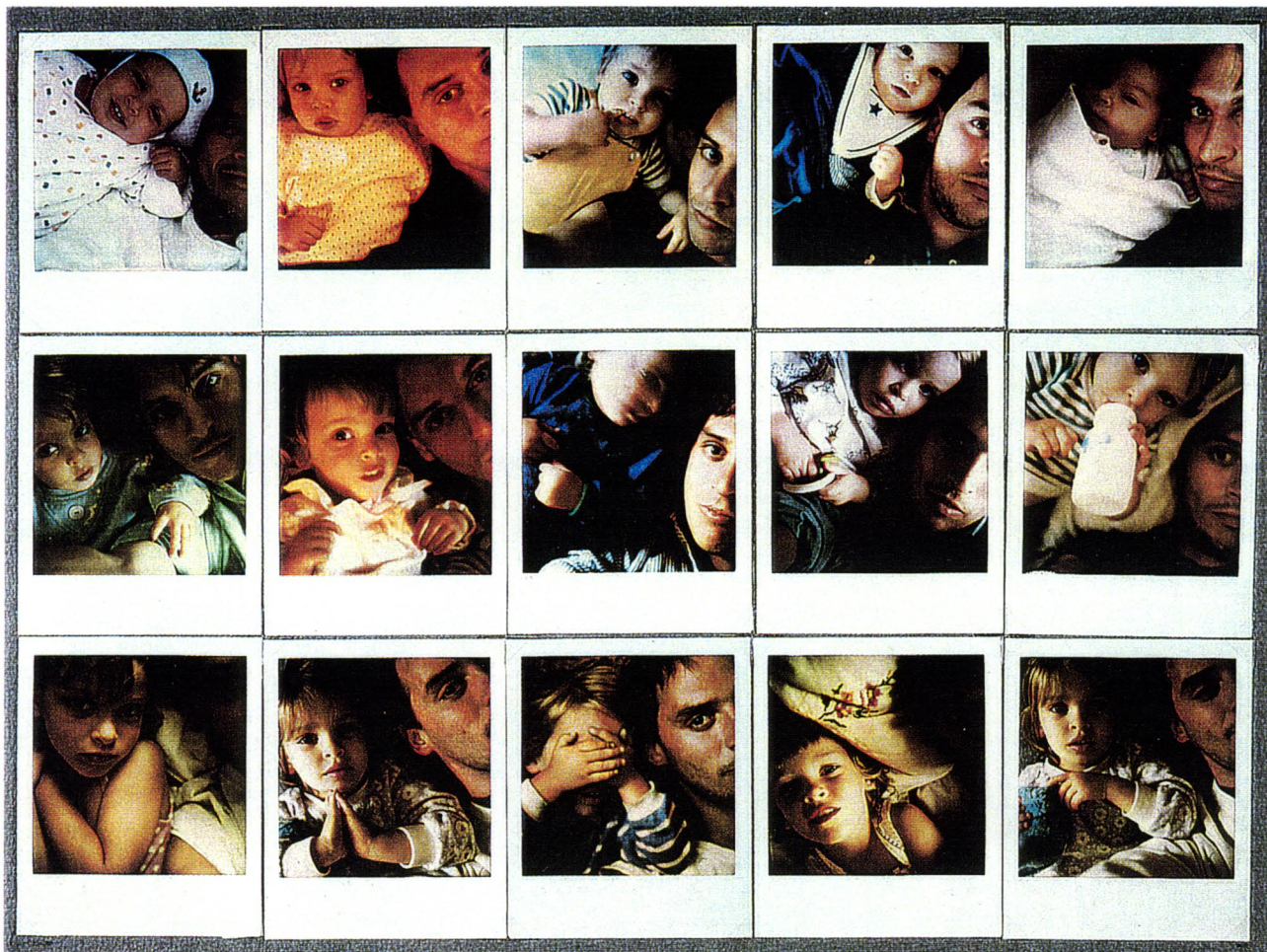


BERTRAND CARRIÈRE



When Bertrand Carrière was a teenager, his older brother sometimes took him to work to keep him out of trouble. But Carrière's brother didn't have an ordinary job. He was a film-maker, and he unknowingly gave Bertrand a head start in his future profession — still photographer in the Quebec movie industry.

Since 1985, Carrière has worked on dozens of films, including the award-winning *Decline and Fall of the American Empire*. His photography doesn't appear on-screen but it does help fuel the vast promotional machine that keeps the movie industry going.

Carrière's personal work, on the other hand, has shown at galleries across Canada and in France. His earliest projects had a social documentary flavor. For one series, he photographed street entertainers in Montreal and Europe. In another, he shot the nocturnal

world of Montreal bars and ambulance drivers. "My commercial work hasn't influenced me aesthetically," he says. "In fact, I try to make it the other way around."

In the mid-1980s, during a stay in France, his work took a more personal and autobiographical turn. And when a friend gave him a Polaroid camera as a gift, he says he was "seduced by the immediacy." This led to a series of photographs of scenes from Carrière's life that skilfully exploit the Polaroid's small image, white frame and contrasty colors. Some of the pictures even include text in the overall design. Others revolt against the constraints of the square format by tilting the horizon.

Carrière's current projects continues to comment on his own life. "I want to show family, intimacy and the territory in which I live," he says.