

Paul Graham  
*Mother / Sightless*

14 November 2020 – 23 January 2021  
Exhibition at carlier | gebauer, Berlin

## Press release

### Paul Graham | *Mother/Sightless*

13 November, 2020 – 23 January, 2021

Opening: Friday, 13 November, 2020, 11 – 8 pm

carlier | gebauer is pleased to announce the European premiere of new works by photographer Paul Graham, opening November 13, 2020. *Mother/Sightless* is Graham's sixth solo exhibition with the gallery.

For nearly 40 years, Paul Graham's work has presented an unflagging commitment to depicting life as it unfolds. He first established his reputation in the early 1980s by introducing the practice of color photography into the classic genre of "social documentary." Since then, Graham has turned his lens towards seemingly incidental, fleeting moments, capturing life in passing as an endless flow of time rather than an isolated or static instant. Graham himself has claimed that the photography that he most respects "pulls something out of the ether of nothingness" and over four decades of his rich and layered practice, Graham has cultivated this ethos.

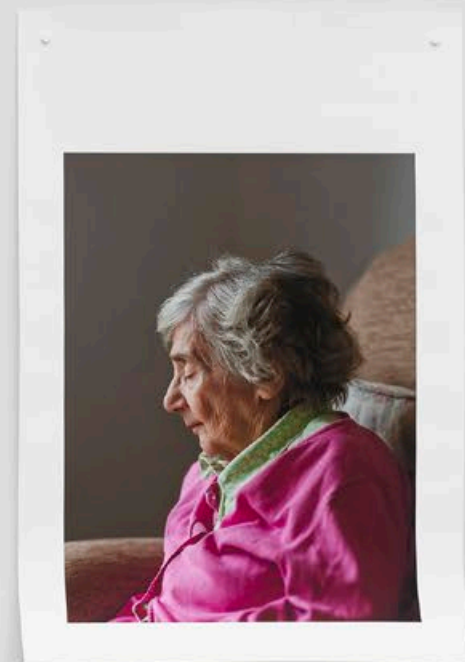
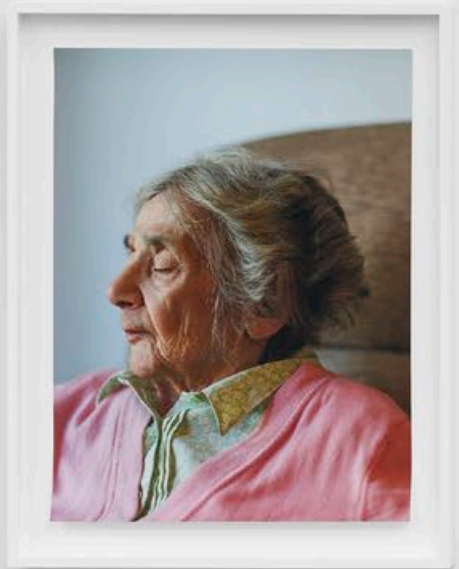
Paul Graham's most recent series, *Mother*, bears witness to the elastic, malleable quality of time—particularly as it relates to matters of the heart. His most personal work to date, *Mother* depicts the artist's own aging mother in the last years of her life dozing in various positions in her chair at an English retirement home through a series of thirteen photographs. Depictions of artists' mothers are iconic in the history of art—from Whistler through Freud, Cézanne, Hockney, Ingres, Gauguin, or Durer, whose brutally honest portraits of his mother insisted that "even the smallest wrinkles and veins must not be ignored." Yet Graham's extended portrait doesn't merely evince tenderness for its subject, but also through its attentive, almost painterly approach, conveys a kind of stretching and unraveling of time—the looping and fragmentary nature of experience and perception when life closes in and one's world shrinks to the space of a single room.

Parallel to *Mother*, Graham will also present *Sightless*, a never-before exhibited series of small portraits made fifteen years ago on 42nd street in New York. Inverting the conventions of portraiture, according to which an image of the subject blinking would be rejected, each individual depicted in the works in this series has their eyes closed. Whether blinded by the sun, enjoying a moment of silent reverie, delving into a musical trance, or blocking out the rest of the world to dwell in one's own thoughts, the subjects of *Sightless* navigate between two worlds—that of the city and the imagination.

**Paul Graham** was born in 1956 in England and lives and works in New York. He has been awarded the Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography 2012, the most prestigious international award for photography. His work has been the subject of more than eighty solo exhibitions in internationally renowned institutions including the Whitechapel Gallery, London; Museum of Modern Art, New York and Tate Gallery, London. Paul Graham's work is included in such important public collections as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Centre Pompidou, Paris; the Museum of Modern Art and Metropolitan Museum, New York; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Arts Council England, the V&A Museum and the National Museum of Photography, London; the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany; and the Louisiana Museum, Humlebaek, as well as in significant private collections worldwide.



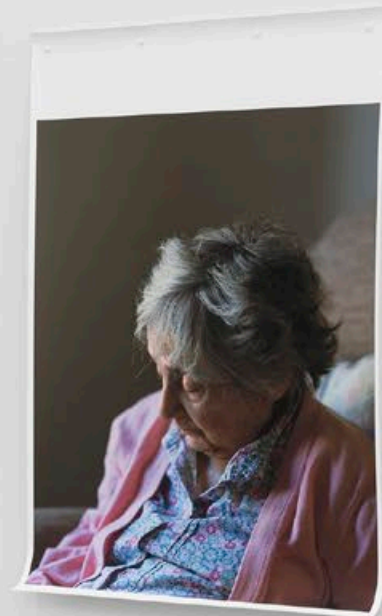
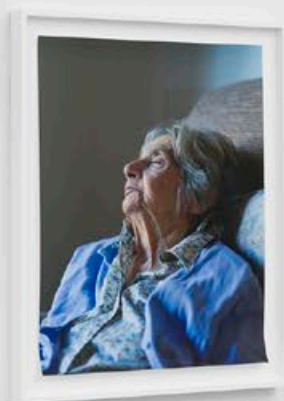
Paul Graham, from the series Mother, 2018  
Exhibition view Mother/Sightless at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2020



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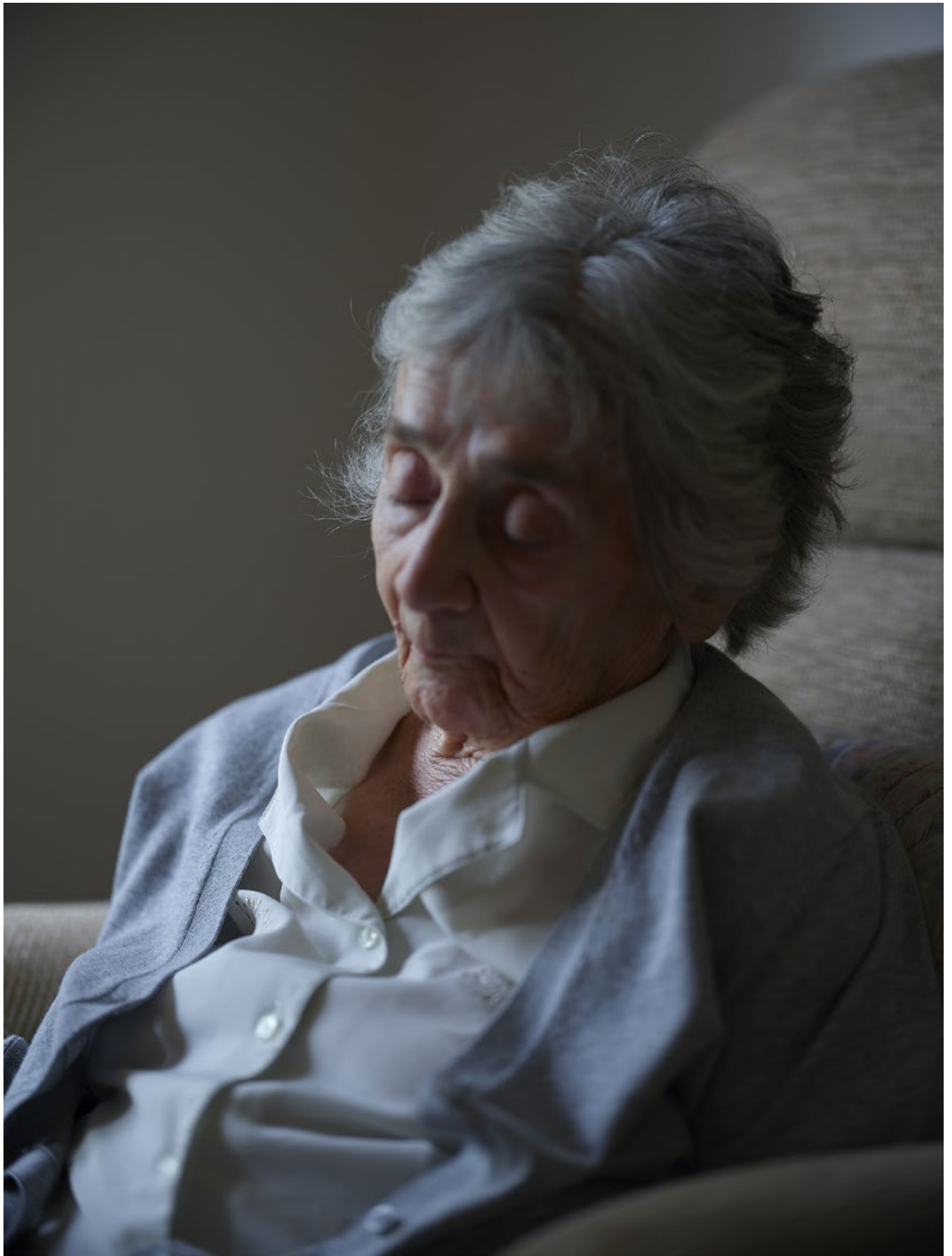
Paul Graham, *Mother* #0310, 2018  
Pigment print, 170 x 130 x 7 cm, 3 + 2 AP  
carlier | gebauer



Paul Graham, *Mother #02097*, 2018, pigment print, 241,3 x 152,4 cm, 3 + 2 AP  
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Paul Graham, *Mother #03155*, 2018, pigment print, 138 x 108 x 7 cm, 3 + 2 AP  
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Paul Graham, *Mother #58601*, 2018, pigment print, 164,7 x 110,7 cm, 3 + 2 AP  
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Paul Graham, *Mother #46699*, 2018, pigment print, 164,7 x 110,7 cm, 3 + 2 AP  
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Paul Graham, *Mother #39577*, 2018, pigment print, 164,7 x 110,7 cm, 3 + 2 AP  
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Paul Graham, *Mother #01424*, 2018, pigment print, 241,3 x 152,4 cm, 3 + 2 AP  
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Paul Graham, *Mother #68722*, 2018, pigment print, 241,3 x 152,4 cm, 3 + 2 AP  
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Paul Graham, from the series Sightless, 2005  
Exhibition view Mother/Sightless at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2020



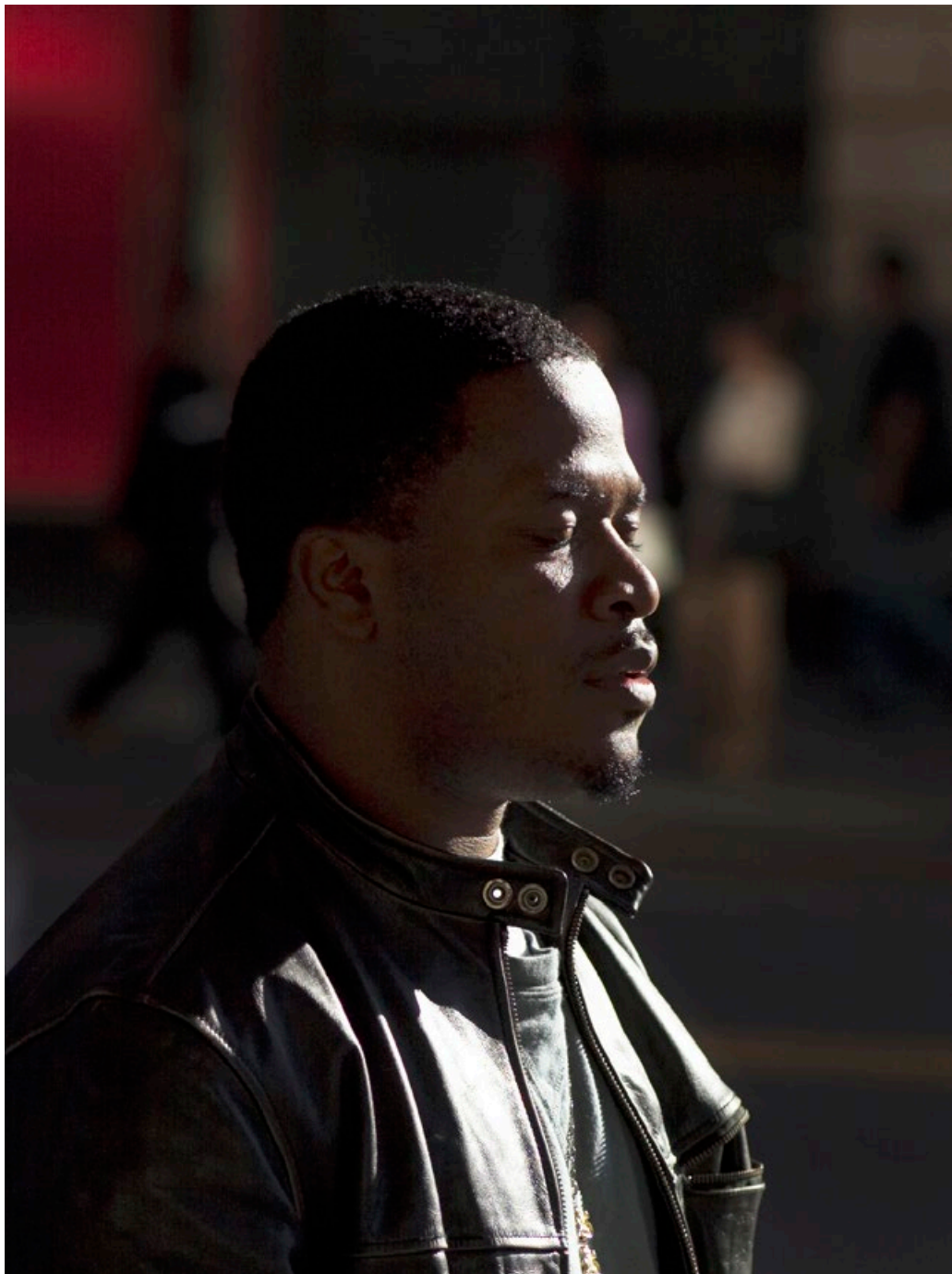
Paul Graham, from the series Sightless, 2005  
Exhibition view Mother/Sightless at carlier | gebauer, Berlin, 2020



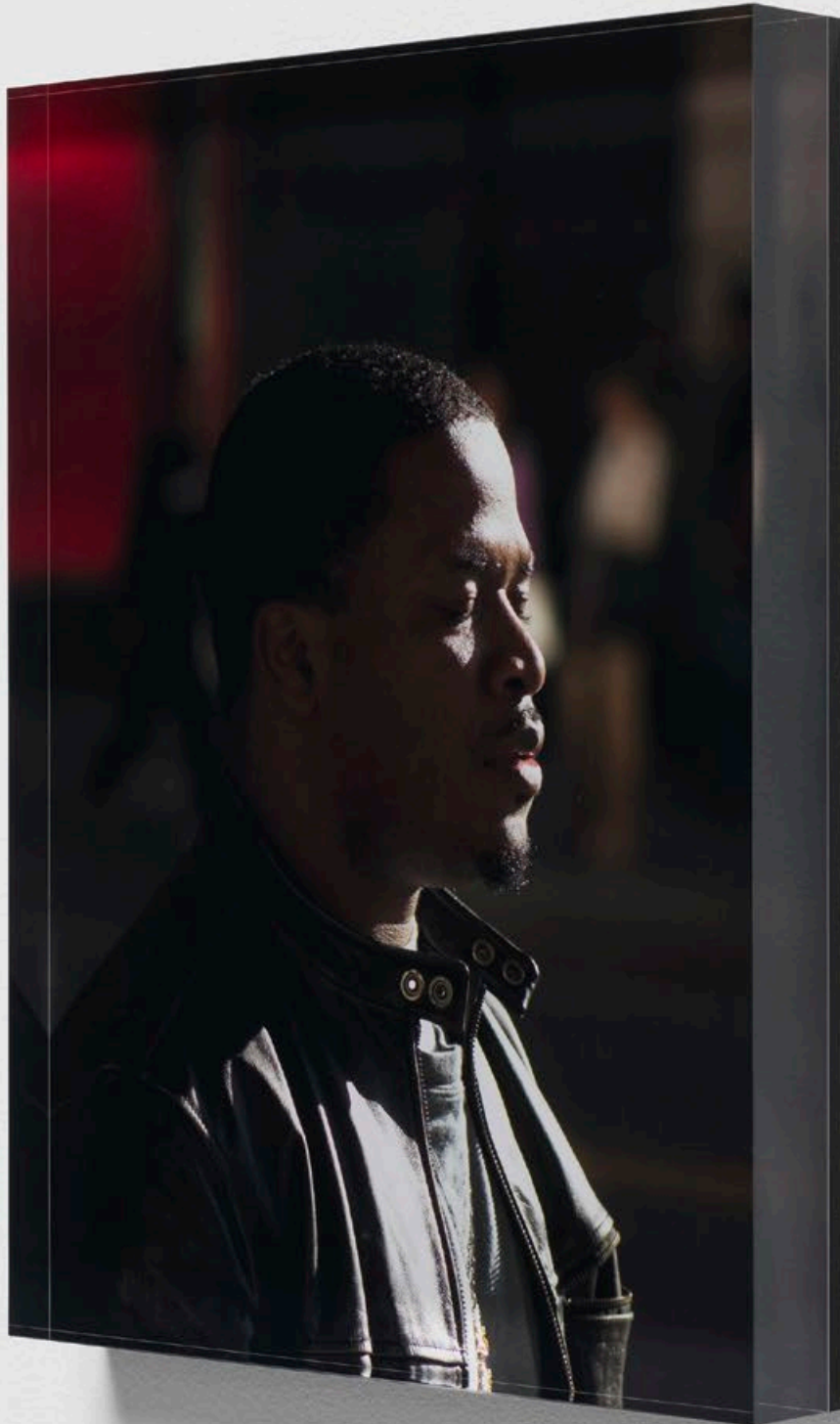
Paul Graham, Girl in Blue Jacket with Braces, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, *Girl in Blue Jacket with Braces*, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



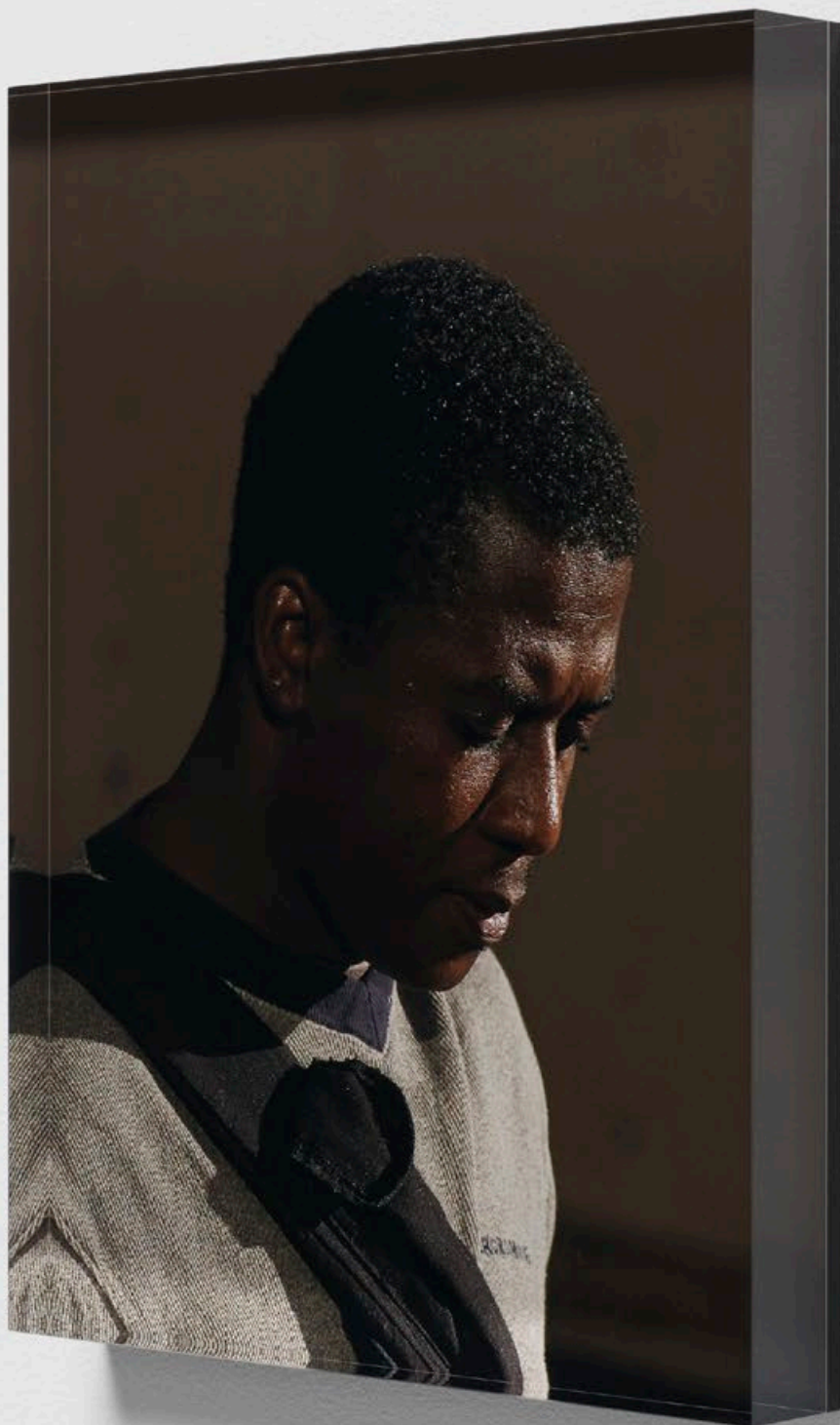
Paul Graham, Man in Black Leather Jacket, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



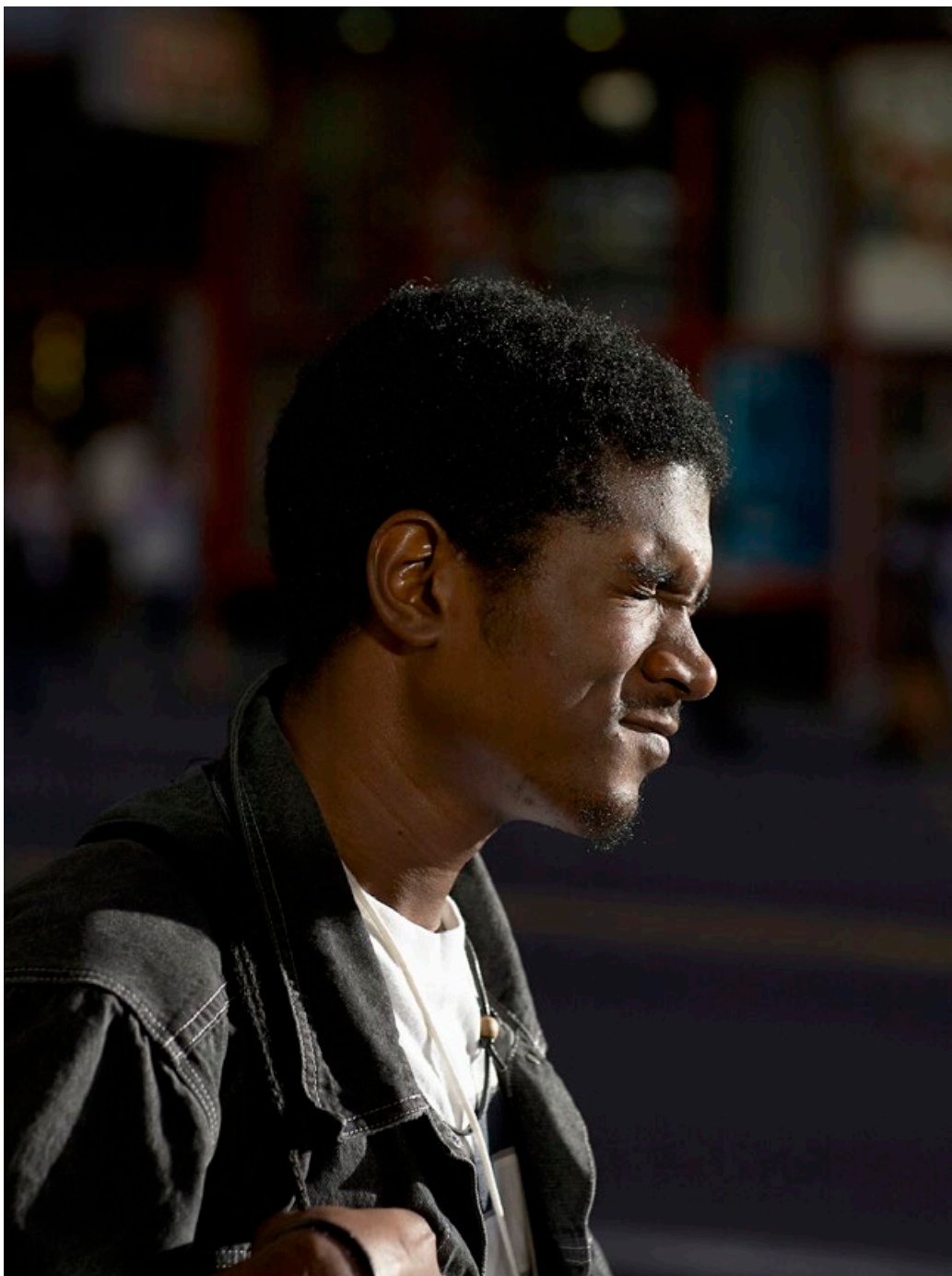
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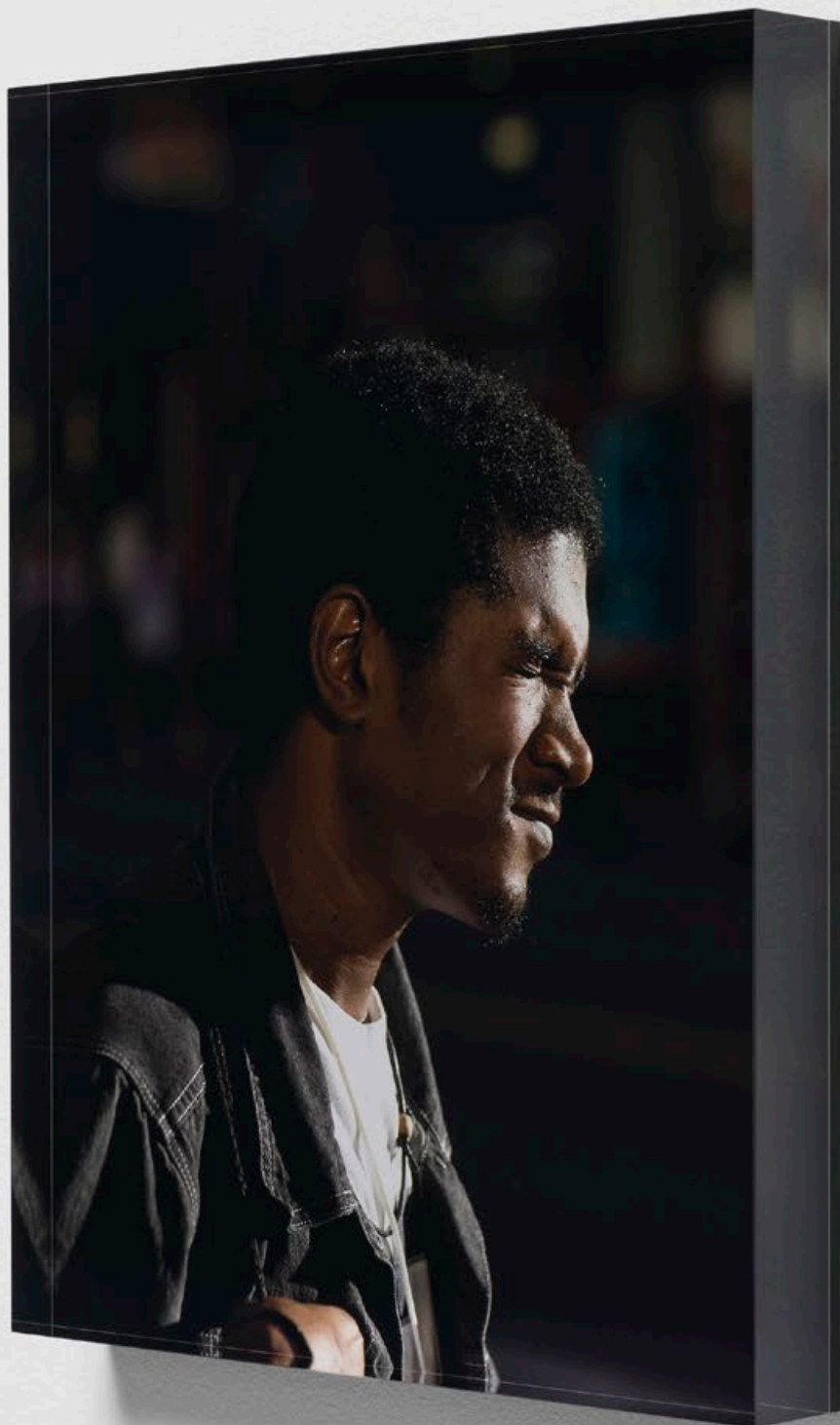
Paul Graham, Man with head down grey top and black strap bag, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



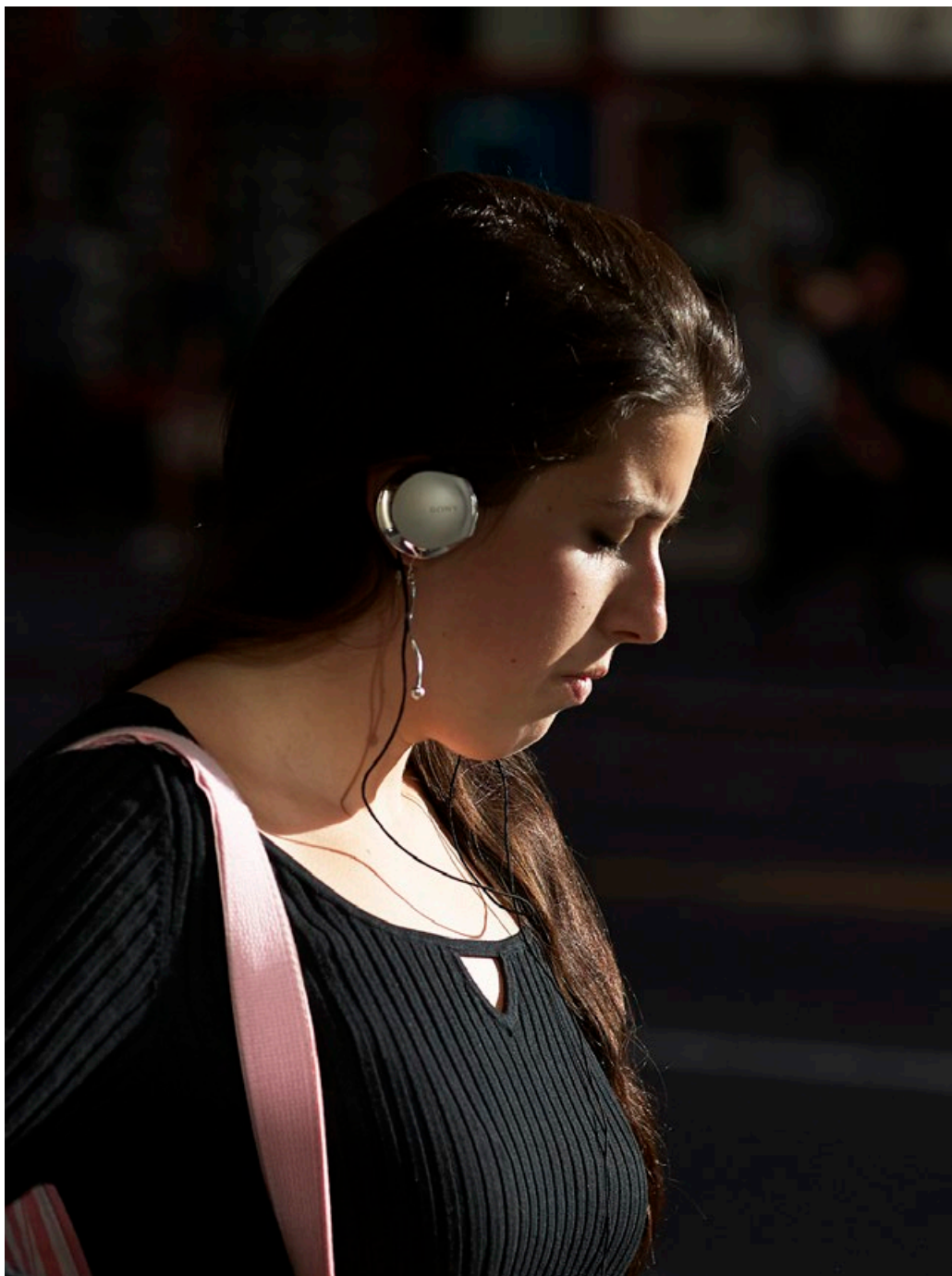
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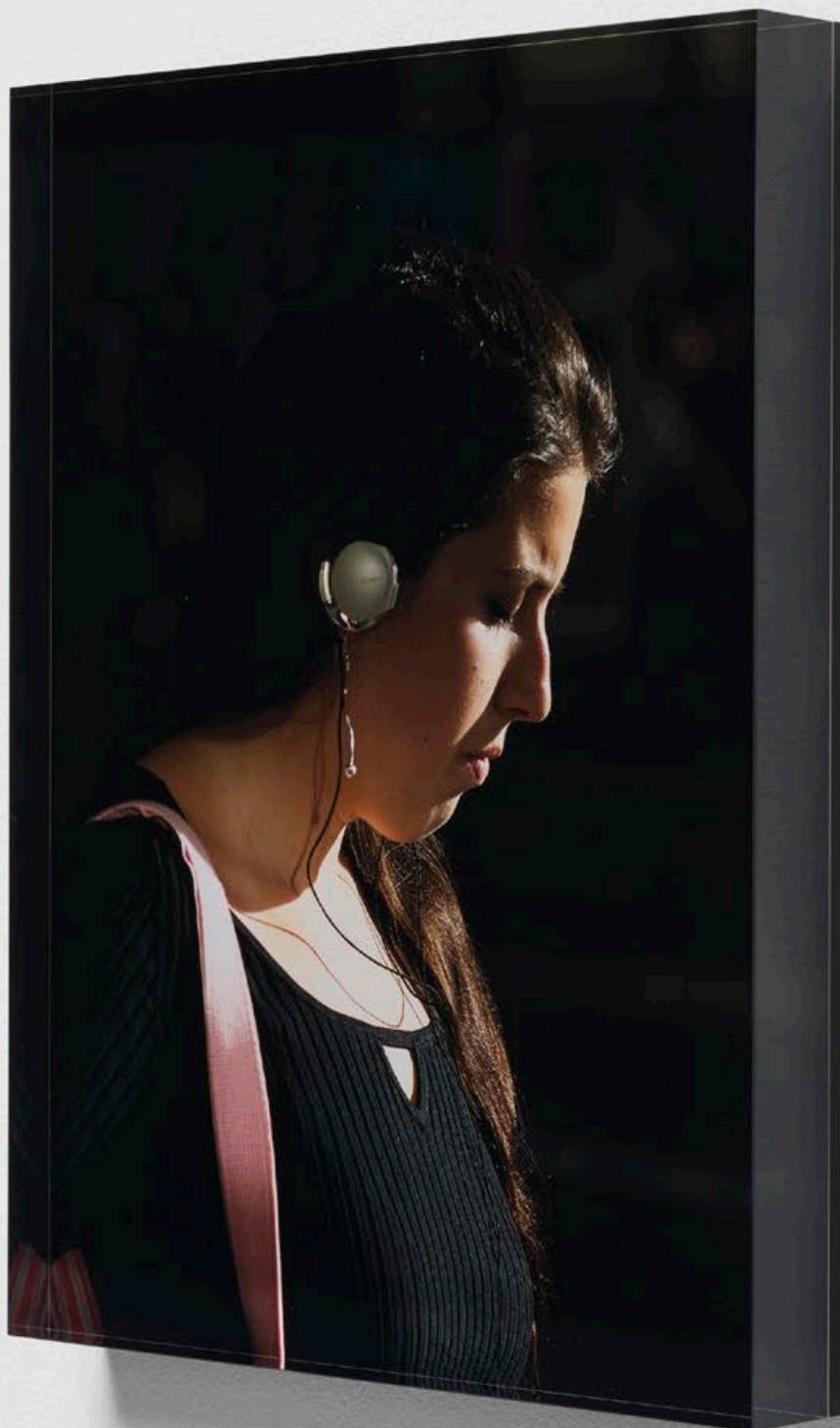
Paul Graham, Black Denim Jacket, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diassec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



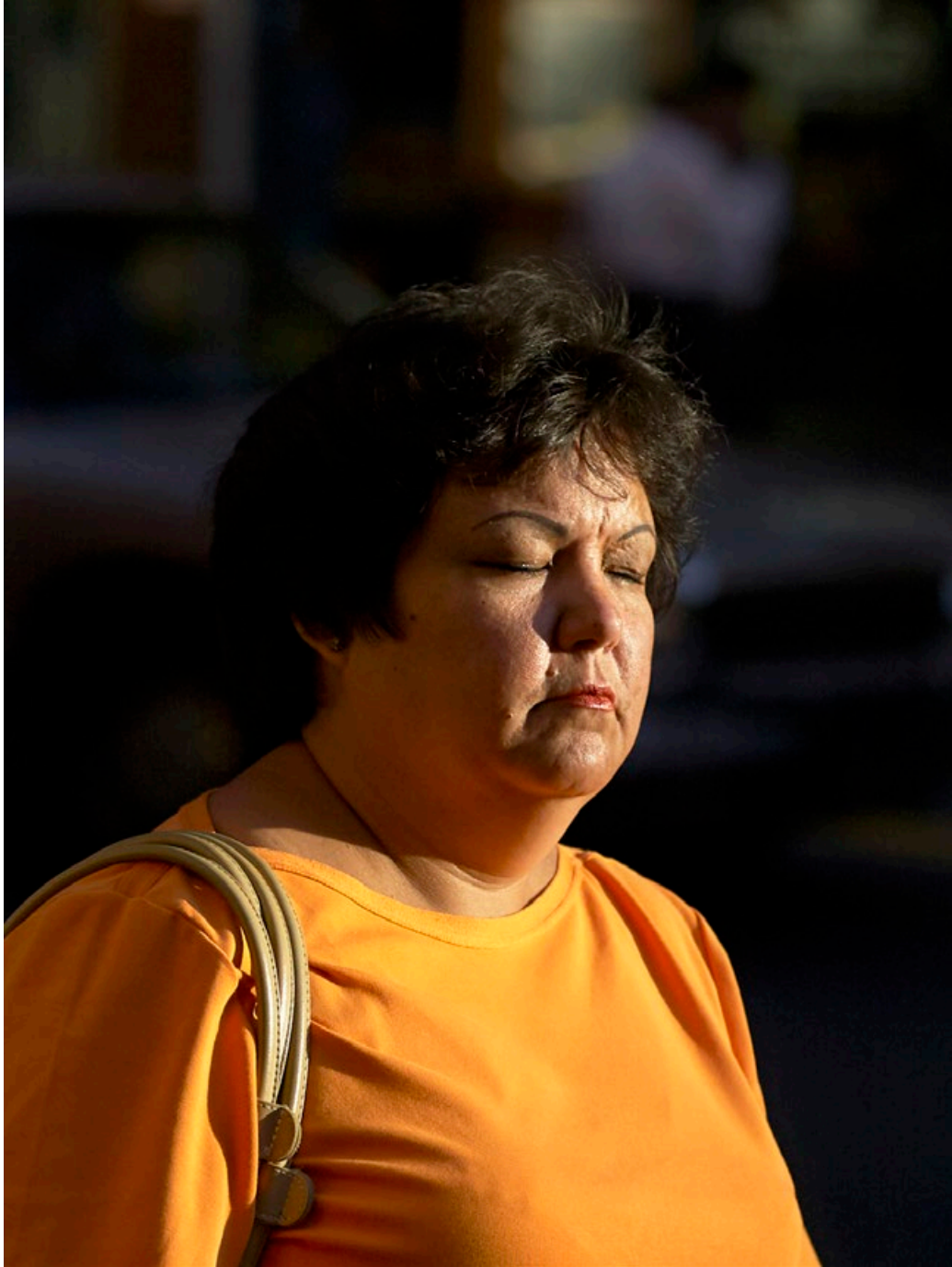
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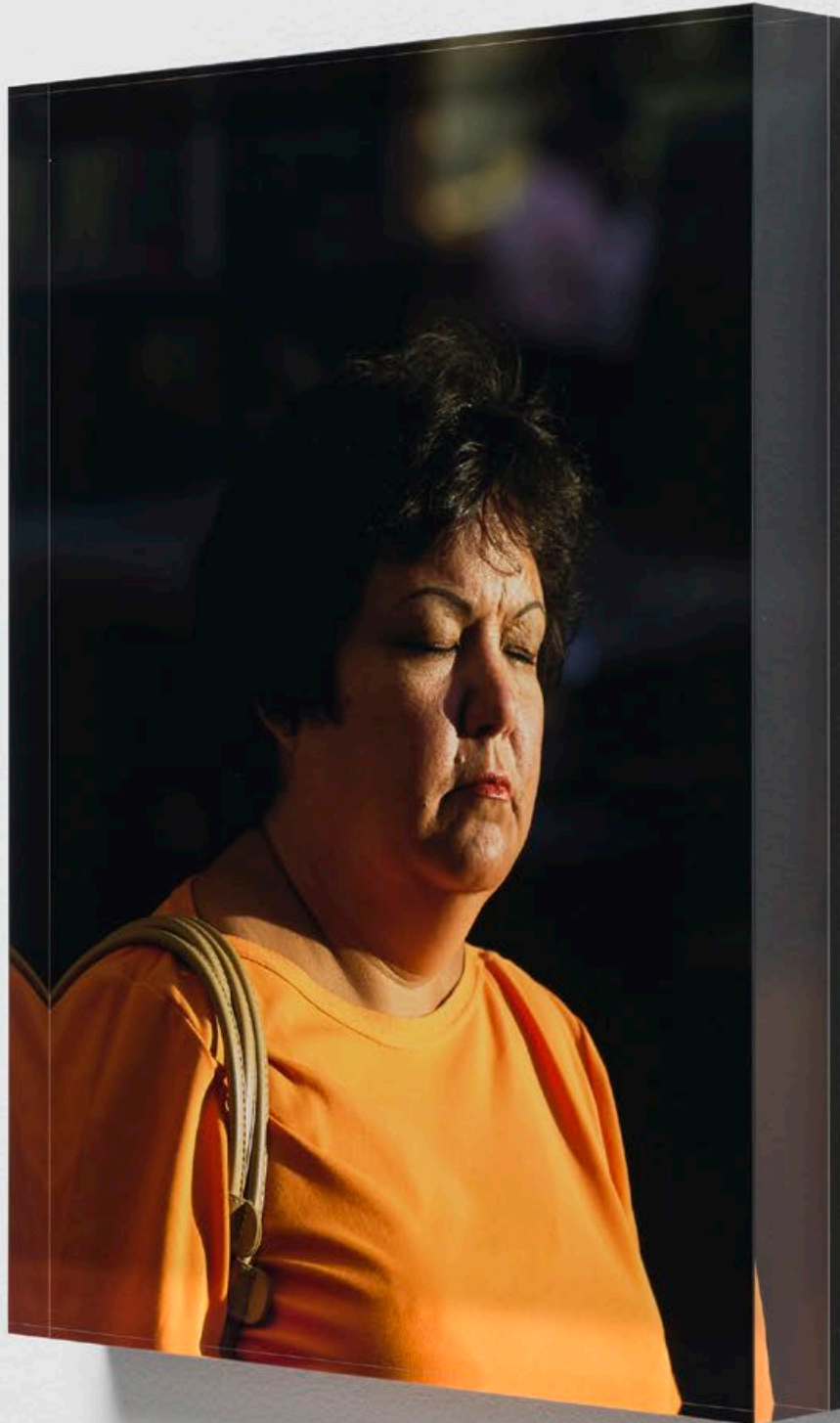
Paul Graham, Girl with Headphones, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



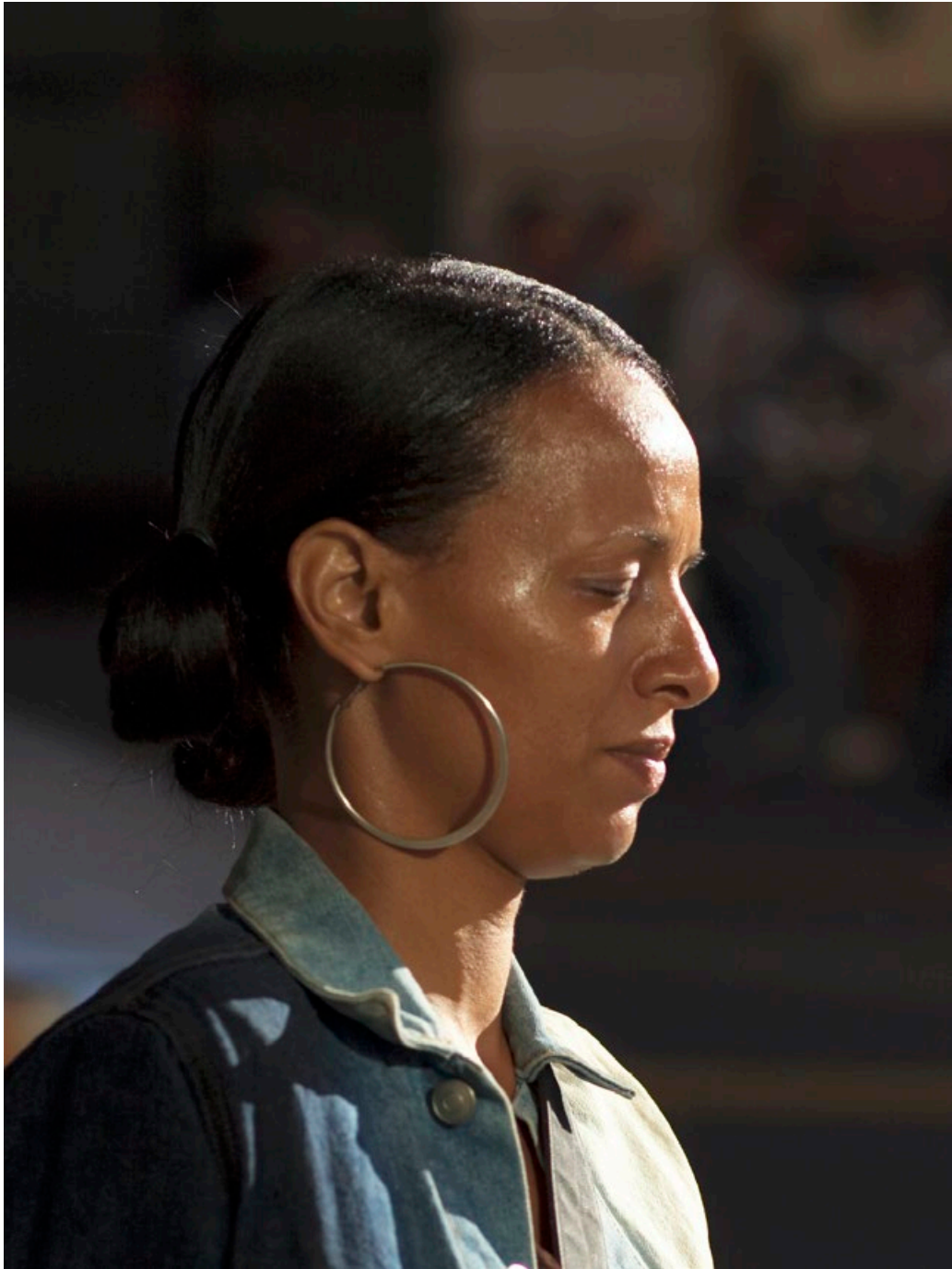
Paul Graham, Girl with Headphones, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, Woman with Orange Top, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



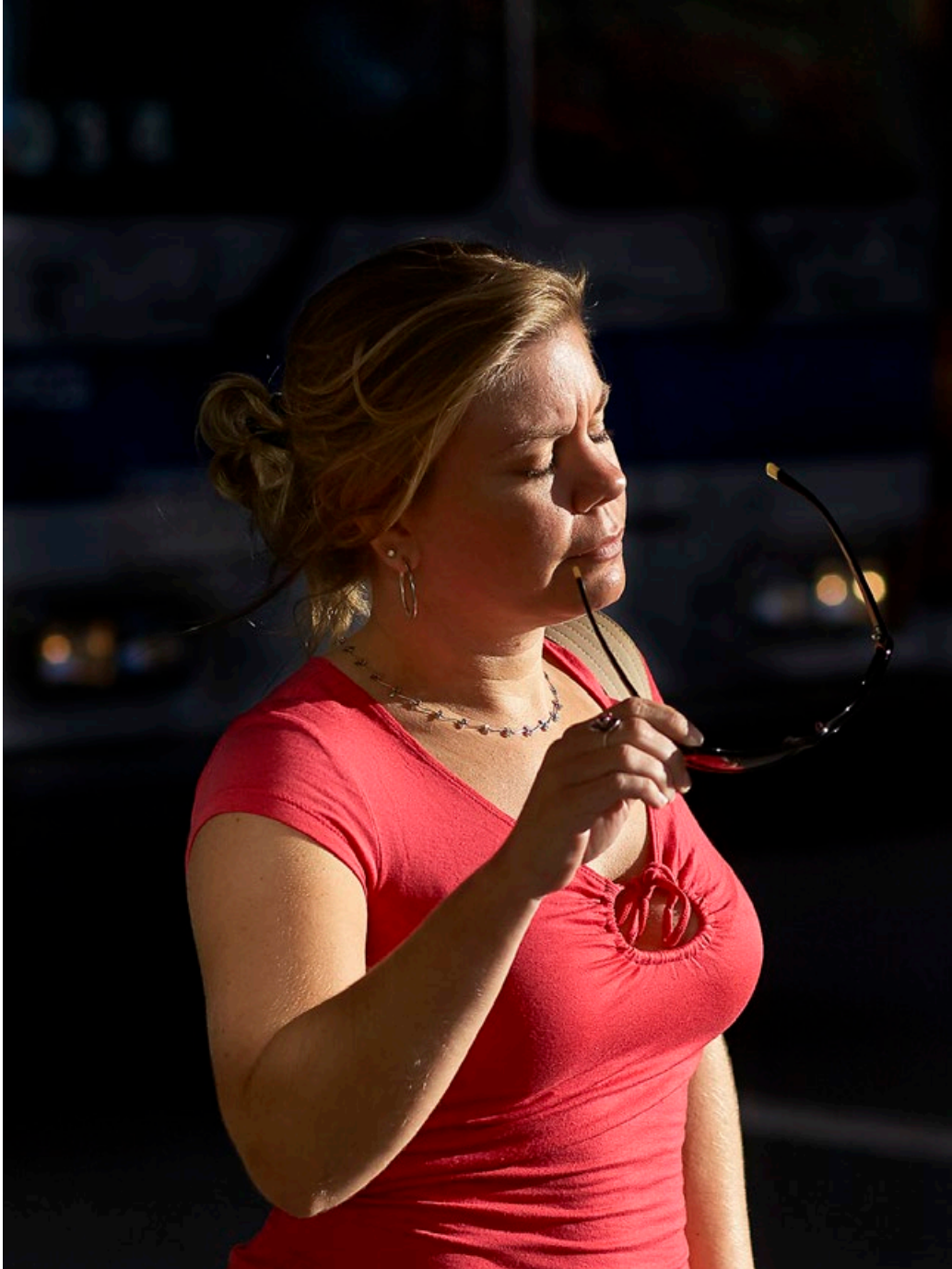
Paul Graham, Woman with Orange Top, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



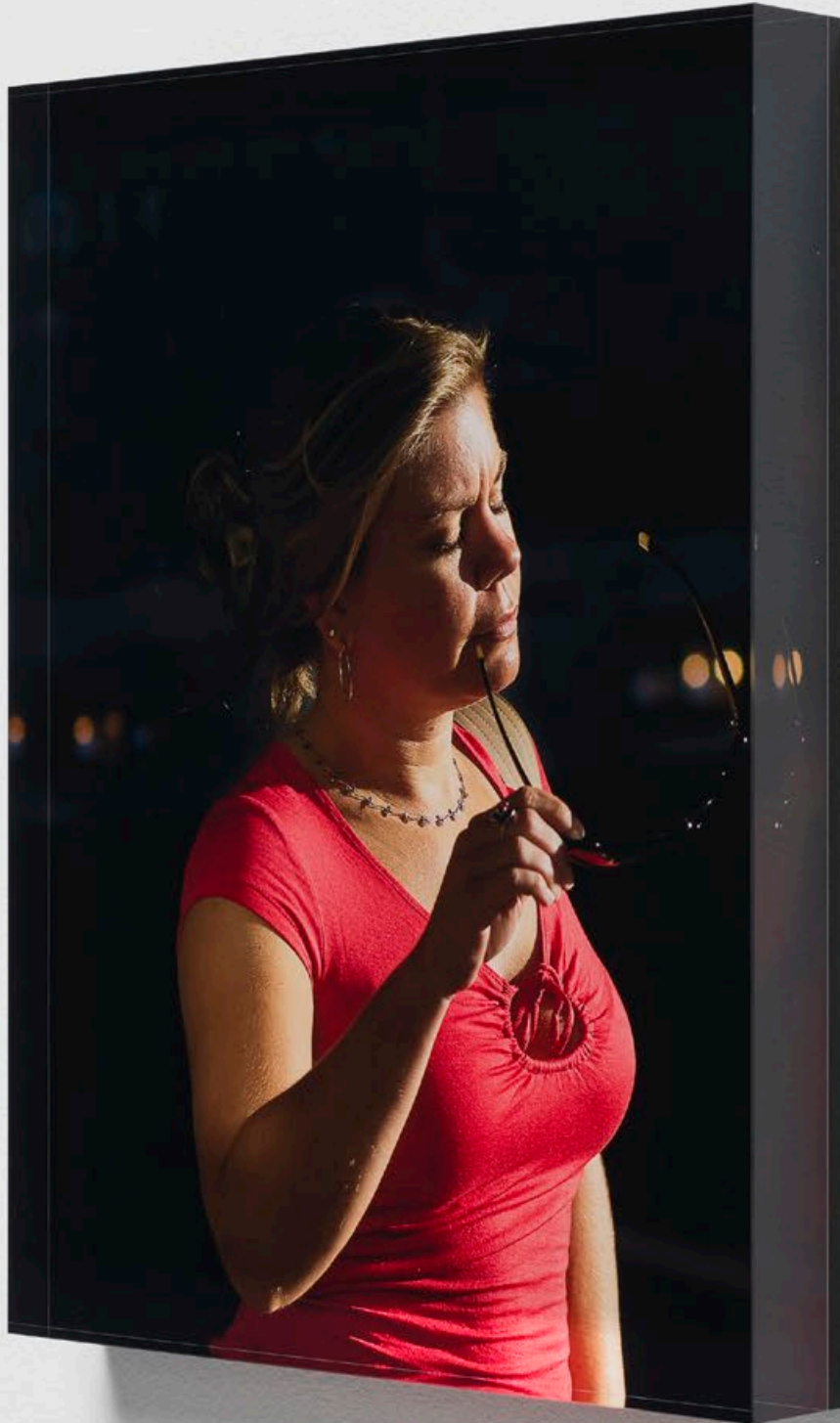
Paul Graham, Woman in Denim Jacket with big earring, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, Woman in Denim Jacket with big earring, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasac mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



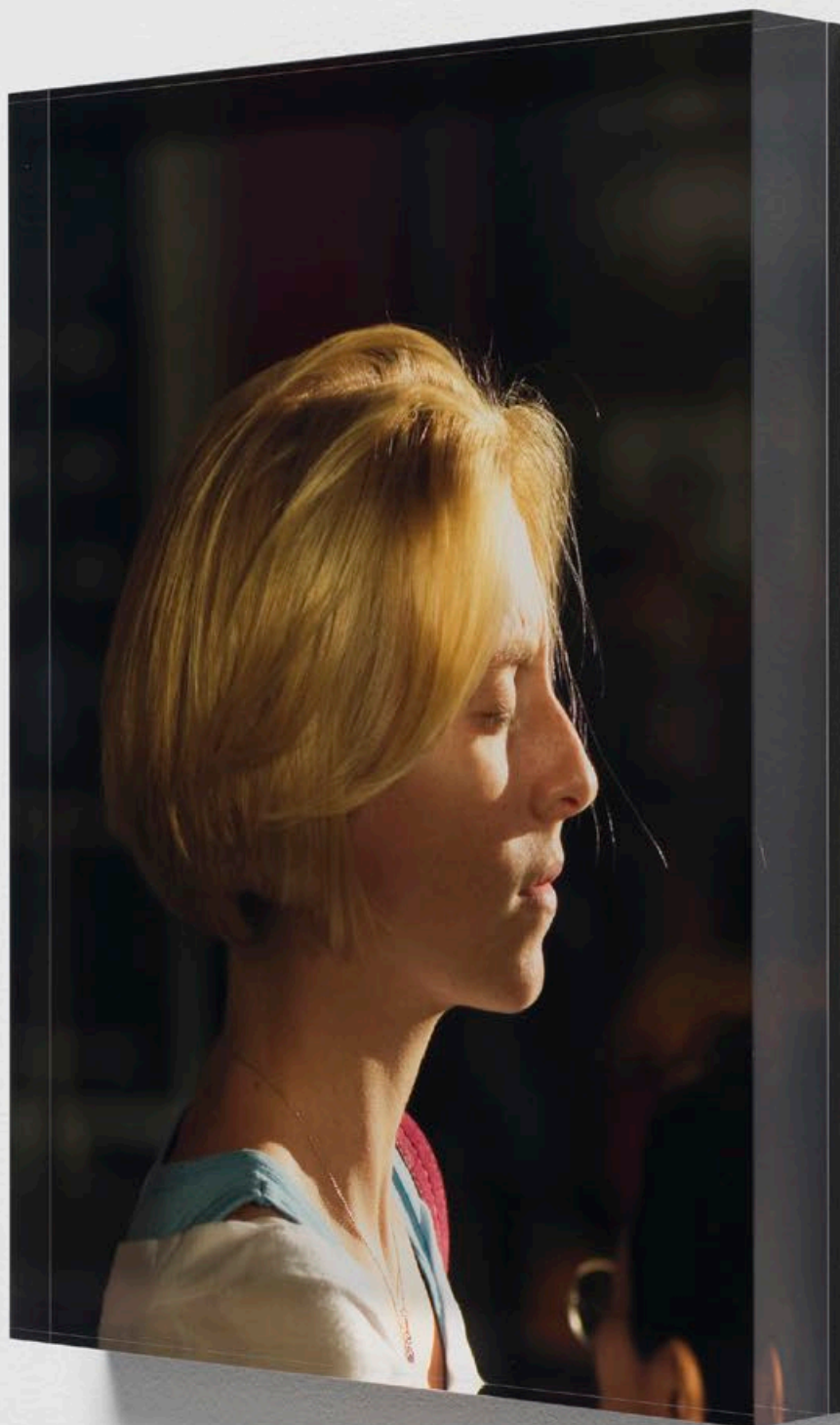
Paul Graham, Womann Red Top putting on Sunglasses, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



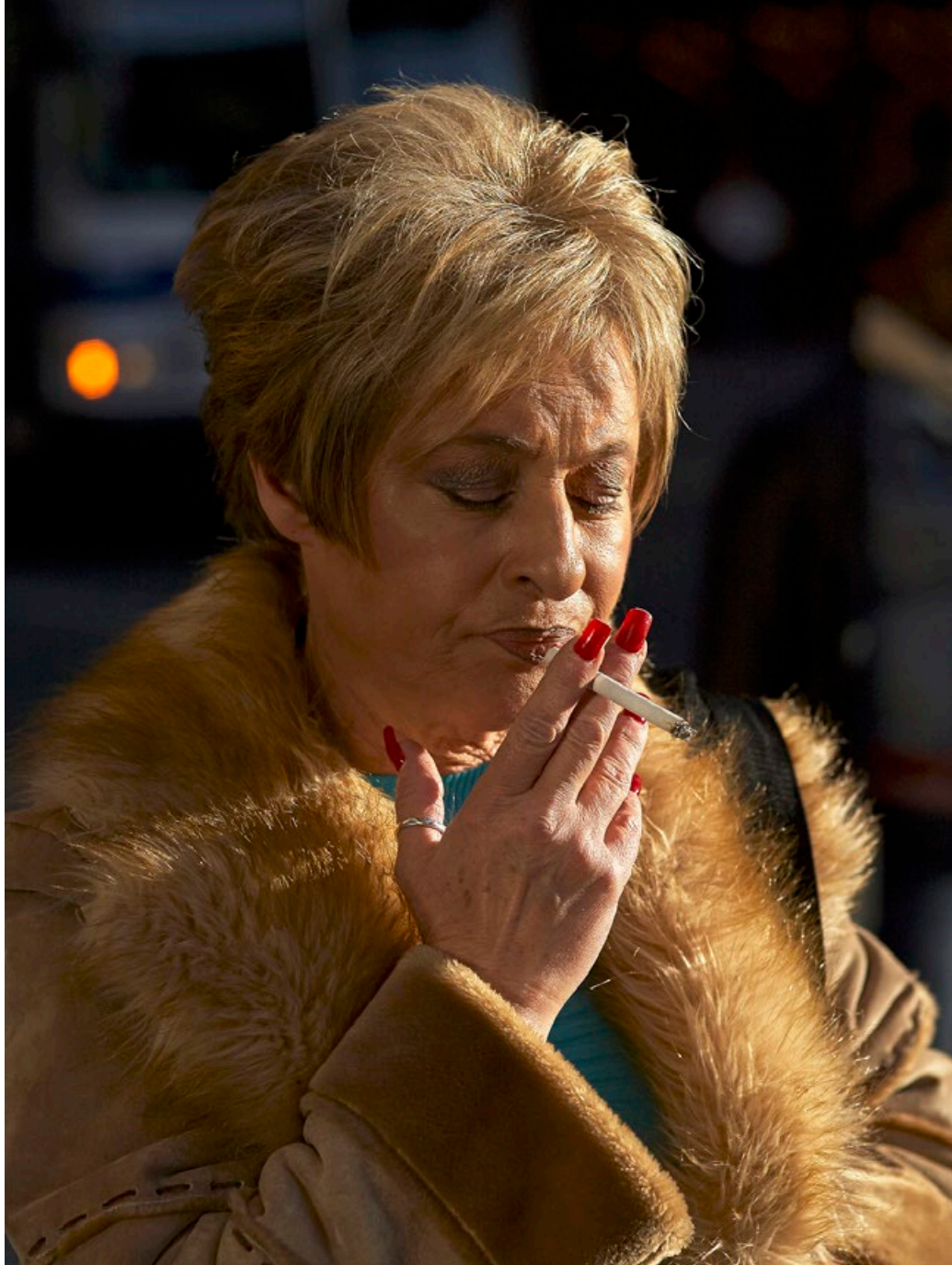
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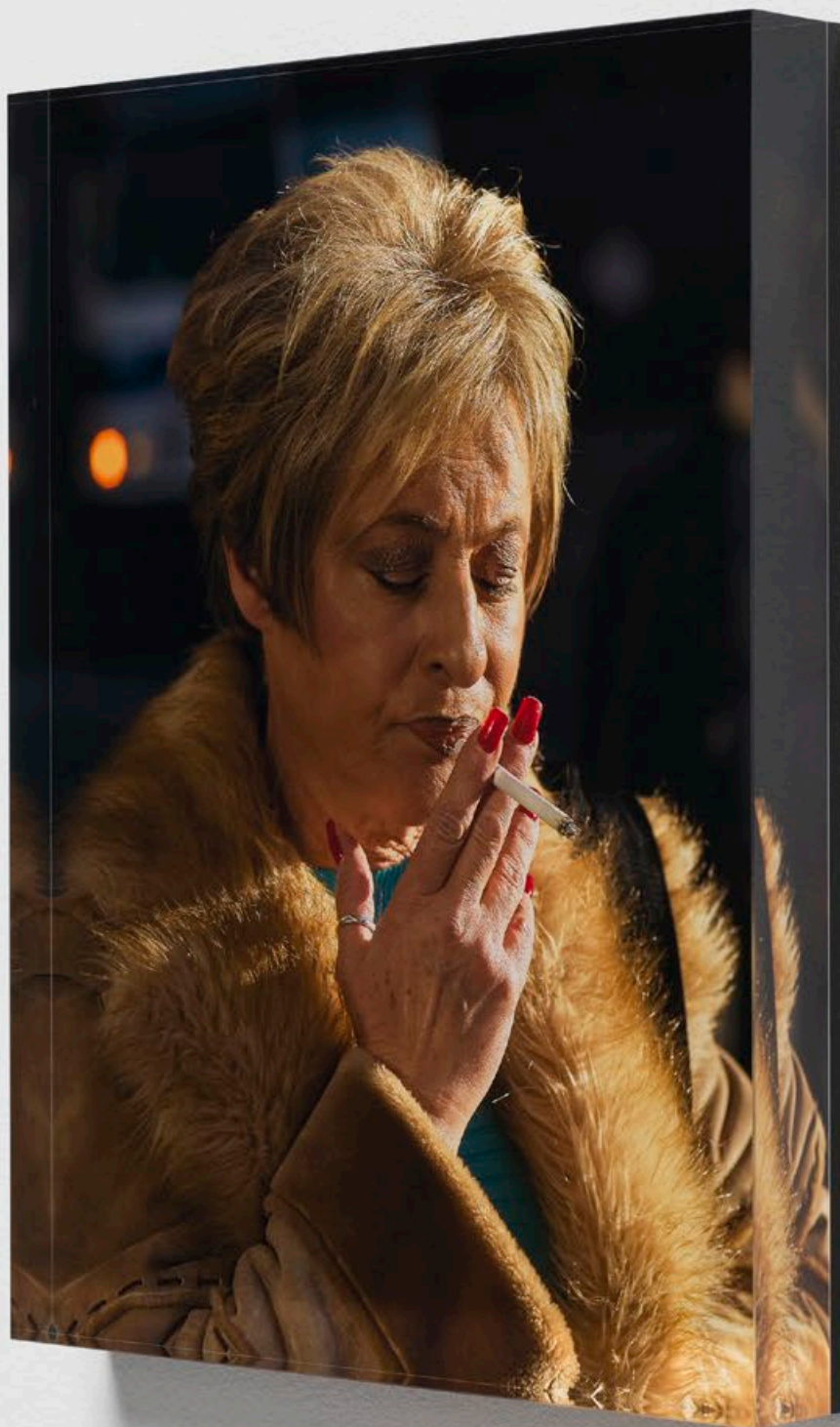
Paul Graham, Blond Woman in Profile, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, Blond Woman in Profile, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



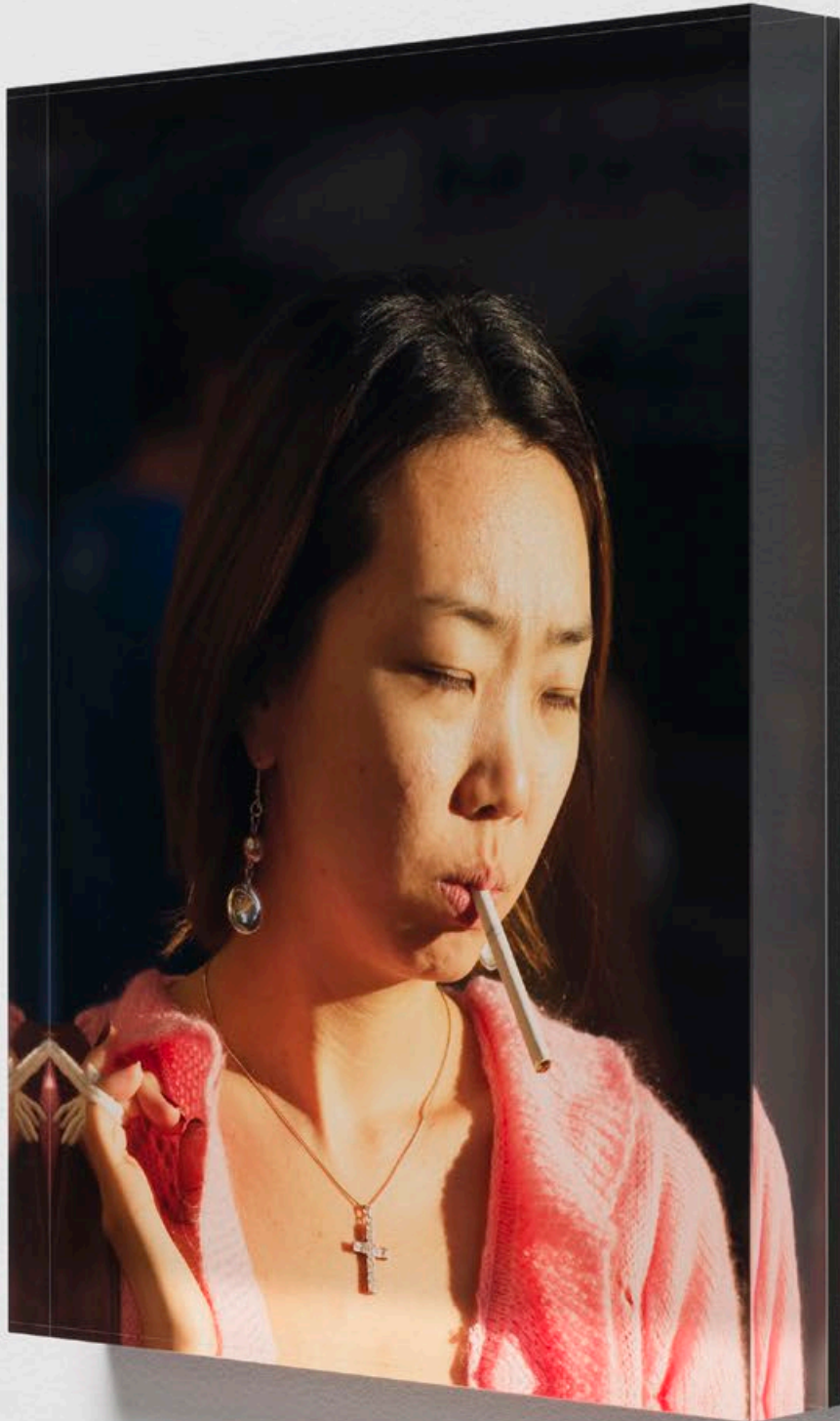
Paul Graham, Woman Smoking in Fur Coat, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



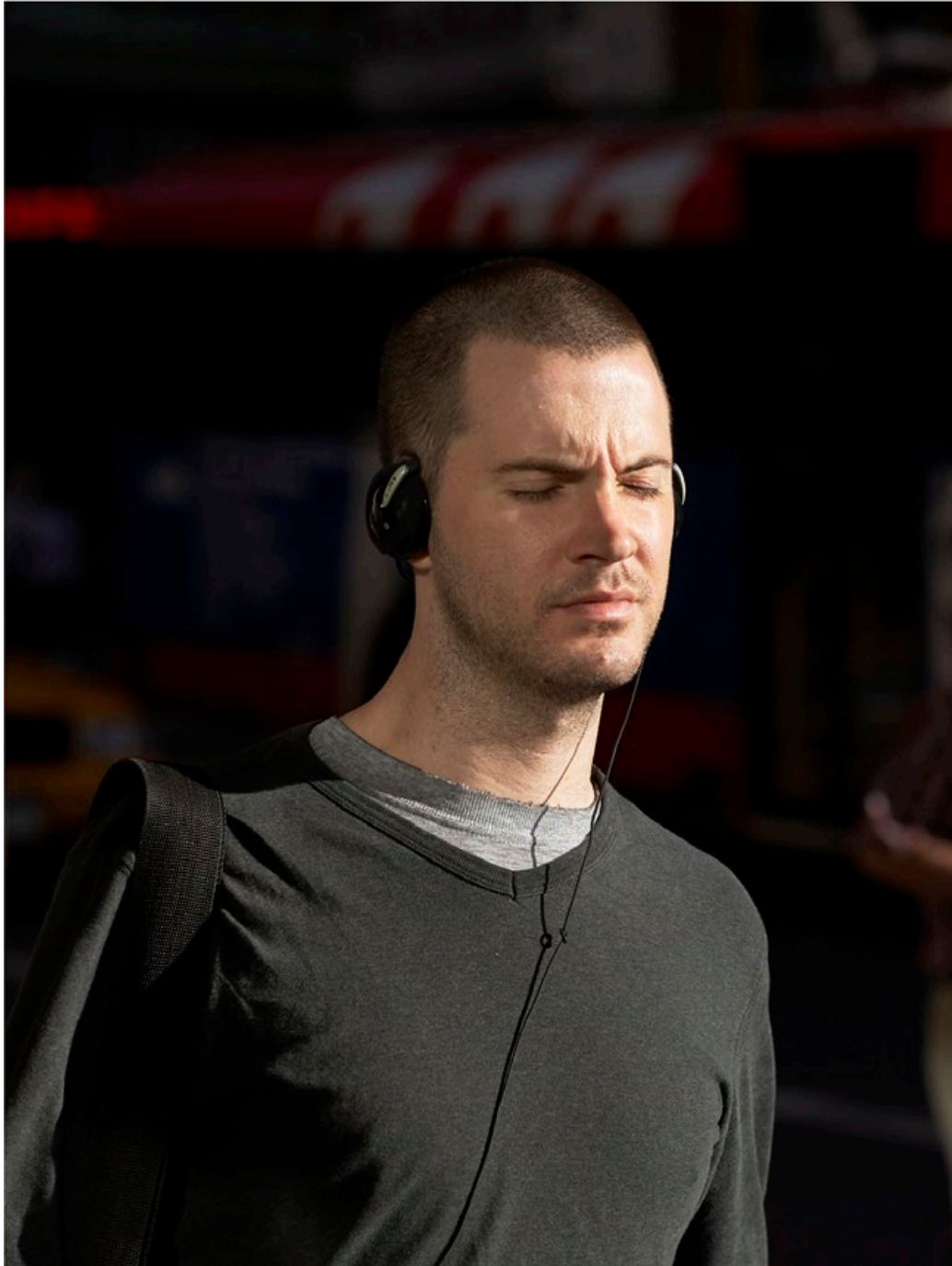
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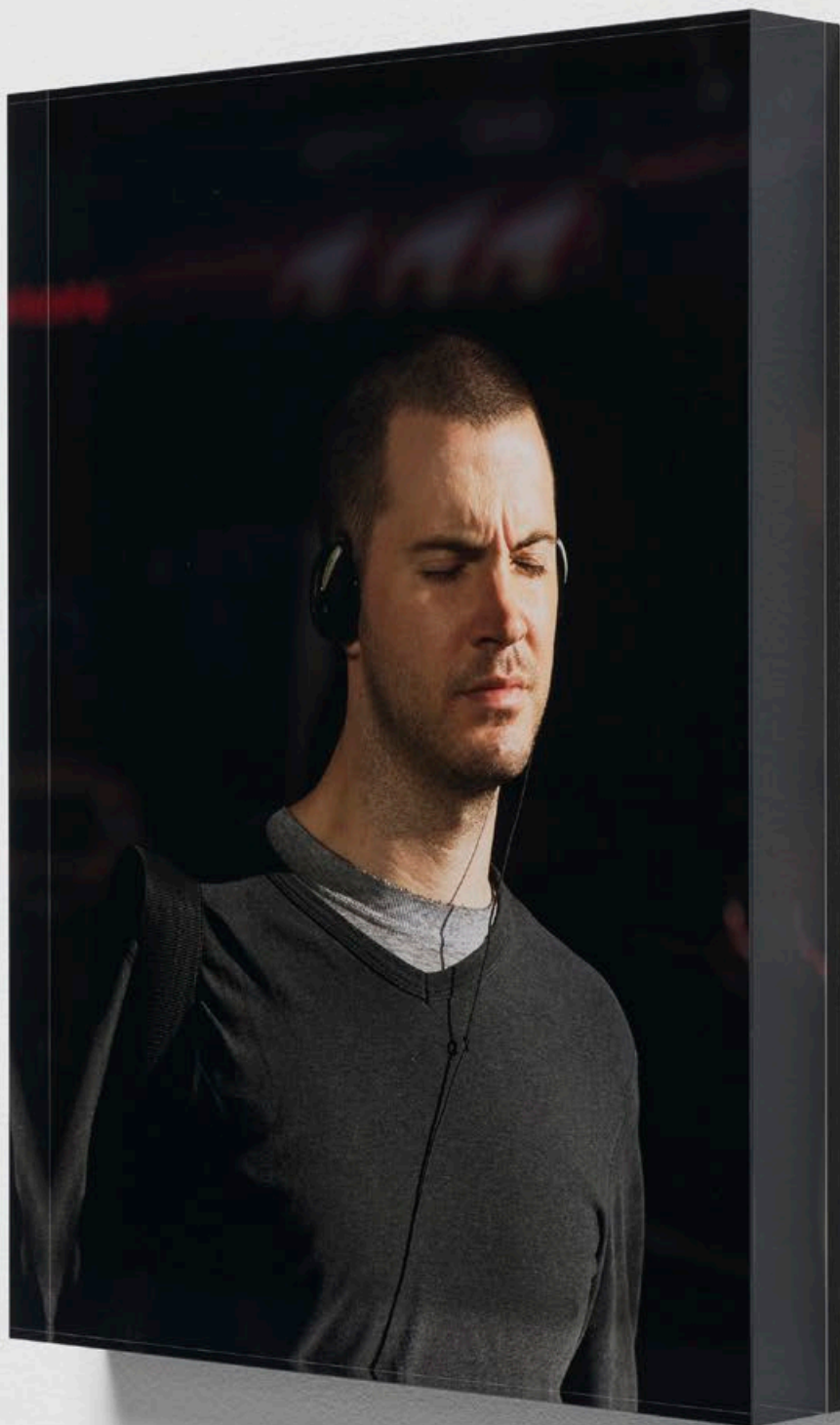
Paul Graham, Woman smoking in pink sweater and crucifix, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, Woman smoking in pink sweater and crucifix, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, Young Man black sweat with headphones, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, Young Man black sweat with headphones, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasac mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



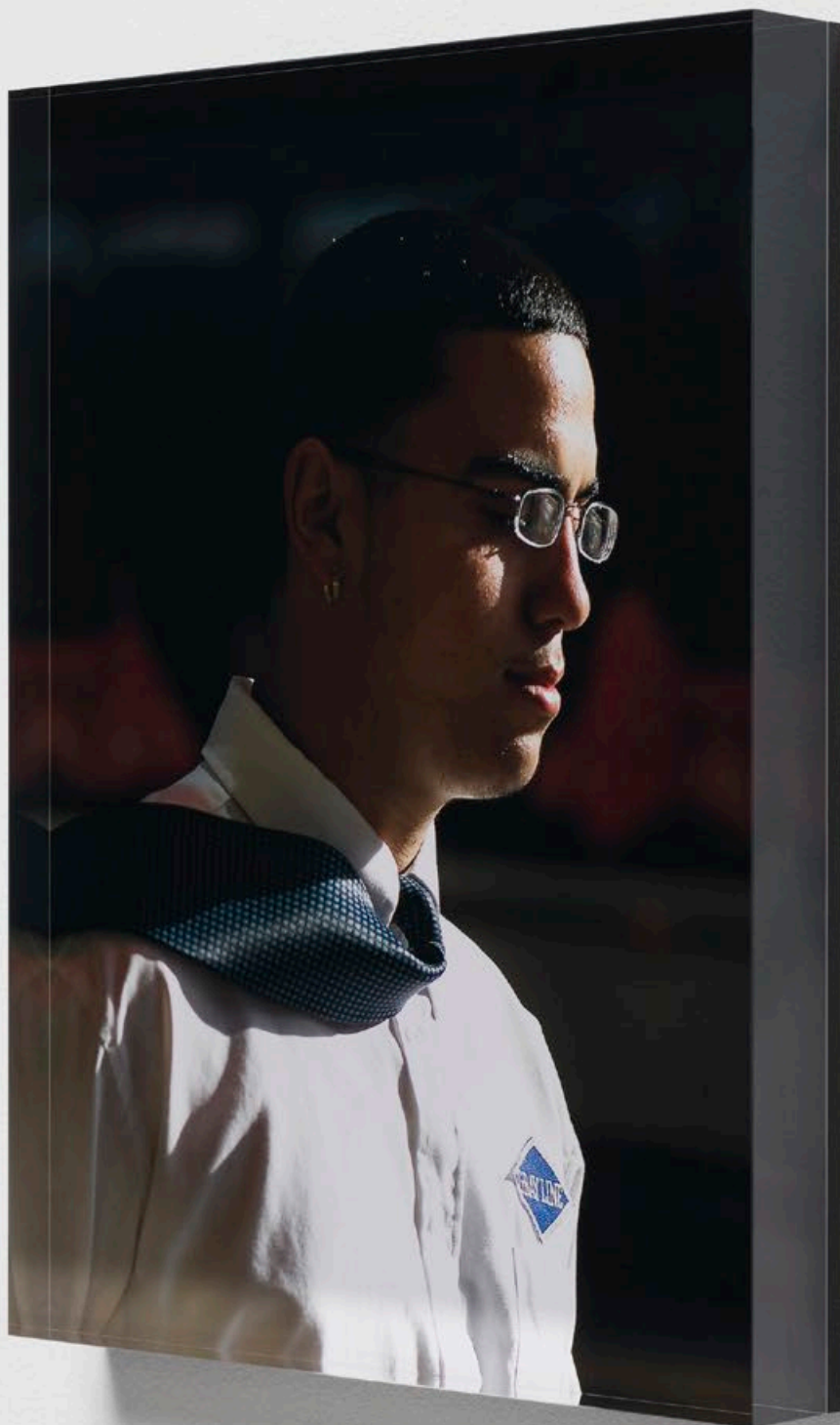
Paul Graham, Young Woman white blouse with necklace, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diassec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



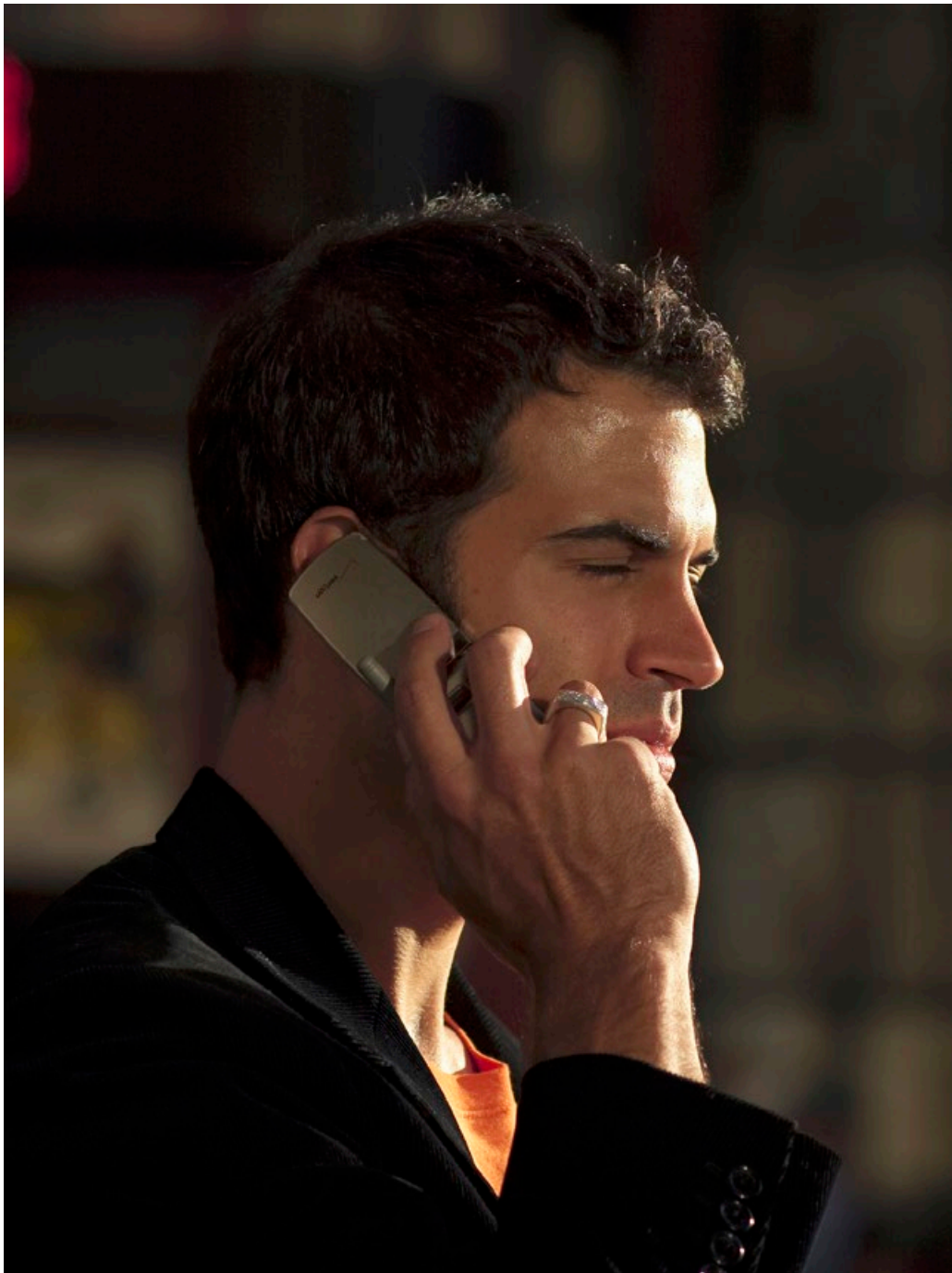
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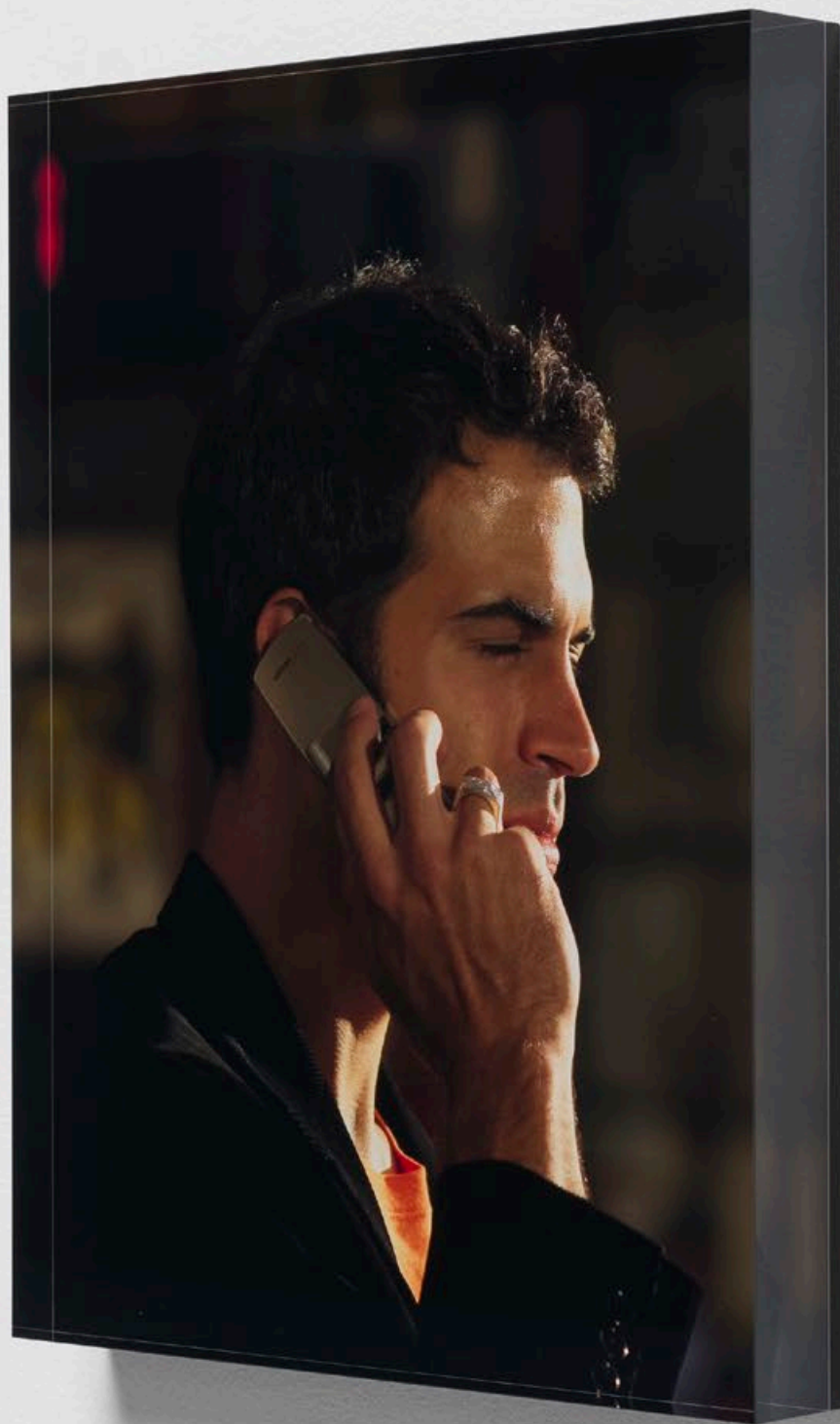
Paul Graham, Young Man w Glasses in Gray Line shirt, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, Young Man w Glasses in Gray Line shirt, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, Young Man w Flip Phone and ring, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, Young Man w Flip Phone and ring, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



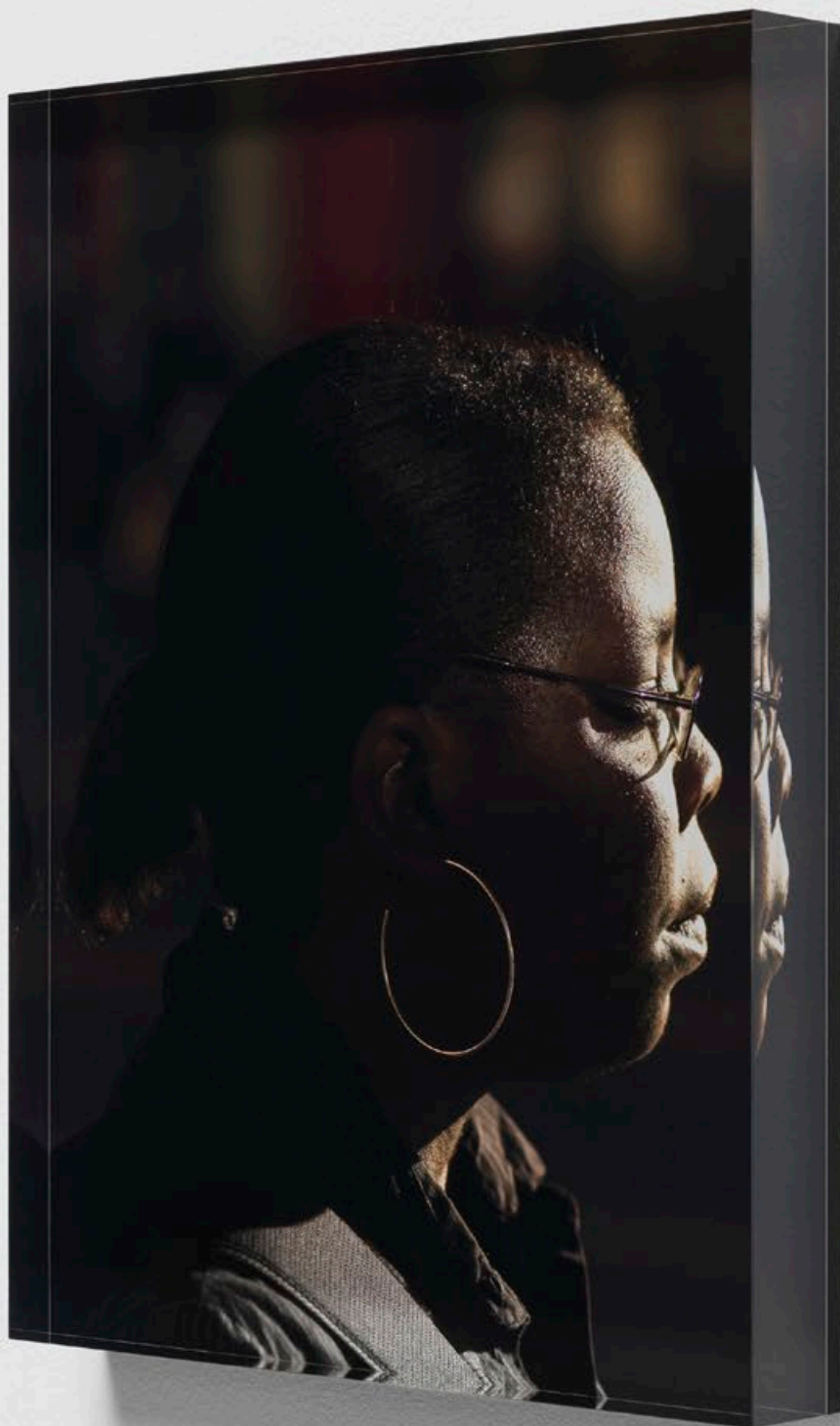
Paul Graham, Young Woman w Roll neck beige top, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, Young Woman w Roll neck beige top, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, Young Woman Profile w Big earring, 2005  
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Paul Graham, Young Woman Profile w Big earring, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, Woman in black jacket in half shade, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasec mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm



Paul Graham, Woman in black jacket in half shade, 2005  
Pigment ink print with Deep Diasac mount, 27,9 x 21 x 2,5 cm