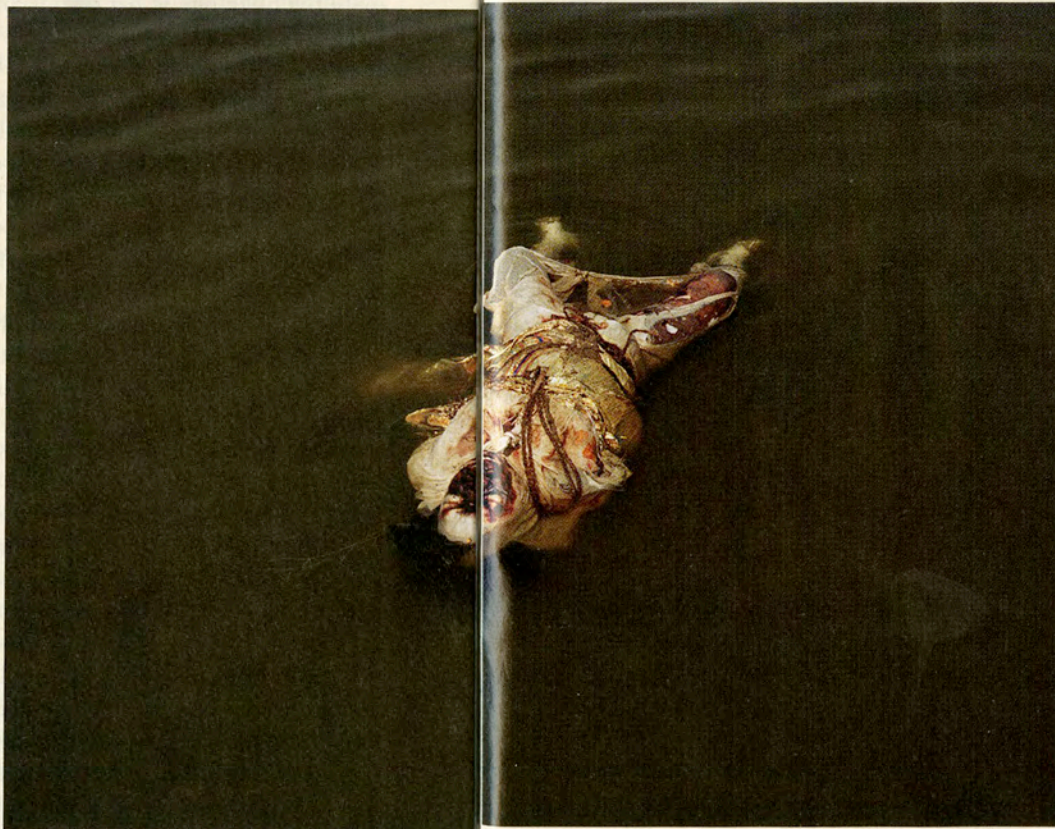
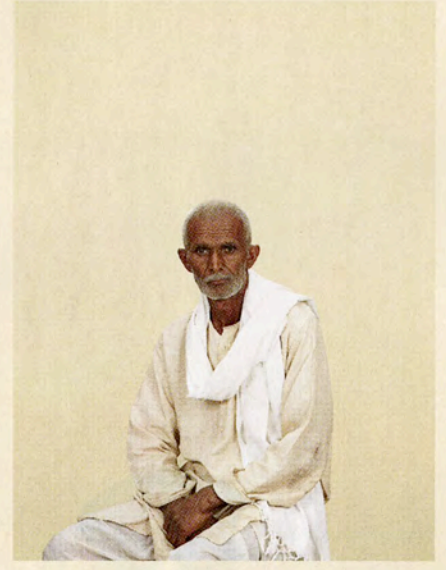
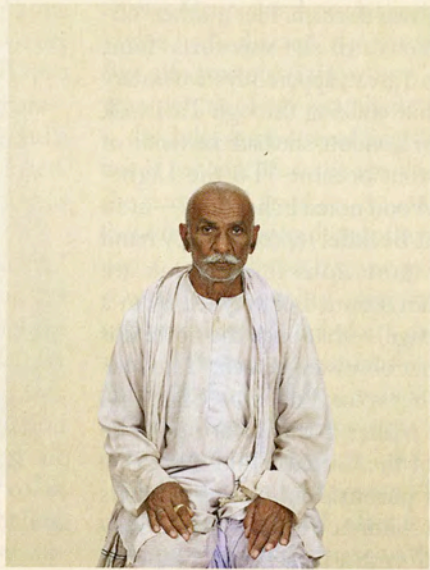


THE NEW YORKER

PORTFOLIO BY TARYN SIMON

A LIVING MAN DECLARED DEAD

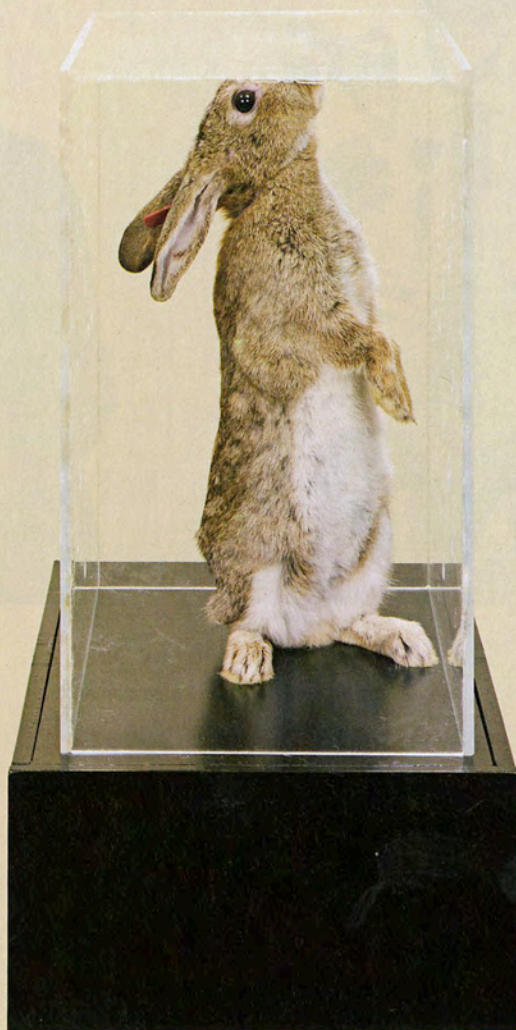
For four years, the artist Taryn Simon travelled around the world researching and recording the stories of eighteen bloodlines. She focussed on a central member of each line, including the body double of Uday Hussein, a South Korean man abducted at sea by agents of the North, and a polygamous Kenyan traditional healer. For each group in “A Living Man Declared Dead and Other Chapters I-XVIII,” on view at the Museum of Modern Art beginning in May, Simon photographed living ascendants and descendants of a single person or animal. She juxtaposed these portraits with relevant public records and historical documents, underlining the outside forces and accidents that influence individuals.



INDIA While visiting the local land-registry office in Uttar Pradesh, where population growth has increased competition for land, Shivdutt Yadav, above left, discovered that official records listed him as dead. Officials are frequently bribed to have living people declared dead, so that other family members may inherit their property. Yadav's brother, Phoolchand, right, is also listed as dead. Babloo and Mukesh Yadav, center, are Shivdutt's grandsons. Left: the corpse of a person with leprosy floats in the Ganges River. Dhanaiy Yadav, Shivdutt's father, was cremated along its banks, and his ashes were scattered in the river.



BOSNIA *In five days in July, 1995, Bosnian Serb soldiers under the command of General Ratko Mladić executed approximately eight thousand Bosnian Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica. Nezir Nukić, left, is a forester and road builder. His daughter, Zumra Mebić, middle, is a homemaker. The remains of her husband and her son Bajazit, right, and his three brothers were discovered in mass graves. The bones were assembled by the International Commission on Missing Persons and buried at the Srebrenica-Potočari Memorial and Cemetery on the fifteenth anniversary of the massacre.*



AUSTRALIA *In 1859, twenty-four European rabbits were introduced as game to Australia, where they have no natural predators. A century later, their numbers had increased to half a billion, causing environmental depredation. In the nineteen-fifties, the country began introducing lethal diseases, including the myxoma virus, into the population.*

