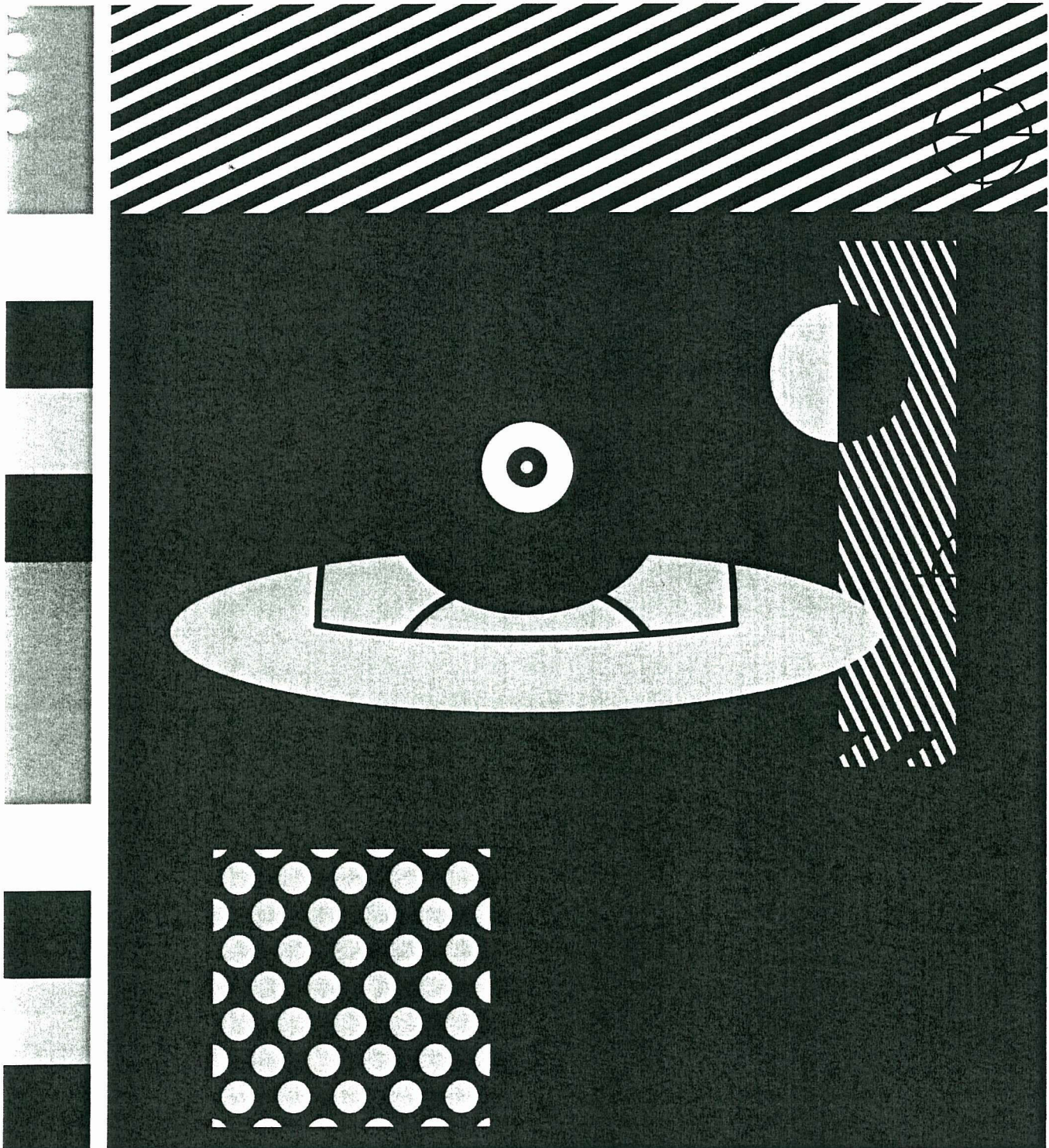


SENSITIVE SKIN

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*John Lurie/Samuel Delany/Vladimir Mayakovsky/James Romberger
Fred Frith/Marty Thau/Larissa Shmailo/Darius James/Doug Rice/
and much, much more...*

Photographs

Chris Bava

Arriving in Tijuana after over a decade of heroin abuse in a past life, I felt the garish lights of Tijuana's *zona de tolerancia*, or North Zone, beckoning. I was fascinated by their resonance, and the street life, brimming with pathos, quickly made *la zona norte* my favorite part of town. The challenge of taking a camera to *El Bordo*, the river bottom that runs along the border between Mexico and the U.S., where an estimated 2,000 homeless drug addicted US deportees live, was irresistible. I would drive along Via Rapide, known as the "most dangerous road in TJ," and look at the shadowy figures crouched along the river bank, or on the highway meridian, openly cooking up and shooting heroin. I became determined to gain access. Everyone I asked told me

it was too risky. One day I decided to chance it. I noticed two guys poised at the edge of the highway about to daringly dodge traffic to reach the river bank on the other side. I flagged them down: "Hey, you wanna make a little cash? Let me take some photos." So began a long, interesting friendship with the people of *Zona Norte*.

—Chris Bava

As we were going to press, we learned that Chris died in a car accident, along with his wife and brother, early in the morning of October 21, 2012. This issue is dedicated to his memory.

