

STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

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MIKE AND DOUG STARN
Absorption of Light

December 6-February 2, 2001
Opening Reception for the artists: Thursday, December 6 from
5:30-7:30 pm



The STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY is pleased to announce the exhibition of recent work by MIKE and DOUG STARN. While there have been three museum shows of their work in the Bay Area, this is their first major exhibition at a gallery in San Francisco.

Absorption of Light embodies the Starns' exploration of light as a metaphor that underlies scientific, spiritual, and social relationships to light. This exhibition reflects the artists' broad use of varied media including computer-generated digital prints on rice paper, hand-coated silver emulsion on paper, and video. *Absorption of Light* is comprised of four bodies of work from the last five years during which the Starns explored the metaphors of light through real symbols such as leaves, trees, moths, and the worn sculpture in Nara of Ganjin-the 8th Century monk who reformed Buddhism. *Absorption of Light* is a compression of these themes and concepts, revealing their interrelatedness through a lexicon for their semiology of the Sun.

The Starns have been working in the territory between photography, sculpture and painting since the early 1980's, and occupy a unique position within contemporary art practices of photography. Their lifelong artistic collaboration has focused on the photographic print representing the cycles of time, change, and age. Their work has marked a shift away from the photograph as a sacrosanct two-dimensional image representing a concept or distanced view of life, towards a confrontation of photography's material existence and inherent fragility. Serving as a metaphor of life, their photographs are vessels for images that reflect upon these themes.

MIKE and DOUG STARN (b.1961, Absecon, NJ) are identical twins who came into international prominence through the 1987 Whitney Biennial in New York. Their work has earned them numerous prestigious prizes, as well as many international solo exhibitions. They are currently working on a large monograph to be published by Monacelli Press. They have recently been commissioned by the Bohen Foundation to create a large video sculpture on their attracted to Light Series, which is also the subject of a book to be published by Blindspot. Upcoming exhibitions of the Starns' work in 2002 include a touring show in Stockholm, Berlin, and Japan.

For additional information, please contact Ellen Mahoney (415)433-6879.

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