

# STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRUDENCIO IRAZABAL

*A Very Clear Stream, In a Bed of Crystal*

DREW BEATTIE

*Drawings*

March 21-April 27

Opening Reception: Thursday, April 4 from 5:30-7:30 pm

---

The STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY is pleased to announce the exhibitions of new paintings by PRUDENCIO IRAZABAL and new works on paper by DREW BEATTIE.

In the main gallery space are the luminous, multi-hued paintings of New York-based artist, Prudencio Irazabal. The subject of Irazabal's abstract paintings is the paint itself, and the glass-like surface created by meticulously thin layers of semi-transparent paint. Irazabal achieves a remarkable depth and suggestion of space and light; shapes and colors coalesce and dissolve. The formal construction of Irazabal's work is charged with a spiritual meaning, a mystical abstraction that extends further than light, color, paint, and canvas.

Prudencio Irazabal (b.1954, Puentelarra-Alava, Spain) moved to New York City from Spain in 1986. His work will be the subject of a solo museum exhibition at the Palacio de los Condes de Gabia in Granada, Spain this spring. Irazabal has had several solo exhibitions at venues in Sweden, Spain, New York, and California. His work was included in the 1999 Valencia Biennial in Valencia, Spain and in other group exhibitions at The Albright-Knox Museum, The Bronx Museum, The Drawing Center and White Columns in New York. The Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain acquired one of the largest of the artist's work to date.

In the second gallery space we are featuring Drew Beattie's new collaged drawings. Initially working on his own, he then for several years collaborated with Daniel Davidson. Playful, ironic and dream-like, these new works recall a surrealist aesthetic of the "exquisite corpse" played by one.

Drew Beattie (b.1952, Atlanta, GA) moved from the Bay Area to New York in 1994 where he received a P.S.1 Studio Grant. In 1995, he was a recipient of the Prix de Rome in Visual Arts and spent a year at the American Academy of Art in Rome. Beattie received his M.F.A. from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. His work has been exhibited extensively at museums and galleries such as the Berkeley Art Museum, Greenville County Museum of Art, Joseph Helman Gallery in New York, and at the Drawing Center in New York.

For additional information please contact Ellen Mahoney at (415)433-6879. To view images from the exhibitions please visit our website: [www.wirtzgalleries.com](http://www.wirtzgalleries.com).

BANKERS INVESTMENT BUILDING 49 GEARY STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94108

TELEPHONE (415) 433-6879 FAX (415) 433-1608 EMAIL [SWG@WIRTZGALLERY.COM](mailto:SWG@WIRTZGALLERY.COM)