

# STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

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MICHAEL KENNA

*New Work: Japan*

LAUREN MCINTOSH

*New Paintings*

May 2-June 15

Opening Reception: Thursday, May 2 from 5:30-7:30 pm

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The STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY is pleased to announce the exhibitions of new photographs by MICHAEL KENNA and new paintings by LAUREN MCINTOSH.

Evoking the minimalist quality of classical Japanese landscape, this new body of work by Michael Kenna stands in great contrast to the agitated industrial imagery of some of his earlier series. Many of these new black and white photographs depict serene waterscapes taken in Japan's countryside. Although Kenna's work has been exhibited extensively in Japan, this is his first body of work focusing on this country's landscape.

"The word idyllic comes to mind about these pictures; a pastoral charm. There is no irony or telling contradiction explored through them, but rather they are about the links between romance and reality. The pictures convey the aura of intense melancholy; a character. Inherent in them is the paradox of seeing and photography."

-Peter C. Bunnell

Michael Kenna: A Twenty Year Retrospective

Michael Kenna (b.1953, Widnes, Lancashire, England). Kenna's photographs are in many museum collections including The Art Institute of Chicago, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Denver Art Museum, The Victoria & Albert Museum, London, and The Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris. In 2000, Kenna received the award of *Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters* from the French Government.

In the second gallery space we are featuring paintings on paper by Lauren McIntosh, aka Lauren Allard. McIntosh evokes pain and the ever-present struggles which each of us face by summoning forth beauty. Her colorful figures, decorative flourishes and symbols transport the viewer into another world. Her colorful life-like figures, birds, shells in her paintings each indicate a moment in the history of her knowledge and suggest an imaginary scene lodged in her consciousness.

Lauren McIntosh (b.1956, Oakland, CA) lives and works in Berkeley. This is her second exhibition at Stephen Wirtz Gallery. In addition to being an artist, McIntosh has owned and operated the mainstay boutique, *Tail of the Yak*, located in Berkeley for over 20 years.

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).