

STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

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LARRY SULTAN
The Valley

JACK ZAJAC
Bronze Sculpture

January 22-February 22
Opening reception: Thursday, February 6 from 5:30-7:30 pm

The Stephen Wirtz Gallery is pleased to announce the exhibitions of recent photographs by LARRY SULTAN and new sculpture by JACK ZAJAC.

The Valley is a series of color photographs that were taken on the sets of porn film sets in the San Fernando Valley, California, where Larry Sultan grew up. Throughout the days of filming, there is a sexualized zone in which the gestures, rituals and scenes of suburban domestic life take on a peculiar weight and density. The roll of paper towels on the living room table, the bed linens in a pile by the door, the shoes under the bed all lose their mundane character and are transformed into props. Even the piece of half-eaten pie on the kitchen counter seems suspicious. Lazy afternoons are interrupted not by noisy children but by the uncontrollable desires of delivery boys, babysitters, coeds and cops. They crowd in the master bedrooms and spill out onto the kitchen floors, patios, and swimming pools. By photographing these scenes, Sultan plants himself in the terrain of his own ambivalence-that rich and fertile field that stretches out between fascination and repulsion, desire and loss.

LARRY SULTAN (b.1946, New York) received his M.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1973. Sultan was the recipient of a 1999-2000 Flintridge Foundation Award for Visual Artists and a 1992, 1980, and 1977 photography fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has had solo exhibitions at The Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, The Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, and Center for Creative Photography, Tucson, among others.

Jack Zajac has cast a monumental bronze form, 115 inches, alluding to a cloud formation. Clouds have been incorporated into countless paintings of sunsets, moonrises, storms and comforting forms in the landscape but not lent themselves easily to bronze and stone. Using the cloud as his subject freed Zajac to embrace whimsy in his work. Rather than being coy, the work is quirky and light-hearted.

JACK ZAJAC (b.1929, Youngstown, Ohio) received the Rome Prize Fellowship in 1957 and a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1959; he was an Artist-in-Residence at the American Academy in Rome in 1968. His work is included in the permanent collections of museums such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C., and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis to name a few.

For additional information, please contact Ellen Mahoney (415)433-6879 or ellen@wirtzgallery.com.