

STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

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LARRY SULTAN & MIKE MANDEL

Evidence

Exhibition dates: June 2-July 10, 2004

Opening reception for the artist Thursday, June 3, 2004, 5:30-7:30 pm

Stephen Wirtz Gallery announces an exhibition of selections from *Evidence*, the groundbreaking conceptual photographic series from 1977 by Larry Sultan and Mike Mandel.

Sultan and Mandel created the series *Evidence* with documentary photographs mined from image banks of government institutions, corporations, scientific research facilities, and police departments. An NEA grant gave the artists a persuasive edge in gaining access these resources, and images were selected for their mysterious and perplexing subject matter. The series was presented in an exhibition at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 1977, and simultaneously collected in the book *Evidence*, which is recognized among the most important publications in the history of photography. Removed from their original contexts and repositioned without references to their sources, these images challenged the viewer to examine the conceptual concern of identifying meaning and authorship in the creation and consideration of the art photograph.

"As artist-curators, Sultan and Mandel assumed a complicated position within contemporary debates about the esthetics of the documentary photograph. It is a debate that continues today," Dr. Douglas R. Nickel, Director of the Center for Creative Photography

Evidence Revisited, a restaging of this seminal installation was recently presented at the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona. The exhibition will travel to other institutions internationally. A reprinting of a new edition of the book *Evidence* has recently been released by DAP.

LARRY SULTAN (b. 1946) received his MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1973. An exhibition of his recent series *The Valley*, photographs of sets of the San Fernando Valley porn film industry is currently on view at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Sultan has exhibited internationally with solo exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Corcoran Art Museum among others.

MIKE MANDEL (b. 1950) received his MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. Mandel's photographic work has been shown internationally in numerous venues including The Museum of Modern Art, New York and the Museum fur Moderne Kunst, Berlin. Recently, Mandel has created major photo-based ceramic tile mosaic murals for many public architecture projects.

Stephen Wirtz Gallery is located at 49 Geary St., 3rd Fl., San Francisco, CA 94108, (415) 433-6879. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9:30-5:30, Saturday 10:30-5:30.

For additional information please contact Julie Casemore, Tel.: (415) 433-6879, julie@wirtzgallery.com.

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