

STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Casemore, (415) 433-6879, julie@wirtzgallery.com

JIM GOLDBERG

The New Europeans

Exhibition dates: October 4-November 10, 2007

Reception for the artist Thursday, October 4, 2007, 5:30-7:30 PM

Stephen Wirtz Gallery presents a selection of photographs from a series in progress by Jim Goldberg with the working title *The New Europeans*. This is the premiere exhibition of this acclaimed work for which Goldberg received the prestigious 2007 HCB Award. This project reveals the journeys of populations of refugee, immigrant, and trafficked people, who travel from war torn and economically devastated countries, to make new homes in Europe. The work will be exhibited at the Fondation Cartier-Bresson, Paris, in April 2009.

The New Europeans is a large and multi-layered body of work consisting of photographs and oral histories – handwritings on Polaroids in different languages, video recordings, written text, and ephemera. Wirtz Gallery's exhibition will present a portion of work from the series, concentrating on a four-year period when Goldberg was in the countries of Greece and Ukraine. The project documents immigrant populations who reside in compromised living situations, often on the margins of society. Photographs that are difficult and often disturbing are combined in the exhibition with more conventionally beautiful, enigmatic images of landscape and portraiture, challenging accepted notions of beauty and the object. Presented is a stunning, multi-faceted installation that includes large-scale photographic landscapes and portraits, along with unique Polaroids, photo collage, a salon-style installation of individual prints and ephemera, as well as a maquette of a book in progress. The unrestrained presentation is in keeping with the subversive installation style that Goldberg is known for.

JIM GOLDBERG was born in Connecticut and currently lives in San Francisco, CA. He received an MFA in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1979, and a BA from Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA in 1974. Goldberg is highly regarded for his unique use of image and text, most notably in the acclaimed series *Rich and Poor* (1977-85), *Nursing Home* (1985), *Raised by Wolves* (1985-1995), and *Hospice* (1992-1996.) Goldberg's work has been exhibited extensively throughout the United States and Europe and is included in the collections of institutions such as San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, Museum of Modern Art, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art among others. Goldberg is the recipient of several major awards including a Guggenheim (1985) and three NEA fellowships (1980, 1989 and 1990), and most recently the prestigious HCB Award (2007), and Aftermath Project Grant (2007). Goldberg is a professor at CCA in San Francisco and is a member of Magnum Photo Agency.

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.