

Mike + Doug Starn

Iggy and Franz

12 June – 24 August 2019

Opening reception in presence of the artists, Tuesday June 11, 6-8 pm

Wetterling Gallery is proud to present the celebrated American artists Mike + Doug Starn. Since the 1980s, their conceptual approach to photography, and use of unorthodox techniques, has broadened notions of what is accepted as a photograph. In a signature manipulation of materials and form, the twin brothers apply innovative printing techniques, and a vast array of materials including transparency film, plexiglass, layered fused glass panels, gilded colored carbon prints, scotch tape, wax and pushpins, to create, and intensify, their metaphorical landscapes. Concerned largely with themes of chaos and interdependence the brothers explore the physical and philosophical interconnections between subjects such as leaves, trees, snowflakes, and religious icons, with human memory, perception and thought. Working collaboratively in photography since the age of thirteen, their innovative techniques, and unique combination of sculpture, painting, and video, have defied categorization, and earned them a position of eminence within the history of art.

Mike + Doug Starn have received major acclaim for their project *Big Bambú* over the last years, an enormous and ever-changing installation built of only bamboo poles and climbing rope. It has until this day been carried out at several places: The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Ordrupgaard Museum, Denmark, MACRO Museo Testaccio in Rome, Italy, Venice Biennale, Italy, Naoshima Museum, Japan, Israel Museum in Jerusalem and experienced by over 2 million visitors.

Iggy and Franz will be the Starn brothers seventh exhibition with the Wetterling Gallery. The last years the Starn's has been working on a new body of work consisting of photographic portraits and paintings, utilizing old record albums. The album covers are selectively painted over, retaining recognizable features of the original cover art. The covers have been magnetized and the LPs are still inside. The albums are meant to be taken down and played on a turntable, allowing further engagement with the artwork. Utilizing iconic but ultimately superseded technological components as a gridded backdrop, the Starn brothers create a body of work that celebrates the constant cultural significance of music.

The Starn's were represented by Leo Castelli from 1989 until his death in 1999. Their art has been the object of numerous solo and group exhibitions in museums and galleries worldwide. The Starn's have received many honors including two National Endowment for the Arts Grants in 1987 and 1995; The International Center for Photography's Infinity Award for Fine Art Photography in 1992; and, artists in residency at NASA in the mid-nineties. They have received critical acclaim in *The New York Times*, *Dagens Nyheter*, *Corriere della Sera*, *Le Figaro*, *The Times* (London), *Art in America*, and *Artforum* amongst many other notable media. Major artworks by the Starn's are represented in public and private collections including: The Museum of Modern Art (NYC); San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SF); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, (NYC); The Jewish Museum, (NYC); The Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC); Moderna Museet (Stockholm); The National Gallery of Victoria (Melbourne); Whitney Museum of American Art (NYC); Yokohama Museum of Art (Japan); La Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris); La Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris); Los Angeles County Museum of Art, amongst many others.