

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wood Street Galleries proudly presents the North American premiere of

GRAVITY OF LIGHT

A pivotal installation of eight monumental artworks by

DOUG AND MIKE STARN

October 10-30, 2008

The Pipe Building, 3000 Liberty Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Lazarus's 50 John of This is the Middle Finger 13 x 4 x 4 Carbon Arc Lamp (in background) Ganjin 22 x 22 Silver Print
Installation detail: Gravity of Light Färgfabriken Kunsthalle, Stockholm, Sweden January 2005.

[PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – September 19, 2008] Wood Street Galleries, a project of The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, proudly presents the North American premiere of *Gravity of Light*, a traveling exhibition by Doug and Mike Starn. The exhibition will run from Friday, October 10, through Thursday, October 30, 2008, in the Pipe Building, a 10,000 sq. ft. industrial warehouse located at 3000 Liberty Avenue in Pittsburgh's Strip District. The premiere will be held in conjunction with the Cultural Trust's groundbreaking Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts, a multidisciplinary festival of U.S. premieres.

Gravity of Light features seven emblematic and interconnected mural-size photographs, illuminated by a single blindingly bright contemporary carbon arc lamp re-invented by the Starns. Excerpted from four intertwined bodies of work (*Attracted to Light*, *Structure of Thought*, *Black Pulse*, and *Ganjin*) as a culmination of the artists' explorations on the semiology of the sun and their *absorption of light* concept, these artworks are vessels of the Starns' personal philosophy. Originally commissioned by the Färgfabriken Kunsthalle (Stockholm, Sweden 2005), the exhibition at the Pipe Building inaugurates an even brighter carbon arc lamp (40,000 to 50,000 watts). *Gravity of Light* is scheduled to travel to the Detroit Institute of Arts in 2009.

“Light is power, knowledge, it is what you want, it is what you need, it is satisfaction, fulfillment, truth and purity. It is history, the future and spirituality,” write Doug and Mike Starn. “Light is what we fear and hate. Light is what controls every decision and action we take...Light is thought, light has gravity, light is what attracts us.”

Following the North American premiere of *Gravity of Light*, the Starns in association with the New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority will unveil their first public commission at the South Ferry subway terminus in early 2009. The 250-foot long permanent installation, ranging from nine to 14 feet in height, presents their iconic tree photographs, and a leaf transposed into fused glass. Marble mosaics and a water jet cut stainless steel fence will punctuate the main fused glass tree landscape.

Known “to blast image making to its core,” Mike and Doug Starn are American born artists and identical twins who have worked collaboratively with photography for over 20 years. Defying categorization while effectively combining separate disciplines such as sculpture, painting, video and installation, they have taken a conceptual approach to photography that has earned them a unique position in the history of contemporary art, beginning with the 1987 Whitney Museum of American Art Biennial, which brought them international prominence. Their art has since been the object of numerous survey and solo exhibitions in museums and galleries worldwide.

Major artworks are represented in public and private collections such as: La Bibliothèque Nationale, MoMA, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Jewish Museum, La Maison Européenne de la Photographie, LACMA, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Victoria, SFMOMA, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Yokohama Museum of Art, amongst many others.

Graduates from the School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts (1985), Doug and Mike Starn received two National Endowment for the Arts Grants (1987, 1995), The International Center for Photography’s Infinity Award for Fine Art Photography (1992), and were artists in residency at NASA in the mid-nineties.

For more information, visit www.starnstudio.com

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