

Stanley Goldberg: Fragile Moments

New Growth Linda Lighton & Mark Southerland, Ann Resnick

March 18 – April 29, 2012

The Scent of Meaning

Fragile Moments: Stanley Goldberg

Whether it's a Jan Van Huysum 17th century Dutch still-life bouquet, the abstract petals of a Georgia O'Keeffe painting, Andy Warhol's silkscreen blossoms, Robert Mapplethorpe's quiet Calla Lily photographs, the disembodied bloom paintings of Ross Bleckner and Donald Sultan, or the ecstatic flower sculptures of Takashi Murakami — flowers remain an enduring subject throughout art and its history.

In *Fragile Moments*, contemporary New York-based photographer Stanley Goldberg brings the viewer within pollinating range of giant irises and tulips, creating near abstractions of pure color, light and texture. From first blossom to fading bloom, Goldberg captures every fragile moment of his floral subjects.

In addition to Goldberg's New York subjects that include the city's graffiti street art and life in Central Park, two non-

profit urban gardens continue to capture his imagination. New York's West Side Community Garden at West 89th Street with its 15,000 tulips, and New Jersey's Presby Memorial Iris Gardens in Upper Montclair with 10,000 plants representing six species and over 2,000 varieties are two little universes that Goldberg brings to his viewers with this body of work.

It becomes easy to forget that beyond the frame of these images exists the bustling metropolis of our nation's most populous city. Through Goldberg's lens, we find ourselves transported to a fantastical, fibrous landscape of variegated pigment and nurturing, life-giving sunlight.

New Growth: Linda Lighton & Mark Southerland

In all cultures, flowers are given symbolic significance, whether in the context of religion and spirituality, popular culture and decoration, or for medicinal and therapeutic properties. From ancient cultural references that linked flowers to deities in Greek Mythology to the height of expression in the Victorian era when flowers were given broader meaning to express a range of emotions, a complex language of floral symbolism has developed that continues to influence life's rituals.

Accompanying Goldberg's solo presentation *Fragile Moments* is the intimate group exhibition *New Growth* with Kansas City-based artists Linda Lighton and musician, performer and artist Mark Southerland, as well as Wichita-based artist Ann Resnick.

In *New Growth*, Linda Lighton and Mark Southerland reveal, for the first time, a series of collaborative sculptures that meld together Lighton's iconic ceramic flowers with Southerland's signature

musical instrument sculptures. Riffing on each artist's forms, materials and content, Lighton and Southerland dance a duet of shared visual language, alternating recumbent and sinuous form punctuated by flaring blossoms.

For this collaboration, Lighton invited Southerland into her studio to select elements from her recent body of work, *Luminous*, a series of translucent, hanging Fuchsia flower sculptures that, when lit internally by LED lights, were a poignant metaphor for life's force and fragility. In Southerland's hands, these elements embellish and adorn deft assemblages of altered musical horns and metallic fronds and slivers, echoing organic nature while hitting visual notes both raucous and sensual. In these collaborations, Lighton's metaphor for life's fading light is supplanted by her love of music and all things seductive and playful, while Southerland's approach is an open-ended and improvisational style of construction that is not unlike his best musical creations.

New Growth: Ann Resnick

Also in *New Growth* is Kansas artist and printmaker Ann Resnick who, for this exhibition, presents an installation and individual pieces from an ongoing series that deals with the fragility of all of life's relationships be they human, animal or the living world that surrounds us.

Inserting hundreds of collected plastic flowers into the gallery wall, Resnick creates a reconfiguration of her installation *Offering* that is at once geometric and playful, an organic and colorful matrix of bouquets that becomes a meditation on the rituals and symbolism of flower gathering and giving.

Coupled with her mixed media, drawing-based prints of floral patterns and silkscreened corsages made up of glass beads and animal cremains, Resnick's work gets under our skin as we contemplate the mortality of her subjects. What we may take away from this is the sincere acknowledgment that flowers give up their own life force to our symbolic intent as we honor life at its most momentous — a gesture that is ironic and all the more profound.

— Marcus Cain, Executive Director/Curator




Image above: Stanley Goldberg, *Green Parrot*, 2010, Ilford gold fiber silk paper printed with Canon archival pigment ink, 38 x 57 inches, edition of 25 (courtesy the artist)



Image above: Ann Resnick, *Offering* (detail), 2005, installation with found plastic flowers and drywall, dimensions variable (courtesy the artist)



Image above: Linda Lighton & Mark Southerland, *Cousin*, 2012, porcelain, glaze, brass, silicone, 23 x 19 x 10 inches (courtesy E. G. Schempel/ artwork courtesy the artists)



Stanley Goldberg:
Fragile Moments

New Growth
Linda Lighton & Mark Southerland, Ann Resnick



5500 West 123rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66209
Ph: 913.266.8413 | Fx: 913.345.2611 | www.kcjmca.org

Established in 1991, the Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art (KCJMCA) provides innovative art exhibitions and related programming that engage seniors and diverse audiences from all segments of our community to enrich lives and celebrate our common humanity through art. KCJMCA realizes this goal through a cooperative partnership with Village Shalom, an assisted living facility that houses KCJMCA's Epsten Gallery and through partnerships with local, regional, and national institutions that participate in KCJMCA's Museum Without Walls exhibition program.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn Intrater, President · Sylvia Augustus, Vice President
Lynn Schweig, Vice President · Paul Sokoloff, Secretary
Peter Beren, Treasurer · Irene Bettinger · Nicole Emanuel
Sherry Cromwell-Lacy · Ginny Epsten · James Martin
Merry Quackenbush · Barbara Smith · Irma Starr
Lisa Theiss · Sherman Titens · Shirley White

PAST PRESIDENTS

Saul Kass (Of Blessed Memory) · Michael Klein
Regina Kort · Larry Meeker · Hugh Merrill

FOUNDERS

Sybil & Norman (Of Blessed Memory) Kahn

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Eileen Garry

STAFF

Marcus Cain, Executive Director
Beti Weber Moskowitz, Development Director
Abby Rufkahr, Administrative Assistant

Stanley Goldberg:
Fragile Moments

New Growth
Linda Lighton & Mark Southerland,
Ann Resnick

March 18 – April 29, 2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art wishes to thank the four artists featured in these exhibitions for their creative and professional contributions to the field of the visual arts and for the works of art they have made available to this exhibition. KCJMCA would also like to acknowledge Jacqueline Slutsky & Aryn Roth for their contribution to support this program's *ARTicipation* activities as well as Anita Daniels and Richard Daniels for their logistical support of Stanley Goldberg's solo exhibition.

KCJMCA also wishes to thank Herb & Bonnie Buchbinder, Francis Family Foundation, Gould Charitable Foundation, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City, Kansas Art Therapy Association, Helen and Sam Kaplan Memorial Fund, Michael Klein, Lighton Foundation, Menorah Women's Foundation, Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts, UrbanSuburban Patrons and Artists, Friends of KCJMCA members and volunteers, and Village Shalom for their support of our programs in 2012.

Front cover/header image:
Stanley Goldberg, *Royal Blaze* (detail), 2010, Ilford gold fiber silk paper
printed with Canon archival pigment ink, 38 x 57 inches, edition of 25,
(courtesy the artist)

DONATE | CONTRIBUTE | JOIN

KCJMCA is a non-for-profit 501(c)3 and a member
of the national Council of American Jewish Museums.

Contributions to KCJMCA are tax deductible.
Donations may be sent to
5500 West 123rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66209.

KCJMCA membership, volunteering and sponsorship
opportunities are always available.

www.kcjmca.org