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'Keefe 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-

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.

profit urban gardens continue to capture his imagination.

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 Citybased 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



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

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.



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

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.

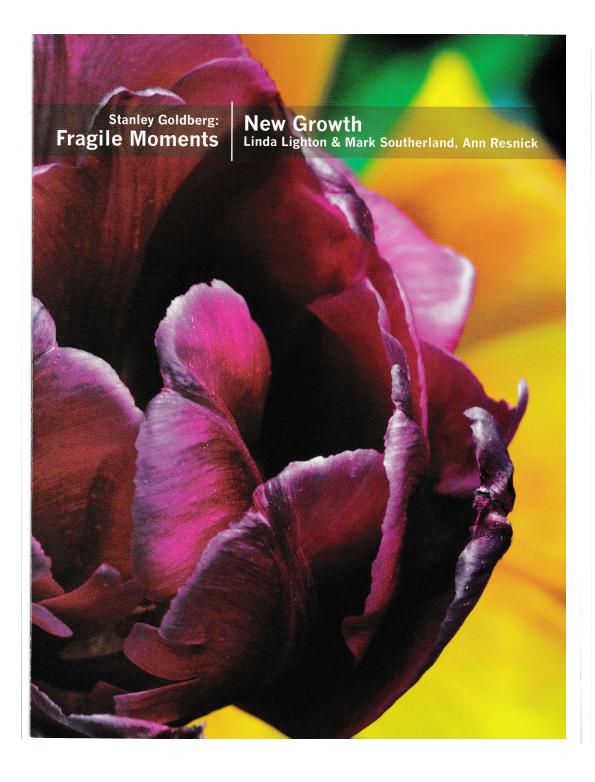


Image above: Linda Lighton & Mark Southerland, *Cousin*, 2012, porcelain, glaze, brass, silicone, 23 x 19 x 10 inches (courtesy E. G. Schempt/ artwork courtesy the artists)

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





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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)

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