

STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

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KATHRYN VAN DYKE

New Paintings

MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE

Twenty Parachutes

November 14-January 18

Opening reception: Thursday, December 5 from 5:30-7:30 pm

The Stephen Wirtz Gallery is pleased to announce the exhibitions of new paintings by KATHRYN VAN DYKE and photographs by MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE.

For Kathryn Van Dyke, a poetic element in painting coalesces when several different symbols or paint passages come together and create a new meaning. Van Dyke's abstract paintings encourage the viewer's interpretation and personal response. Her interest lies in structure, texture, form, and color. She seeks contradictory spaces and multiple perspectives. In this new body of work, Van Dyke has used silver metallic paint which causes a shifting of the surface according to the light and the viewer's perspective. In her painting she looks for a kind of disorientation, followed by a reorientation into a place that we have never seen but that is familiar.

KATHRYN VAN DYKE (b.1957, Wisconsin) received her M.F.A. from Yale School of Art in 1993. Van Dyke was a recipient of the 2000 *SECA Art Award* (The Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art) which resulted in an exhibition of her work at SFMOMA. Her work has been in numerous shows including the 1997 *Bay Area Now* show at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

This series of vintage photographs by Margaret Bourke-White (1904-1971) depicts an emblematic struggle between human ingenuity and natural forces. Men and mannequins are shown tethered to and entangled with a giant silken parachute. The scene is set on a featureless landscape where these characters struggle to keep their windblown parachute in toe. These unique contact prints are being exhibited for the first time and are accompanied by a recent publication, *Twenty Parachutes*, by Nazraeli Press.

Margaret Bourke-White was an internationally renowned photojournalist who recorded people and events from the 1920s through the 1950s that shaped history. She first became famous as an industrial photographer for Fortune Magazine, then as one of the original four staff members at LIFE Magazine. Bourke-White was diagnosed later in life with Parkinson's disease.

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