

PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY

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**PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY presents TEARS FOR AN EMPTY DESERT: THE INTERIORS, an exhibition and book launch by MICHAEL SCHREIER.**

Exhibition: TEARS FOR AN EMPTY DESERT: THE INTERIORS

Dates: OCTOBER 2 TO 26, 2006

Opening Reception: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2006  
5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Artist Talk: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2006  
3 P.M.

**OTTAWA, October 2, 2006**...PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY is pleased to present TEARS FOR AN EMPTY DESERT: THE INTERIORS, a solo exhibition of new works by renowned Canadian photo-based artist MICHAEL SCHREIER.

The exhibition also marks the launch of Mr. Schreier's new large-format book, *TEARS FOR AN EMPTY DESERT*, an elegant, limited edition, signed and numbered masterwork that transcends the traditional book genre to become an immersive, thoughtful, and exciting artistic experience.

Tears for an Empty Desert identifies one's search for place. As it navigates with poetry and visual sequence, its voice is governed by a reflective nuance well founded in our daily routine. The interiors exhibited are from the suite "Deserts Muse in Search of a Garden," which introduce the viewer to an interior in which

transition from the sacred within the museum shifts to those window/door spaces, revelling with some hope for passage, yet arrested by the memories and dreams of past and future longings, some of which might reveal a deeper unknown.

The artist writes: "In these unsettling times, as the winds of war encourage chaos and an inchoate fear of silence, it seems that our humanity becomes increasingly suspect. We strive to link, encouraging our differences as a celebration. Yet in the memory of past ages, we become engulfed in conflict, a virtual 'Night Sea Journey.'"

"Tears for an Empty Desert, as it is motivated by our global uncertainty," Mr. Schreier explains, "has provided me an opportunity for my private reflection on loss, a threnody to those dear, that one can only cherish in memory."

"I am indebted to all those silent members in the crown declaring in their urgency, a concert for us all,

"a concert for the silent witness"

Mr. Schreier will be present for the opening artist reception on October 6, 2006. He will also present an artist talk on Sunday, October 22, 2006, at 3 p.m.

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For more information, please contact:

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GALLERY HOURS: MONDAY TO SATURDAY 12 TO 6 P.M.

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### Artist Biography

Michael Schreier has dedicated his considerable professional career, from 1972 to the present, to the celebration of both the public and private hero. Such exploration centres on the private ritual, *In Quiet Celebration. A Family Album*, and the public arena, *In The Shadow of the Herdsman. A Masque in Our Time, The Liberal Leadership Convention*, 1984. As an artist-in-residence at the Seoul Olympics, 1988, Mr. Schreier produced the exhibition, *Feet of Clay*, a study in the ethics of international athletics.

His work is complemented by the private search for place, as witnessed in a series of photographs of private gardens and patios, 1978 to 1982, and includes the documentation of abandoned Indian villages, *Skedans and Tanu*, and an exploration of Ottawa's Daly Building, *A Private Sanctuary*.

Selected works from these explorations are represented both in public and private collections, including the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, Canada Council Art Bank, the National Archives Photography Collection, the Agnes-Etherington Art Centre, Canadian Portrait Gallery, Visual Studies Workshop, (Rochester, New York), Light Work Co-Operative, (Syracuse, New York), Carleton University Art Gallery, and the University of Ottawa Library Special Collections.

Recent work includes *Concert with the Silent Witness*, a collection of both Ottawa and trans-Canada street portraits, celebrating the presence of the anonymous individual, a continuing work with quiet response to September 11, New York.

In January and February of 2006, the artist's work appeared in a group exhibition curated by Penny Cousineau-Levine and Claude Simard entitled *FAKING DEATH: CANADIAN ART PHOTOGRAPHY* at Jack Shainman Gallery in New York City. His work currently appears in the exhibition *THE STREET*, at the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, and in the past, has appeared in solo and group exhibitions at the National Gallery of Canada, Karsh-Masson Gallery, and Carleton University Art Gallery.

Mr. Schreier has a Diploma in Photographic Arts from Toronto's Ryerson Polytechnical Institute (Ryerson University), and a Master of Fine Arts from Concordia University in Montreal. He is an Associate Professor in the Visual Arts Department at the University of Ottawa.