

HackelBury at Paris Photo 2026

Doug & Mike Starn | Under the Sky

12 - 15 November 2026 | Booth B02 | Grand Palais, France



Doug & Mike Starn, *be courteous to all; bow down to none*, 2026

The Starns' work is concerned with impermanence, perception, interconnection and interdependence. Their landscapes evoke forces of nature operating across radically different scales of time: the fleeting movement of clouds and water, the slow formation of mountains and the imperceptible geological processes beneath the earth's surface.

For the Starns, photography is tactile and physical. Hand-coated papers, photographic fragments, adhesive, varnish, wax and pigment are layered, manipulated and curved, transforming the photograph into an object somewhere between image and sculpture. Photographs dissolve into paintings; surfaces become landscapes; and the distinction between representation and material presence becomes increasingly unstable.

"The works are sculptural, curved. Everything in life seen is a concave view of what surrounds our bodies, our perceptual location. We witness a circle – we are all in the center." - Doug & Mike Starn

For the Starns, seeing is an active process, with each image shaped by memory, experience and perception. Their works ask us to reconsider what we think we see and to recognise the distance between the physical world and the image we construct of it.

In their Sky works, the sky becomes a symbol of what the artists describe as “sublime indifference” – ever-present, immeasurably beautiful and entirely unmoved by human experience. Yet within this apparent indifference lies a profound emotional resonance. The works become meditations on vulnerability, our place within the natural world and the fragile act of seeing.



Doug & Mike Starn, *it's love and sympathy*, 2025

“These are pictures of the sky but this work is about all of us. We are all under the same sky. Looking up and asking the questions, can we be better than this, how can we do better?” - Doug & Mike Starn

HackelBury has worked with Doug and Mike Starn for over two decades. At Paris Photo, the gallery brings together works spanning their sustained investigation into photography as both image and object, inviting viewers to look beyond the photograph as representation and towards the physical, emotional and perceptual experience of the medium itself.



Doug & Mike Starn, *it's happening now*, 2026

About Doug & Mike Starn

Doug and Mike Starn, American artists, identical twins, were born in 1961. They first received international attention at the 1987 Whitney Biennial, and for more than twenty years they were primarily known for working conceptually with photography. Their work has evolved through combining traditionally separate disciplines such as photography, sculpture, architecture - most notably their series *Big Bambú*. Major themes of their work include chaos, interconnection and interdependence.

The Starns were represented by Leo Castelli from 1989 until his death in 1999. The Starns have received many honours including two National Endowment for the Arts Grants in 1987 and 1995; The International Center for Photography's Infinity Award for Fine Art Photography in 1992; and, artists in residency at NASA in the mid-nineties. They have received critical acclaim in *The New York Times*, *Dagens Nyheter*, *Corriere della Sera*, *Le Figaro*, *The Times* (London), *Art in America*, and *Artforum*, amongst many other notable media. Major artworks by the Starns are represented in public and private collections including: The Museum of Modern Art (NYC); San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SF); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, (NYC); The Jewish Museum, (NYC); The Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC); Moderna Museet (Stockholm); The National Gallery of Victoria (Melbourne); Whitney Museum of American Art (NYC); Yokohama Museum of Art (Japan); La Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris); La Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris); Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among others.

About HackelBury

HackelBury was founded twenty-eight years ago by Marcus Bury and Sascha Hackel. The gallery is committed to championing artists working with the visual arts who push the boundaries of their medium to create meaningful and contemplative work.

The London based gallery initially showcased classic photography from the 20th century including Henri Cartier-Bresson, Berenice Abbott, Malick Sidibe, and Sebastião Salgado. The transition from traditional photography to more conceptual work was as intuitive as it was organic, beginning with artists such as William Klein, Pascal Kern, Doug and Mike Starn, Garry Fabian Miller, Katja Liebmann, Ian McKeever, Stephen Inggis and Bill Armstrong. In recent years the gallery has taken on emerging artists such as Oli Kellett, Nadezda Nikolova, Alys Tomlinson and Coral Woodbury.

Each artist, whether emerging or established, creates work defined by a depth of thought and breadth and consistency of approach. The small group of artists with whom HackelBury work, represent a diversity of practice yet share an artistic integrity which the gallery is fully committed to supporting in the long-term.

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