



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Infinitely Visible
April 23 – June 26, 2004

Opening Reception: Friday, April 23, 2004 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA - *Infinitely Visible* combines two poles of the infinite: the atomic and the cosmic. **Mike Stifel's** prints based on the movement of subatomic particles are presented in combination with **Robert Asman's** photographs of clouds and the celestial activity beyond them. Both artists visualize key elements of our universe which we have yet to fully understand. *Infinitely Visible* is part of **THE BIG NOTHING**, a Philadelphia-wide project exploring ideas of nothing and nothingness, initiated by the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania.

The artists' choice of materials and techniques further accentuates the dichotomy between their prints. Stifel's prints are 4" x 8" embossed sheets of white paper of an isolated line, arc, circle. These linear markings are abstracted movements of charged particles. In contrast to Stifel's small monochromatic prints are Asman's 20" x 24" toned gelatin silver prints of vaporous skies. Although Asman points his camera towards the clouds, his images focus on everything that lies beyond them. Stifel's ascetic prints stand in stark contrast to Asman's photographs of smoky surface textures, dramatic colors and a painterly atmosphere. As art critic Roberta Fallon mentions, "Asman's clouds are so painterly you don't want to call them photographs."

Robert Asman is a craftsman, educator, and artist. He is the owner/operator of Asman Custom Photo and presently teaches at University of Pennsylvania. As an artist he received a BA from Catholic University and an MFA from Rochester Institute of Technology. Asman exhibits his work in galleries and museums around the world. He lives and works in Philadelphia. Mike Stifel, also lives and works in Philadelphia, received his MFA in sculpture from University of Pennsylvania in 1999 and was recently included in a group show at Bridgette Mayer Gallery.

The void, nonsense, zero, zip—all are subjects of **THE BIG NOTHING**: a Philadelphia-wide cultural event that explores our fascination with themes of nothing and nothingness. Conceived as a constellation of independent projects THE BIG NOTHING starts in May 2004 and continues throughout the summer. Look for THE BIG NOTHING logo announcing performances, exhibitions, films, lectures and manifestations of...nothing in particular.

The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including 11 exhibitions annually; The Print Center Gallery Store, offering the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; an extensive series of continuing education programs; and special events.

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