Radius Books Publishes Michael Light’s
Bingham Mine / Garfield Stack

Photographs and Afterword by Michael Light
Essay by Trevor Paglen

Located at 8,000 feet in the Oquirrh Mountains—20 miles southwest of Salt Lake City—the Bingham Canyon copper mine is the largest man-made excavation on the planet. Its hole reaches more than half a mile deep and its rim is nearly three miles in width. It has produced more copper than any mine in history. The mine’s Garfield smelter stack, situated at the edge of the Great Salt Lake, is the tallest free-standing structure west of the Mississippi River, and is only 35 feet shorter than the Empire State Building.

For the last several years, Michael Light has been photographing both settled and unsettled areas of the American West from small rented airplanes, including an amazing series of black and white images taken of the Bingham Mine and Garfield Stack over the course of a single day. As with his other work, this series continues his interest in geology, mapping, vertigo, and human impact on the land, and is startling for both the amazing nature of the subject as well the sheer beauty of the images.

For the last several years, Light has been producing mammoth-scaled, very limited edition book-objects from his series of aerial photographs. These books have been widely exhibited to critical acclaim, and the series now extends to roughly eight such realizations, including books on Los Angeles (Day and Night), Phoenix, Sun City, Rancho San Pedro, and Mono Lake. This new publication is the first in a series from Radius Books that will translate Light’s impressive and ambitious projects into the trade book format. **About the Artist:** Debbie Fleming Caffery has received numerous awards including a Guggenheim Fellowship (2005) for the work in this book; the first Lou Stoumen Prize (1996); and the Louisiana Governor’s Art Award (1990). Her work is included in the permanent collections of many museums, including the Smithsonian Institution, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the New Orleans Museum of Art. Her books include *Polly, The Shadows, and Carry Me Home.*

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About the Artist:
Born in 1963, Light received a B.A. in American Studies from Amherst College in 1986 and an M.F.A. in Photography from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1993. An artist broadly concerned with how humans relate to their larger surroundings, he published his first book Ranch with Twin Palms/Twelvetrees Press in 1993. From 1995 to 2000, Light worked with images from NASA’s Apollo photographic archive to reexamine the manned lunar explorations and the world they visited. Shifting a familiar icon towards issues of landscape, the sublime, and permeable boundaries between science and art, the project culminated in a book and a museum exhibition, both titled Full Moon. The book was published in June 1999, with eight editions released internationally. Light is represented by Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco, Craig Krull Gallery, Santa Monica and Frehrking + Wiesehofer Gallery, Cologne.

Bingham Mine/ Garfield Stack
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“Radius pushes the edges . . . they are expanding the parameters of what an art book and in particular what a photography book can be.” —George Thompson, Director of the Center for American Places, quoted in PDN Magazine