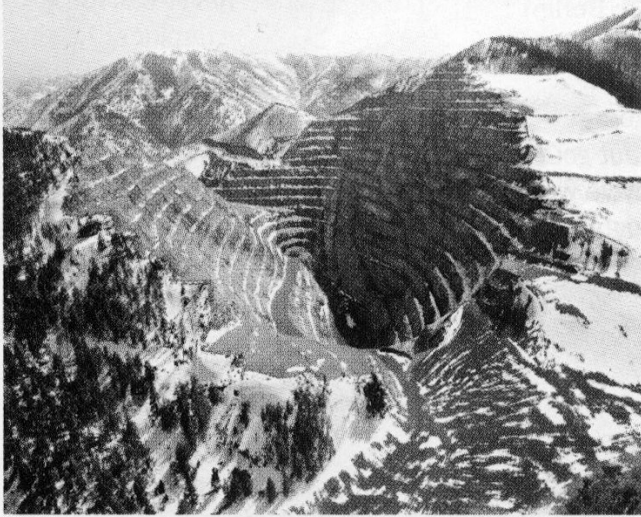


ARTFORUM

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The Artists' Artists
Best of 2008

Michael Light, *Barney's Canyon Gold Mine Looking South, Near Bingham Canyon, UT, 2006*, black-and-white print, 40 x 50".



TREVOR PAGLEN

"Some Dry Space: Michael Light" (Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV) Light's survey of the West, predominantly shot from a self-piloted airplane using techniques descended from early military reconnaissance photography, delivered a bird's-eye view of the persistent "frontier." For this exhibition, in an oversize handmade book resting on a tripod (rather than on a pedestal), an inverted wall-size photograph of a Los Angeles cityscape shot directly into the sun, and in photographs of endless Wyoming coal mines, California oil fields, hollowed-out Utah mountains, and vast desert landscapes portrayed with vertigo-inducing tilted aerial perspectives, Light offered a nonfiction metaphor for the shock-and-awe violence characterizing American frontiers past, present, and future.