



STORE
SAN FRANCISCO

A STAB AT HEAVEN

MARK DE PAOLA

Exhibition on view: June 23rd – August 23d, 2025

Opening reception: Thursday, June 26th, 2025, 5:00 - 8:00 PM



Mark de Paola
Breath, 2021

The Gallery at Leica Store San Francisco is honored to welcome back artist Mark de Paola for his third solo exhibition, *A Stab At Heaven*. This evocative project is inspired by the true story of 18-year-old Ema McKie, who, upon learning of her fiancé's suicide, sets off on a cross-country journey with a stolen car and a gun to fulfill a pact the two once made. As Ema navigates the depths of grief, her descent into madness becomes a search for truth and ultimately, a path home.

A Stab At Heaven will be released as a feature film and is coming soon.

Who am I? Well if I told you that, what would be the point of all this? I'm taking you somewhere. It's not a kidnapping, but also I didn't ask your permission.

So I'm leaving, and it's not on the next train. I'm being propelled by something I can't see that I know too well. The quiet thing in your chest that keeps you from speaking, but it's of such personal importance that you must do something about it. And if I could say, I love you now, I love you now...and now in the void that is where I think I'll find you.

- Ema McKie



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ABOUT THE ARTIST



Mark de Paola
Portrait by Wayne Serrano

Mark de Paola is a New York-based photographer and director known for his evocative, atmospheric imagery and distinctive use of wide-open apertures. With a career spanning fashion, fine art, and commercial work, de Paola's practice is deeply rooted in gesture, intuition, and visual storytelling. He has created campaigns for major brands including Gucci, Donna Karan, and Estée Lauder, and has directed numerous television spots and short films. His photographic work often explores the interplay between clarity and abstraction, light and shadow, offering a poetic glimpse into both subject and moment.

In recent years, de Paola has focused increasingly on long-form personal projects, working with Leica cameras to produce intimate, emotionally resonant portraits and narrative series. His exhibitions, *60 Seconds* and *Recent Work*, have been shown at Leica Galleries across the U.S. and internationally. de Paola's artistic process is as much about the experience of seeing as it is about the final image, inviting viewers to slow down and enter a more meditative visual space. He also frequently lectures and mentors emerging photographers, sharing insights from decades of creative exploration and image-making.

PRESS INQUIRIES

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