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Book Review

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PHOTOGRAPHY

By Andy Grundberg

ATTRACTED TO LIGHT. Photographs by Mike Starn and Doug Starn. Texts by Victor Pelevin, Demetrio Paparoni and Vladimir Nabokov. (Blind Spot/PowerHouse, \$85.) The Starns, twin brothers who were the art stars of the moment in the late 80's, have been out of the limelight of late, but their interest in light of a non-lime sort has intensified over the years. "Attracted to Light," which will be published next month, is evidence that this fascination with photography's sine qua non is more than theoretical; it consists of photographs and multiprint photo-montages of moths that have been drawn to a globe lamp left on for that purpose. While moths may not be everyone's idea of beauty — conventionally, butterflies have the edge in that department — there is something remarkable about their appearance that the Starns, using ultra-close-up lenses, have magnified and embellished. The symbolic aspect of light, including its spiritual significance as the source of life, is also part of the photographs' equation, as the book's texts suggest.