

BRUCE SILVERSTEIN

For Immediate Release

Nicolai Howalt: *Car Crash Studies*
September 10 – October 24, 2009
Opening: Thursday, September 10th, 6 – 8pm

Bruce Silverstein is pleased to announce *Car Crash Studies*, a thought provoking photographic study of cars that have been involved in severe and potentially fatal accidents. While the car crash studies are typographical in nature, seeming in some instances to be closer to sterile accident report photographs, the subject matter most obviously begs the viewer to confront the human fear of trauma and death.

The series moves between documentation and abstraction. Several of the images are vividly abstract and look more like landscapes than slashed up metal. Collided bodyworks, dents and cracks in varnish appear as highly enlarged details in the monumental works. These 'color plains' become the ultimate instance of beauty created from suffering, pain and destruction.

Although *Car Crash Studies* is specifically based on cars that have been involved in accidents, Howalt's works rather attempt to portray an abstract, mental state, namely the duality we feel in relation to accidents or catastrophes when experienced from a distance - as spectators. The exhibition at Bruce Silverstein Gallery thus approaches classical themes, but in contemporary interpretation.

In the photographic projects *How to Hunt* and *Tree Zone* Nicolai Howalt (b. 1970) works together with Trine Søndergaard, but they also do separate projects. Howalt's *Car Crash Studies* has elements of confrontation and silent contemplation that reminds of his earlier project *BOXER* (2003), a series of double portraits of boys between child and adulthood photographed before and after the match.

Upcoming Exhibitions:

John Wood: *Collages, 1955 - 2006*
Yao Lu: *New Landscapes*
October 29 – November 12, 2009
Opening: Thursday, October 29th, 6 – 8pm