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NANCY DAVENPORT CAMPUS

MARCH 5 – APRIL 3, 2004

OPENING RECEPTION: MARCH 5, 6–8PM



Still from, *Weekend Campus*, 2004

Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery is pleased to present a new exhibition of photographs and digital pieces by Nancy Davenport opening on Friday, March 5 from 6 – 8pm. The exhibition continues through April 3, 2004.

With this exhibition, Davenport has produced works which represent the symbolic social space of the university campus as a site infused with both idealism and disenchantment; a space haunted by specific histories of both upheaval and stasis. The video piece, *Week-end Campus* is a slow horizontal pan along the entrance to a fictitious campus which is jammed with stalled cars, accidents and witnesses. This continuous loop was constructed from hundreds of still photographs taken by the artist and pays homage to Godard's tour-de-force tracking shot in *Le Week-end* as well as Andy Warhol's disaster series.

A series of 11 photographs depict Brutalist buildings that Davenport shot at universities and colleges across the US and Canada. These structures, many of them built shortly after the 1968 student uprisings, evoke fortresses, bunkers, social chaos and retreat. Indeed, "New Brutalist" architecture has always been associated with post-war disenchantment and, as a style, was eventually tamed from revolutionary outburst to fashionable vernacular. Through digital collage and manipulation these spaces have been significantly transformed producing images of a melancholy aftermath. In some of the images, remnants of upheaval are merged with the buildings while others incorporate unreal and unreasonable lighting effects and equipment. These flashes, flares and impossible sunsets evoke an uneasy and conflicted optimism associated with notions of enlightenment, knowledge, and discourse. Like her previous work in, *the apartments* series from 2001, the *Campus* images reference specific photographic histories and continue her exploration of symbolic architectural forms and the legacies of modernist utopianism.

Most recently, Davenport's work was included in the International Center for Photography's recent exhibition, *Strangers: The First ICP Triennial of Photography and Video and Urban Dramas*, at de Singel International Kunstcentrum in Antwerp, Belgium.