

AXEL HÜTTE

After Midnight

4 – 28 October 2006



New York, Las Vegas, 2003

Renowned German artist **Axel Hütte** is to show a series of photographs of American cityscapes in his first solo exhibition in the UK, at **Waddington Galleries**, Cork Street.

After Midnight will include 21 large-scale photographs of American cities by night, such as New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Las Vegas and Houston, taken over four years of extensive travel across the US.

Captured by Hütte as a series of night-time horizons, the city skylines sometimes seem familiar but are more often intentionally anonymous (their locations revealed only by explanatory titles) or ambiguous; 'New York, Las Vegas', 2003, illustrated above, features Las Vegas's replica of the famous Chrysler Building in New York.

As Hütte comments, "In my photography it is perfectly obvious that I refer to an altogether concrete reality, that is to say, to a place which really exists. The place may of course seem absolutely strange or completely different to what the viewer has always imagined it to look like, but it really exists."

The position of the viewer is frequently pushed into the far distance, giving the images a sense of cool observation of the homogeneous nature of these giant concentrations of American capitalism, whilst also allowing an appreciation of the mystery and calm beauty of the cities' lights and buildings viewed from afar.

All the photographs in *After Midnight* are Duratrans, where large format colour transparencies are mounted onto a mirror-like surface. The resulting images have a reflective quality, as if there were an additional light source shining from underneath the image itself.

Address:	Waddington Galleries, 11 Cork Street London, W1S 3LT	Tube:	Piccadilly Circus Oxford Circus Green Park
Opening Hours:	Monday – Friday 10am – 6pm Saturday – 10am – 1:30pm	Prices:	Free

Martin Filler, in his introduction to the catalogue accompanying the exhibition, comments "It is not difficult to imagine that in ten or twenty years this series will be viewed as something of a commentary on the state of the United States at a dangerous - and perhaps irreversible - turning point in its history. Sheer size has tended to signify importance in American life - as well as American painting and sculpture - since the mid-nineteenth century.

But the principle that bigger is better has become much more pronounced since World War II, from which America emerged as the mightiest world power. Hütte and his German contemporaries have seized upon the Abstract Expressionists' colossal format with an effectiveness equal to the New York School, and, especially in the case of Hütte's American city views, it puts across an impression of magnitude appropriate to subject and place".

MORE ...

Axel Hütte was trained at the Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf under Bernd Becher. He has travelled extensively, primarily photographing landscapes – the rural, from the fjords and glaciers of Norway, Greenland and Iceland, to the forests and swamps of Australia, Brazil and South Africa, and the urban - city scenes by night and day chiefly in Europe and the USA. Hütte has exhibited widely throughout Europe, including a major retrospective at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid in 2004.

After Midnight is to be accompanied by a 72 page, 30 colour plate, hardback book produced in collaboration with Schirmer-Mosel, with the text by Martin Filler.

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WEBSITE



www.waddington-galleries.com

For:

- Project information
- Artist information
- Company contact details

FOR INTERVIEWS / USE OF IMAGES

Idea Generation : +44(020) 7428 4949

Katie McCrory: Katie@ideageneration.co.uk

Claire Walsh: Claire@ideageneration.co.uk

EDITORS' NOTES

Waddington Galleries

Waddington Galleries deals in modern and contemporary works of art – painting, sculpture and works on paper.

A substantial inventory is held of work by major twentieth-century artists including Jean Dubuffet, Giorgio de Chirico, Henri Matisse, Joan Miró, Henry Moore and Pablo Picasso, Fausto Melotti, Donald Judd and Francis Picabia. Waddington Galleries represents a number of contemporary artists from Great Britain, Europe, and North America including Craigie Aitchison, Peter Blake, Ian Davenport, Axel Hütte, Barry Flanagan, Peter Halley, Mimmo Paladino, Antoni Tàpies, William Turnbull, and Bill Woodrow, and the estates of Josef Albers, Patrick Caulfield, Milton Avery and Patrick Heron.

Regular one-man exhibitions of gallery artists are interspersed with shows of work from the gallery inventory.

Axel Hütte

Axel Hütte was born in 1951 in Essen, Germany. Between 1973 and 1981 he studied at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, where he attended Bernd Becher's fine art course in photography. In the same year he joined Andreas Gursky and Thomas Ruff in a rented studio space in a disused power station. In 1982 Hütte won a DAAD scholarship to London. His first solo exhibition was held at the Galerie Konrad Fischer, Düsseldorf in 1984. Solo exhibitions followed at the Rotterdamse Kunststichting, Rotterdam (1989), the Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg (1993) the Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn (1995), the Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur (1997), and the Foundation for Photography, Amsterdam (2001). Most recently a major retrospective of Hütte's work was held at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, in 2004.