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Nate Lowman: *Axis of Praxis*
Midway Contemporary Art
April 8th – May 20th, 2006
Opening Reception: Saturday, April 8th, 6-8pm

Midway Contemporary Art is pleased to announce the opening of an exhibition entitled *Axis of Praxis* by New York-based Nate Lowman. The exhibition opens on Saturday, April 8th and will run through May 20th. There will be an opening reception for the artist from 6-8PM on April 8th.

Over the past few years, the work of Nate Lowman has trafficked in a similar vein of media obsessed artists such as Richard Prince and Cady Noland. Mixing reproductive technology such as silk-screening and photography with painting, Lowman re-contextualizes circulating images and text selected from a variety of sources including the pages of magazines, the Internet, and photographs. An exhaustive list of this imagery would be difficult, but a particular penchant for the violent, celebrity, and the political is prevalent.

For this exhibition at Midway, Lowman is presenting new work, a collaborative project with six other artists, and a selection of work from his personal collection. Titled *Axis of Praxis*, the framework of the show explores the intersection of artistic collaboration, endorsement, and the conceit of influence.

Endorsement partnerships between celebrities and corporations have long been standard in advertising, music videos, and commercials. Not unlike the endorsement tactics of corporations and sports and popular music figures, the post-90's art world functions along similar lines of conferring value through association. Artist top-10 lists, "scene and herd" diaries, fashion and lifestyle magazine articles on galleries and artists, corporate sponsored artist prizes, and seemingly arranged-marriage collaborative teams are all a part of the landscape of contemporary art.

Using an exhibition strategy that elucidates some of these validation processes, Lowman's presentation of work functions along multiple layers. In addition to creating new work for the show, Lowman has also invited artists Dan Colen, Adam McEwen, Josh Smith, Agathe Snow, John Tremblay, and Aaron Young to collaborate with him. Provided with rejected silk-screened "bullet-hole" canvases similar to those he has exhibited over the past year, Lowman asked that each artist make a work. These range from Smith's signature Josh Smith paintings to one of McEwen's gummed canvases. Following the return of the work, Lowman then offered endorsements of the collaborations themselves by pairing each with newspaper photocopies, hand-painted text pieces and other works. These serve to offer more ironic commentary than true endorsement, suggesting that this work is a more critical representation of collaboration.

Also included in the exhibition is a selection of work that Lowman has acquired from artists through trades and purchases including work by Tomma Abts, Lutz Bacher, Joe Bradley, Anne Collier, Jeff Elrod, Mark Flood, Jonathan Horowitz, Hanna Liden, Bjarne Melgaard, Aurie Ramirez, Michael St. John, Rob Pruitt, and Eric Wesley and Piero Golia.

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Lowman is represented by maccarone, inc. in New York; where he recently had a solo exhibition this December. He has exhibited widely in the United States and abroad. Selected group exhibitions include: *The Uncertain States of America*, Astrup Fearnley Museum, Oslo, Norway; *Greater New York*, PS1, New York; *Bridge Freezes Before Road*, Barbara Gladstone, New York; *Mafia*, Standard, Oslo; *Power Corruption and Lies*, Roth Horowitz, New York; and ArtBasel 2005, Basel.