

DAVID PATTON LOS ANGELES

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Darren Almond | **Nail to Nail**

22 November – 20 December 2008

Reception on Saturday, 22 November, from 6-9 PM

David Patton Los Angeles is pleased to present **Nail to Nail**,* the first solo exhibition in California by Darren Almond.

Included in **Nail to Nail** is Almond's recent 35 minute single-channel HD video, *Bearing*, 2007, following the path of the workers, who mine sulfur with their bare hands from a volcano crater in Indonesia, showing what Adrian Searle in *The Guardian* on 17 January 2008 refers to as "labourers in hell."

Nail to Nail references movement from one point to another and the balancing of endurance when the journey is not about reaching the end, but of taking the next step. Generally, in Almond's work time moves backward (as memory), announces the present (the striking of clocks, photographs) and moves the subject/viewer forward toward The End. But time does not end—there is no rest in Almond's work—waiting continues, clocks tick, trains come and go, and labor goes on.

Also included in **Nail to Nail** is a *Trainplate* from a body of work initiated by Almond in 1997. Concerned with transport, this series is emblematic of Almond's constant repositioning of his motifs of travel and exploration. Growing up in Wigan in northern England, Almond became a keen train-spotter. This solitary and sedentary activity, with its prioritizing of periods of patient waiting, its sense of being in the moment, and its precise attention to detail, is imbued in Almond's work. Almond uses specific language, with a bluntness reinforced by the use of particular fonts in the *Trainplates*, referencing

*"Nail to nail" is a British insurance term referring to the period of time when an artwork is in transit.

the British Rail classification system that distinguishes different types of engines. *Trainplates* are often deployed as an announcement of an exhibition. *Nail to Nail*, 2008, is such a statement and is inserted into David Patton Los Angeles as a point of reference to define the show.

Darren Almond was educated at Winchester School of Art, England. His has shown in numerous group shows including from 2008: *War and Art – Terror and Simulacrum of Beauty II*, Galerie Aube, Kyoto University of Art and Design; *The Cinema Effect: Illusion, Reality, and the Moving Image Part I: Dreams*, Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution; *Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary Collection as Aleph*, Kunsthaus Graz; *Night: A Time Between*, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol; *God and Goods: Spirituality and Mass Confusion*, Villa Manin, Centro d'Arte Contemporanea, Italy; *YouPrison: Reflections on the Limitation of Freedom and Space*, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo. He will be in the forthcoming, Tate Triennial, 2009. Solo shows have included the ICA, London; The Renaissance Society, Chicago, De Appel Foundation, Amsterdam; Kunsthalle Zurich; Tate Britain; Fondazione Nicola Trussardi, Milan; K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf; Museum Folkwang, Essen; SITE Santa Fe; Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, and Parasol Unit Foundation for Contemporary Art, London.