

# **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



***KRISTIN BAKER***

**FLAT OUT**

**September 5 - 27, 2003**

**Opening Friday September 5, 6-9pm**

**76 Grand Street**

Kristin Baker's studio looks like an automobile repair shop, not the kind where a grease monkey might change the oil on your Toyota, but the place where serious men in white coats would be fine tuning a Ferrari. The studio is spotless, with tools neatly displayed in red Snap-On cabinets and paints stacked according to color. The body of a racing car, plastered with advertising logos hangs above a computer station. Dozens of photographs of racecars and racetracks are displayed above the drafting table.

On the walls there are paintings of speeding racecars, explosive car crashes and vast grandstands. All of Baker's materials are from the province of the high tech auto body shop. There are no tubes of oil paint and no canvas. The works are made with plastic paints on sheets of PVC bolted to a metal backing. The colors are those of Formula One car bodies and racing safety gear. The materials and the painting process are integrated with the subject.

On an opposite wall there are photographs of the mega billboards on giant metal posts that float above the Long Island Expressway. Baker is especially inspired by the blank ones. There are also images of her own giant wall paintings of these looming empty billboards. This is her version of the contemporary landscape.

**CONTINUED ON REVERSE**

Kristin Baker is fascinated by the connection between painting and automobile racing, particularly by the contrast between accident versus control that characterizes both pursuits.

She sees the racetrack as a contemporary version of the Roman coliseum, where the spectators of all social classes converge to watch the expert drivers steer their enormously expensive cars, covered with advertising, into spectacular crashes.

Like the racetrack, her painting is a study in organization versus chaos. At the track, speed is both controlled and pushed to extremes. Her painting is also a study of how far to push to the extreme, how close one can get to overstimulation without an aesthetic crash.

*Flat Out*, Baker's September 2003 exhibition at Deitch Projects will include large racetrack paintings on PVC, smaller paintings on Mylar, and a wall painting of a blank billboard.

Kristin Baker graduated from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and received a M.F.A. from Yale in 2002. Her work was presented in a solo exhibition at PS 1 in 2002 as part of *Painting Report*.

**GALLERY HOURS 12-6, TUESDAY – SATURDAY  
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT  
ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ AT 212-343-7300**