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**MITCH EPSTEIN
Family Business
September 9 – October 16, 2004
Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 – 6 p.m.**

The Yancey Richardson Gallery is pleased to present Mitch Epstein's ***Family Business***, an exhibition of large-scale color photographs that traces the final unraveling of his father's once-prosperous furniture and real estate business. From a private family tragedy, Epstein has forged an epic drama, replete with patriarch and prodigal son, intergenerational struggles and, ultimately, redemption. ***Family Business*** not only captures the psychological tensions implicit in a family-business bankruptcy, but also resonates as a metaphor for the demise of many post-industrial American towns where small businesses and the main street they comprise have shuttered in the face of mega-corporations, malls and the Internet. The ***Family Business*** project is presented in collaboration with the Brent Sikkema Gallery.

The eldest of three brothers, Epstein chose to leave home at the age of eighteen to pursue a career as an artist rather than work for the family business. In the summer of 1999 one of his father's condemned properties was set ablaze by two "bored" teenagers destroying an entire city block and resulting in a 15 million dollar lawsuit against Epstein's father. Originally returning home to help, Epstein chose to document the unfolding events, producing a photo/video/text documentary that spanned three years. Epstein's father is the protagonist in the narrative as the family-run furniture store goes bankrupt and his rental properties crumble beneath a town riddled with drugs and crime. Through evocative images such as a beat up briefcase resting on a dilapidated mattress, an American flag wrapped in a plastic dry cleaning bag or an abandoned moss-grown miniature golf course, Epstein narrates a story of loss and broken American dreams, while forging iconographic imagery from the mundane.

Mitch Epstein was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts and now resides in New York City. In 2002, Epstein received a Guggenheim Fellowship for ***Family Business*** and Steidl published the complete project in 2003. Exhibitions of ***Family Business*** were featured at this year's Rencontres d'Arles and Photo Espana.

Epstein's work has been shown and collected by museums worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum, The Getty Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Gallery talk/book signing with Mitch Epstein Saturday, October 2, noon.

Yancey Richardson Gallery, 535 West 22nd Street, NYC 10011 tel. 646.230.9610
For visuals please contact David Carmona – dcarmona@yanceyrichardson.com