

A-BOMB

Pictures of Disaster

8 April – 7 May 2011

Private View: 7 April 17:30 – 19:30

*'Though the poetics of the atomic sublime might reassuringly couch its explosive potential in the language of nature, still it was a product of man, of culture.'*¹

This inaugural exhibition at Daniel Blau's London gallery makes a particular statement about the development and positioning of vintage photography. We wish to present you with an historically grounded, extraordinarily beautiful set of photographs that have come to stand as powerful visual icons, representing a salient period of international politics: The Cold War.

The image of the atomic bomb is one of unique and horrific beauty: The pictures of atomic bomb explosions — ranging from New Mexico USA, to the actual and affecting George R. Caron photographs shot from a military plane over Hiroshima — stand as representations of the difference between sublime artwork and frightful document.

This exhibition incorporates a variety of photographs, including US Navy and Air Force images of nuclear bomb tests by Edgerton and Eyerman - the former a scientific photographer and the latter with tendencies towards surrealism.

This unique and historic collection of images span the period 1945 – 1970 to form a visual narrative full of power, horror and aggressive beauty. This exhibition is accompanied by a 48-page newspaper publication available from the gallery.

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¹ Peter B. Hales, *The Atomic Sublime*