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Untitled, Russell, 2008

THROUGH APRIL 12

Budget Decadence

As our housing market limps forward, artist Christopher Russell seizes upon ideas of decay and vacant domiciles for his first solo museum exhibition. For the next few months the Hammer Museum is home to the artist/writer's unsettling yet mesmerizing multimedia installation. Via a series of distressed photographs—the images were manipulated with everything from a meat cleaver to semen—Russell treats us to a voyeuristic glimpse into an absentee family's domestic debris as narrated by his novella, Budget Decadence, the text of which is hiding in the wallpaper. If only those walls could talk... 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood, 310.443.7000 or hammer.ucla.edu. —Michelle Foody