RED:
The LEGO® Brick Sculpture of Nathan Sawaya

November 23 - December 14, 2010
530 West 25th St., Chelsea, New York
November 23rd - December 14th 2010
Opening Reception: Thursday, December 2nd, 6-8pm

GALLERY HOURS: TUESDAY - SATURDAY, 11AM-6PM

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New York sculptor Nathan Sawaya has become renowned in the modern art world for his groundbreaking fusion of pop art and surrealism in pieces comprised solely of LEGO bricks. His most recent work represents a new phase of artistic expression within this medium, as he explores themes of identity. All his new sculpture is in one way or another autobiographical, addressing the issue of self through symbolism to express his surrealistic ideology. Sawaya explains his shift in approach: “It could be said that this new exhibition is the antithesis of my previous work. It is an introspective show. By working with an unconventional medium, I work within the trappings of a self-imposed prison.” What results are gripping images rife with human emotion. Complex human figures are configured in forms of pure expressionism; at times ironic and other times fearlessly exposing the rawest elements of the human experience.

The sharp lines and angles of the LEGO bricks add to this tension, the cleanliness of the medium muddied only by the fleeting nature of perspective. While shapes are distinctive and defined up close, when viewed at a distance, the mood is softened as marked lines change to curves and the overall effect becomes blurred. This speaks to greater truths involving the myth of stability, the persistence of transition, and the ever present metamorphoses we as humans undergo in every moment. In this way, Sawaya’s work centers on the phenomenon of how people and raw emotion are intertwined in everyday life.
The Courage Within  Plastic Bricks  59” x 18” x 11”

Strength of Spirit  Plastic Bricks  38” x 21” x 21”
Everlasting  Plastic Bricks  42” x 34” x 12”

Guarded Heart  Plastic Bricks  47” x 19” x 10”
The Art Inside  Plastic Bricks  45” x 15” x 21”

Cracking Up  Plastic Bricks  32” x 33” x 15”
Loves Me Not  Plastic Bricks  60" x 22" x 18"

Goodbye  Plastic Bricks  34" x 32" x 3"
Pushing Against  Plastic Bricks  96” x 30” x 20”

Please Do Touch  Plastic Bricks  46” x 54” x 49”
Ascension  Plastic Bricks  64" x 14" x 16"

Kissing (full)  Plastic Bricks  27" x 21" x 20"
Trapped  Plastic Bricks  23” x 28” x 16”