

REVIEWS

KATE GILMORE

FRANCOSOFFIANTINO ARTECONTEMPORANEA- TURIN



KATE GILMORE, *Progress*, 2009. Video still. Courtesy Franco-soffiantino Artecontemporanea, Turin.

Kate Gilmore's videos look like everyday-life Freudian processings, made by an anarchic and romantic young girl who never forgets to put on a mini dress and high heels shoes, even if she's going to hammer a wall. The artist, born in Washington in 1975, is in fact the protagonist of the performances, which are then presented as videos.

Gilmore often finds herself in situations in which the aim is to overcome, in which the space and the architecture are in conflict with her body and her will, and which also require physical effort on her part.

Gilmore's solo show represents a big challenge: seven videos and an installation made up of various elements taken from the set. The video *Come Around* (2009) witnesses a performance that took place on the day of the opening.

During the performance a plaster wall divided the upper gallery space into two parts. The artist passed from one space to the other, through a small window at the top and reached through some bales of hay; she then endeavors to crack the wall itself with an axe. Viewers can pass through the same open passage, around which abandoned shoes and the axe are on the floor.

In *Wallflower* (2006) the artist throws objects from the upper level to the lower level through a hole in the floor. Clothes, furniture and sofas are hurled, then she lowers herself until she is sitting on the accumulated mess. By contrast, in *Before Going Under* (2007), the artist is roped up in a park, holding a bunch of flowers in her hand. A tug of war starts between her body and something off-screen. Eventually, Gilmore is dragged off.

The atmosphere in the videos is always

light and unmoved, almost oneiric, even in the most grotesque situations. With poetic and obsessive grace, and a surreal detachment, Gilmore creates metaphors that recall the theater of the absurd.

(Translated from Italian by Valentina Sansone)

Olga Gambari

Come Around, 2009. Video still. Courtesy Franco-soffiantino Artecontemporanea, Turin.

