

PRESS RELEASE

Kate Gilmore
Solo Show

6th February 2009 – 18th April 2009
franco soffiantino gallery,
Via Rossini, 23 - Torino

Opening hours: from Tuesday to Saturday, from 11 to 19
Info: press@francosoffiantino.it

Opening Friday 6th February 7 p.m.

Kate Gilmore

Kate Gilmore was born in 1975 in Washington DC and currently is based in New York. She received a MFA from the School of Visual Arts of New York in 2002 and was the 2007-08 recipient of the Rome Prize. Her work was included in GREATER NEW YORK 2005 at P.S.1/MoMA, New York. Gilmore's work can currently be seen at the Akademie Der Kunste, Berlin, Julia Stoschek Collection, Dusseldorf, RISD Museum of Art, Providence. Her work has been exhibited at Institute of Contemporary Art, Artpace San Antonio, Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, White Columns, New York, Pinchuk Art Center, Kiev, Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, American Academy in Rome, Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, The Menil Collection, Houston, MAK Museum of Applied Arts Vienna, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Haifa Museum of Art, Brooklyn Museum of Art and the Bronx Museum of Art.

Kate Gilmore employs performance and video aids in order to analyze difficult situations. The artist creates environments in which she sets herself against a target to reach. By their own structural nature, these environments also serve as obstacles to the attainment of that same target. Thus, almost naively, the artist finds herself fighting against a reality which is simple and linear only at face value. Gilmore uses her own body as material of artistic composition in order to develop the action. Her body is forced into uncomfortable, vaguely masochistic situations. Absurd, ironically tragicomical situations, capable of stirring a variety of emotions in the spectator, from an ironic laughter to the bitter feeling of the unpredictability of life.

The personal exhibition at Franco Soffiantino's gallery presents an unpublished project and other recent videos.

Untitled (2009 the work will be given a title only once the performance is over). A wall of the gallery will be clambered over by the artist with the aid of a pile of haystack balls. By using an axe, she will create a passage which visitors will be able to access at the other side of the gallery.

Progress (2008 – 4' 30"). In this video the artist places a series of plaster buckets in a sequence. These are then coloured with shades ranging from white, to pink, to red, the latter matching the color of the gloves worn by the artist.

Wallflower (2006-07- 16' 40"). Gilmore moves a stack of furniture from one floor to another through a gaping hole in the floor. The floor is 13 feet up in the air and the furniture is dropped down the hole to create a pile for the character in the video to get down from the ledge.

Higher Horse (2008 -6' 13"). The artist is on the top of a mound of plaster bricks. While two men are hammering away at the pile, she has to regain balance after every blow. The video ends with the pile being almost completely destroyed and the hammers having reached the artist's feet.

Down the House (2008 - 17' 10"). A pile of furniture and brick rubble is stacked and held together by an unlikely shocking pink ribbon. The pile is then covered by a red layer of wet paint. The artist is at the top of this stack and, armed with a hammer, she starts destroying it trying to regain her balance after every strike in order not to fall and prepare for the next blow. The shattered pieces scatter on to the floor and smear wet paint everywhere.

Before Going Under (2007 – 3' 5"). Gilmore is being lassoed by an elastic rope which pulls her back as she attempts to break free, a pop tune is playing in the background.

Blue Ribbon (2008 - 22' 44"). The artist stacks some balls of hay and piles them one on top of the other, by clambering over them, with precarious balance. She then holds them together with a blue hair band, giving an unlikely decorative effect to the overall picture.