

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXHIBITION: KATE GILMORE

RECEPTION: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST, 7-9PM

ON VIEW: NOVEMBER 22, 2008-JANUARY 18, 2009

HOURS: WED-SUN 12-6PM

Smith-Stewart is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new work by New York artist Kate Gilmore.

Kate Gilmore is the sole protagonist of her videos, which take the form of a dangerous line-up of hilariously reckless and poignant performances. Recorded either privately in her studio or on-site, never rehearsed and only attempted once, Gilmore assumes the roles of many different female stereotypes and creates makeshift sets that act as the catalyst for a mélange of wacky riffs on daily life. The extreme emotional pathos and grueling physical endurance recall the early video pioneers Vito Acconci and Bruce Nauman and the seminal 1970s performances of Valie Export and Marina Abramovic.

At Smith-Stewart, Gilmore presents three videos from 2008 and debuts a new site-specific sculpture and video made inside the gallery. To enter the exhibition, the audience is required to walk through her sculpture, which also functions as the set and prop for the video. The installation is further testament to the sheer physicality of Kate Gilmore's practice.

In *Between A Hard Place*, 2008, Gilmore dons black gloves, a black dress and yellow spike heels, and punches and kicks her way mercilessly through five layers of dry wall and plywood. The objective of her extreme offensive: a canary yellow wall at the end of a 24-foot long tunnel, color-coded to match her incredibly high heels.

In *Down the House*, 2008, Gilmore, mallet in hand, stands precariously atop a pile of rickety wood furniture and plaster blocks tied haphazardly together with fluorescent pink construction tape (a matching bow in her hair) and coated in still wet red paint and plaster. Soon Gilmore hurls the sledgehammer down onto the structure, repositioning herself each time to avoid losing balance. The plaster crumbles and disintegrates, the red paint and wet plaster splatters and smears, and the furniture topples. The video fades to black and ends with the echoing sounds of the mallet pounding the plaster.

Finally, in the six-minute single channel video, *Higher Horse*, 2008, Gilmore perches herself on top of a tall pile of plaster blocks. The wall behind her is pale pink with veiny red streaks. Two muscular men with matching mallets simultaneously pummel the rocks where Gilmore attempts to balance. In red heels and a black skirt, she struggles to maintain her stability after losing a shoe while the men come dangerously close to smashing her naked legs.

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 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 Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, Akademie Der Kunste, Berlin, Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Julia Stoschek Collection, Dusseldorf, RISD Museum of Art, Providence, UNT Art Gallery, Denton and Apex Art, New York. Her work has been exhibited at Artpace San Antonio, Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, White Columns, New York, Pinchuk Art Center, Kiev, American Academy in Rome, Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, Marta Herford Museum, The Menil Collection, Houston, MAK Museum of Applied Arts Vienna, J.

Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, Haifa Museum of Art, Brooklyn Museum of Art and the Bronx Museum of Art.

Smith-Stewart represents Nicole Cherubini, Paolo Chiasera, Georganne Deen, Jen DeNike, Kate Gilmore, Ylva Ogland, Adrian Paci and Elif Uras. The gallery is located on 53 Stanton Street, between Forsyth and Eldridge Streets. Gallery Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, noon to six. The nearest subway stops are 2nd Avenue/Houston Street on the F & V lines, Grand Street on the B & D lines and Bleecker Street on the 6 line. For more information, please contact the gallery at amy@smith-stewart.com, 212.477.2821. Or visit the website: www.smith-stewart.com.