



INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART  
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**NEWS RELEASE**



top to bottom: Kate Gilmore, *Every Girl Loves Pink* (stills), 2006, video. Courtesy of the artist and Smith-Stewart Gallery, New York

## KATE GILMORE

SEPTEMBER 5–DECEMBER 7, 2008

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 6-8PM

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH WITH ARTIST DOUGLAS BLAU AND SENIOR CURATOR INGRID SCHAFFNER: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 5PM, *ICA MEMBERS ONLY*

### PHILADELPHIA, PA

Kate Gilmore loves a challenge. For her performance-based video works, she sets up difficult physical tasks—a precarious tower of strung-together furniture to climb, for instance—dons lipstick and a fancy dress, and documents herself making the attempt. She has jumped rope on a perforated wooden platform while wearing stilettos (*Double Dutch*, 2004), ascended a slippery ramp in rollerskates (*Cake Walk*, 2005), and forced her satin-clad body through a tiny tunnel (*Main Squeeze*, 2006). This exhibition will be on September 5–December 7, 2008.

The dogged persistence of Gilmore's protagonists suggests the obsessive behavior that can characterize daily efforts to cope with high expectations. These dolled-up women seem desperate for success, love, or attention—desires traditionally bound up with gender and the condition of artmaking. In all of her projects, Gilmore strives for compositional perfection, and her incongruous party clothes are always perfectly coordinated with the installation itself. Combining physical comedy, palpable effort, and a whiff of real danger, Gilmore's work evokes time-based "endurance" work of the 1970s, such as that of Vito Acconci, and expands on feminist and performance art in the tradition of Joan Jonas and Marina Abramovic.

For the Project Space, Gilmore will construct a new challenge and star in a corresponding video, to be shown alongside several earlier video works.

Kate Gilmore (b. 1975 Washington, DC; lives New York) received a BFA from Bates College, and an MFA from the School of Visual Arts in 2002. She has had solo exhibitions at venues including Artpace, San Antonio, Maisterravalbuena Galeria, Madrid, White Columns, New York, and Real Art Ways, Hartford. Upcoming solo exhibitions in 2008 will be held at Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, and Smith-Stewart Gallery, New York. This winter her work will be on view at Franco Soffiantino Arte Contemporanea, Turin Italy. Selected group exhibitions include *Environments and Empires*, Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, Waltham (2008); *Reckless Behavior*, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles (2006); and *Greater New York 2005*, P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center/MOMA, Long Island City.

Gilmore was recently awarded the Rome Prize, American Academy in Rome, Italy (2007).

This exhibition is organized by Whitney Lauder Curatorial Fellow Stamatina Gregory, and is accompanied by a brochure publication.

### CONTACT

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\*checklist and images available upon request.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ICA is located at:  
118 South 36th Street at the  
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ICA is open to the public, except during  
installation, from 12pm to 8pm on  
Wednesday through Friday and from  
11am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is FREE everyday.  
*Free admission to the Institute of  
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commissions, educational programs,  
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share in the experience, interpretation  
and understanding of the work of  
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Whenever Wednesday, September 24, 7pm  
Lecture: Kate Gilmore

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WITH KATE GILMORE.