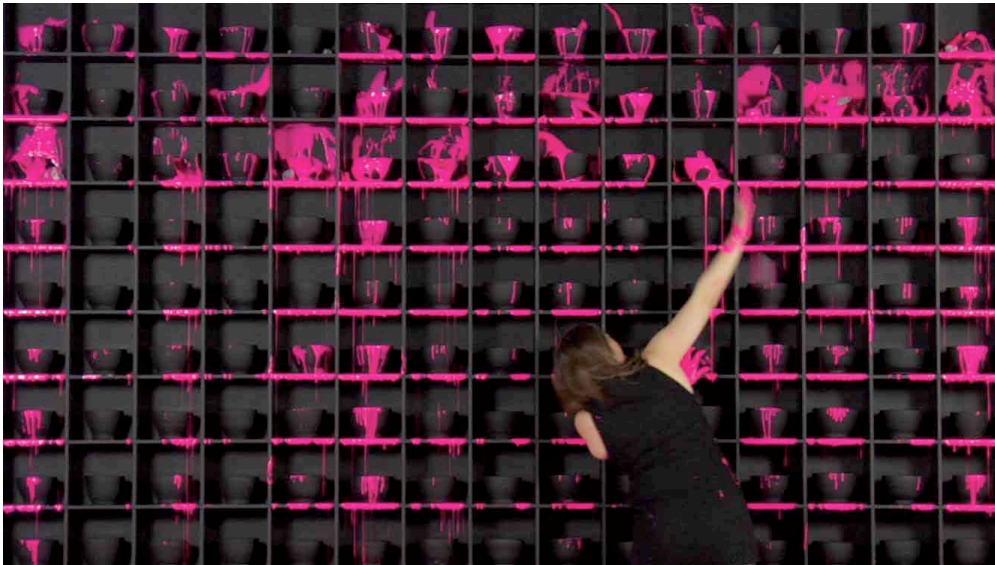


Kate Gilmore: Rock, Hard, Place



Kate Gilmore, *Rock, Hard, Place*, 2012, HD video, 11 min 15 sec.
Courtesy David Castillo Gallery.

David Castillo Gallery - Miami

By Cara Despain

Making reference to and building on the history of modernist and action painting and feminist performance/video art, Kate Gilmore's solo exhibition "Rock, Hard, Place" at David Castillo Gallery incorporates all the facets of her work: performance, video and photography, as well as the sculptural relics that remain post-action.

Simultaneously preoccupied with form and force, Gilmore's work is aimed at construction and destruction, both literally and metaphorically. Using social indicators and behaviors that are assumed to clash (feminine clothing, aggressive wielding of objects) she attempts to subvert and also participate in the dialogue of action-based art and the history of video art and locate the feminine within it. More than spurring additional conversation, her work reinforces and highlights the critique of the male-dominated history of both these spheres. Yet she does not abandon her formal sensibilities. Critique, or simply aesthetic considerations, as well as the stagings, grid, structures, design and palette are crisply

articulated and leave debris that may still function, albeit messily, as a monument.

To see this marker of a performance alongside documentation is significant. It happened here, and therefore happened once-viewing its aftermath means you have participated.