

# NIGHT GALLERY

## ALIKA COOPER

### *Upbraid*

October 9 – November 4, 2012

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She wears a red hair piece of red horse hair. Death drive takes a mate as involuntary violent acts form this peripheral rivalry. Her soft cock is locked down. His abstained desire penetrates the love-object. A gold appliqué provides a conduit to heaven as a sculptured torso bound with rope watches the unfolding.

Night Gallery presents *Upbraid*, an exhibition of new work by Alika Cooper. Working with an array of textiles, Cooper composes fabric pieces on wooden stretchers with the deftness of a painter. Tiny fabric cutouts operate like drawn-in details while thick swatches of material mimic strokes of paint from a large brush. Planes of fabric alternate between depth and flatness depending on whether they can be seen as material collage or rendered space. This back-and-forth between poles is also reflected in the artist's subject matter, which is often sourced from iconic, editorial photographs. Through decoupage, Cooper is able to transform the lucid descriptiveness of her source imagery and turn it into a body of domestic tactility. The illustration of gender becomes less explicit and an amorphous state of power is suggested. Poles go from flaccid to rigid, confused to binary, sado- to maso-chotic to neither and both. This refusal to rest in one fixed state is Cooper's haptic rendering. It is her *Upbraid*.

#### **BIO**

Alika Cooper (b. Guam 1979) received her MFA and BFA from CCA San Francisco in 2006 and 2002 respectively. Cooper has exhibited in the United States and Europe with solo exhibitions at venues such as Eleanor Harwood Gallery, in San Francisco, CA (2011); Hamish Morrison Galerie in Berlin, Germany (2010); and Galleria Studio Legale in Rome, Italy (2007). Other exhibitions include *To Live and Paint in LA* at The Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA (2012); *Holding Onto Something Slippery*, LVL3, Chicago, IL (2012); *On Forgery* at LA><ART, Los Angeles, CA (2012); *Gray Day* at the Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles, CA (2011). Cooper has been written about in *Artforum*, *LA Weekly*, *Notes on Looking*, *Huffington Post*, *The Flog*, *Art Slant*, *Daily Candy*, *SF Weekly*, *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, *The Bay Area Reporter*, *Seattle Weekly*, *Daily Serving*, *Chicago Now*, *In the Make*, and *Argot and Ochre*.

#### **NIGHT GALLERY**

Night Gallery opened in the bright winter of 2010 in the Los Angeles neighborhood known as Lincoln Heights. The space is inspired by the dramatic shift in temperature that the city undergoes each night. With her black walls and late hours Night Gallery is a hot haven for industrious dialogue and has become an essential part of the Los Angeles landscape. Night Gallery has been written about in *Interview Magazine*, *Artforum*, *Artribune*, *LA Weekly*, *LA Confidential*, *Figaro Magazine*, *Flash Art*, *The Art Newspaper*, *Paper Mag*, *KCRW*, *Monocle Magazine*, *New York Observer*, *The Independent*, *Mousse Magazine*, *Departures Magazine*, *CNN.com* and *Angeleno Magazine*.