

Since 1973, a gallery promoting the work of women artists and serving the community through public events

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For Immediate Release:

## LARASSA KABEL

### *Boyfriend*



February 26 – March 23, 2013

Opening Reception: Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm

SOHO20 Chelsea Gallery  
547 W 27<sup>th</sup> St. #301  
NY NY 10001

Above: *Sweaty Betty*, colored pencil on paper, 2010

SOHO20 Chelsea Gallery presents *Boyfriend*, an exhibition of recent drawings by Larassa Kabel. The exhibition runs through March 23<sup>rd</sup>, with an opening reception on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm.

*Boyfriend* is an exhibition, which examines the paradigms of identity, sexuality, pleasure and self-image within which women exist. Kabel's photorealistic drawings feature tightly cropped heads of women in what may be derived as a compromising and submissive position. The figures in Kabel's drawings are silenced and gaze longing at the viewer. The imagery derived from online porn websites originally intended for the male viewer is refigured to focus solely on the eyes of the subject, where we find little emotion registered in their expression. The artist's impeccable skill in drawing and composition create a unique tension in the works that allow the viewer to linger and contemplate the fate of the subjects. Her exquisitely rendered figures reflect the careful examination of these social standards and the tension between power and submission that ensues.

Women watching themselves being watched is a theme throughout the exhibition, seen too in "state fair" and "still life" which deal with cases of extreme augmentation where the body is pushed to, perhaps beyond, its limits in order to satisfy a socially prescribed idea of beauty.

Larassa Kabel was born in 1970 in Mt. Clemens, MI and currently lives and works in Des Moines, IA. Kabel received her BFA with honors from Iowa State University with an emphasis in fibers. She translated the focused, repetitive practice of embroidery and weaving to traditional drawing, painting and printmaking through the high level of craftsmanship of photorealism. The practice of making becomes a meditation on such subjects as gender, love and loss as she methodically builds her surfaces into highly rendered images of women, children and animals in ambiguous states or situations. Her current series, Any Minute Now, is comprised of life size colored pencil drawings of horses falling through space.

Kabel has had solo shows at the PEEL Gallery, Houston, Moberg Gallery, Des Moines, and the Des Moines Art Center. Recent group shows include The Value of Drawing at the Sioux City Art Center, Animal Magnetism at the Anderson Gallery, 101 exhibit in Miami, and Iowa Artists 2010 at the Des Moines Art Center. Kabel is represented by Moberg Gallery, Des Moines, IA and Horsebox Gallery, London. Her work is included in numerous public and private collections including Anna Gaskell, Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Aviva and has been shown around the country. Most recently one of Kabel's paintings was chosen to grace the 2012 White House Christmas card.

For more information please contact the gallery at 212.367.8994 or