

Acts are for Actors at Southfirst
curated by Ana Cardoso
6/10/10 — 7/19/10

Acts are for Actors
10 June - 19 July, 2010

curated by Ana Cardoso

Sonia Almeida, Ana Cardoso, Cleopatra's, Mira Dancy, Alison Fox, Amy Granat, Tamar Halpern,
Jacob Kassay, Anya Kielar, Alison Knowles, Hanna Sandin, Joao Simoes, Alexandre Singh

www.southfirst.org

Cleopatra's Press Release Treasury:
Abstract Painting

Cleopatra's is pleased to present the first excerpt from their burgeoning archive of press releases. These documents represent an unpublished discussion of abstract painting over the past decade. In their most essential form, press releases announce news and aim to attract favorable media attention. A press release provides critics and reporters with the basics they need to develop a news story or review. For the general public or the collector, the press release must also introduce the viewer into a way of reading the art work on view. Perhaps the text identifies what the work is intending to "say" or more importantly what it is decidedly not intending to say. Exhibiting artists, commercial gallerists, curators, and institutions have contributed to the language, description and references aligned in these press releases, often times in collaboration. Cleopatra's is interested in the spirited resilience in the language of "the new". How have exhibition spaces, artists and their contemporaries charted their own linguistic course in the making of their work? How do these documents function as reliable representation beyond the temporality of an exhibition? How can a collective examination of the ideas and motives presented in the gallery handout construct a new analysis or a critique by employing the very tools that are written to define discourse?

The press releases culled on the occasion of Southfirst's Acts are for Actors exhibition are the beginning of a grander collection for which Cleopatra's invites your suggestions. These exhibitions and artists represent nodes of connectivity between Cleopatra's experience and research. Below, please note the names of public exhibitions you believe have contributed to an active, participatory

discussion of abstract painting. We will take those suggestions and seek out the press release in gratitude.

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