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Rosson Crow: Artist To Watch
By Kara Walker-Tomé
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Crow's paintings are big, confident, ambitious and commanding. The subject matter and symbols are derived from the history of the American South, often juxtaposed with ornate interiors alluding to the influence of aristocracy. Imagine the Marlboro Man showing up at Versailles with an animal carcass in one hand and a Pabst Blue Ribbon in the other, the scene painted in an energetic style that would make both an Abstract Expressionist and graffiti artist proud. Now picture this: a blond, slim, 20-something girl attends an opening at an elite gallery wearing a sparkly, sequined, red white and blue cheerleader costume, white cowboy boots and a feathered headpiece, dwarfed by the huge paintings on view, who turns around with a red lipstick smile



when someone call out "Hey Rosson!" Crow is an artist whose theatrical flair matches her work, and the contradictions just described are exactly what make her work so compelling, It is fascinating to observe how a savvy, precocious young woman who grew up in the South internalized the pervasively masculine histories and myths surrounding her, went to top-notch art schools, digested techniques of traditionally male-dominated painting styles, and finally appropriated iconic images from some of the famous men of art history. Reflective of our contemporary times, she samples the visual motifs of Cowboys, Hunters, and Bikers, while borrowing from the iconic artworks of Keith Haring, Ed Ruscha and Jeff Koons, depicting their subject matter in constructed spaces that challenge interior decorative fussiness and architectural formality with vigorously applied brushstrokes and messy, dripping paint. The paintings are exhilarating to look at, as is her deservedly ascending career.

She was born (1982) and raised in Texas, and now lives and works in LA. Crow received her BFA from the School of Visual Arts and MFA from Yale (2006). She is represented by Honor Fraser Gallery (LA), who is offering her second solo show in spring 2012. Past solo exhibitions include Deitch Projects, White Cube, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, and Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, among others.