

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



MICHELLE LOPEZ

LEATHER

April 24 - May 30, 1998

Deitch Projects is pleased to present an exhibition of works on leather by Michelle Lopez. The artist describes her work as "scarring cowhide and embedding memory within its surface." It is a process of incision where the forms are cut with blades, rubbed with dental tools, and then beaten from behind so that "the image swells, existing as lesions."

Lopez draws directly into leather, trying to coax the "essential" to emerge from the residue of familiar forms. She attempts to seamlessly connect these lines and bring an abstracted narrative to clarity through the final form. She distills the uncanny image that never quite reaches recognition.

Lopez searches out the largest hides available and embeds images with a delicacy that brings to mind the caressing of human skin. The leather begins to bear an uneasy resemblance to flesh. The works reveal the artist's touch in an intimate way that is more reminiscent of drawing than painting or sculptural relief. The embossed imagery rolls into itself and appears to grow organically. It seems to emerge from the cowhide rather than being imposed onto it. Much of it seems vaguely familiar, but the forms are only implied, never fully realized.

Michelle Lopez was born in 1970. She received degrees in literature and art history from Columbia University in 1992 and a MFA from the School of Visual Arts in 1994. She has been exhibiting her work in New York since 1996. This is her first exhibition at Deitch Projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ELIZABETH IARRAPINO AT DEITCH PROJECTS

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12-6