

# The Boston Globe



## Paintings make the domestic daring

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### Embroidered tales

Nava Lubelski has something in common with Kelly Spalding, in that she uses stained cloths as the fields for her works, now up at O'H+T Gallery. Lubelski takes needle and thread to these cloths, highlighting stains and smears with bright embroidery, reclaiming the soiled as something beautiful. Like Spalding, she creates a lovely melding of feminine domestic media with the more traditionally masculine realm of abstract painting.

Her works are like vivid, stuttering topographical maps, with stitches gathering in a healing way around the dark stains. It's a disappointment to learn that Lubelski doesn't use discarded cloths, but stains them herself. It lessens the sense of reclamation. Even so, her mastery of color and gesture makes these works beautiful.