









glove story

THIS ARTIST LETS HER FINGERS DO THE TALKING

ELLEN GREENE IS OK with being known as the glove lady—after all, she's been painting vivid, subversive imagery on vintage leather mitts since the '90s. The 36-year-old Chicago-based artist, who collects leather gloves while thrifting, sees them as soft, retro symbols of feminine chastity and formality. "[A lady] could never really touch something with her actual hand if she was wearing gloves," Greene says. A heavily inked woman, she explores the gloves' repressive implications by adorning them with her spin on classic tattoo iconography. The resulting images include traditional, naked female sex objects, but with incongruous heads (think panthers, devils) or a few extra pairs of breasts. Greene is also a mother of two, and likes to incorporate gnarly feminine experiences like childbirth and childrearing into her work. Take her piece "Scar Belt Momma" for instance: an antique-white pair of gloves features a naked woman's body with the head of a tiger, a banner coming out of the woman's vagina says "I love you," and "Scar Belt" (which evokes the after effect of a C-section) is spelled out in classic lettering across the knuckles. "The experience of being transformed and changing as a woman is a lot darker than what you're allowed to choose to fit into," she says. And though she focuses on personal narratives while creating, she also thinks of the gloves' past wearers. "Sometimes you can look at the individual pairs of gloves and imagine that maybe some of these not-so-pretty realities were the realities of the women who wore these gloves, too," she says. Greene's gorgeous gloves are strictly for display, though she says wearable ones are forthcoming. See her body of work at artbyellengreene.com [ALISON BAITZ]

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ELLEN GREENE

test kitchen THEIR PRODUCTS, OUR INTERNS

Purple Prairie Botanicals Lavender Facial Toner Mist, \$8.99, purpleprairie.com		 <p>CANDICE:</p> <p>Yes! A product that didn't make me break out into a million bumps and blackheads. I used this toner in the morning and at night and saw improvement. It didn't smell bad and it didn't completely dry out my skin.</p>	 <p>ERINA:</p> <p>I love lavender-scented things. This toner felt cool and refreshing on my face after a long, hot shower. I don't think it did too much for my skin, but the fragrance alone is worth an extra spritz.</p>	 <p>CASEY:</p> <p>This toner's fresh lavender aroma was lovely. When I used it after washing my face it took off the remaining dirt, leaving my skin feeling very clean.</p>
Priti NYC Soy Polish Remover, \$11.25, pritynyc.com		<p>This made my fingernails smell like lemon—way better than acetone any day. It's made with oil so it didn't dry out my nails. Also, polish came off way easier with this than it does with traditional remover.</p>	<p>Thank goodness for this soy-based remover! It took off old polish just as well as its toxic counterpart, and the lemongrass scent is a huge plus. A good investment for eco-manicure addicts.</p>	<p>Finally, a nail polish remover that didn't smell like alcohol and chemicals! This product took the polish off and left my fingernails a little oily and lemon-scented.</p>
Benefit They're Real! Mascara, \$22, benefitcosmetics.com		<p>I don't have the thickest lashes but with this mascara I can pretend I do. It also made them appear longer so I could bat my peepers like a boss. It was a little hard to remove, but nothing too serious.</p>	<p>I'm not normally a mascara girl, but I can tell this one's a winner. Even with my teary eyes, it stayed put all day and I didn't have to worry about smudging. The wand is spiky, so careful if you're a novice like me.</p>	<p>Normally I spend three minutes or less applying eye makeup, and I'm not a mascara fan. But this one had a nice, short-bristle brush that glided clump-free onto my lashes, which still looked lengthy at the end of the day.</p>