

## Exhibition Detail

**Tomás Ochoa**  
**VIRUS**

**Katz Contemporary**  
Talstrasse 83  
CH  
8001 Zurich  
Switzerland  
Switzerland

Friday 28th August - Saturday 17th October

Opening:  
Thursday 27th August 17:00 - 20:00



Tomás Ochoa, *Eorokaryote I*,  
2009, mixed media on canvas, diptych, 150x100cm (each)  
© Courtesy KATZ CONTEMPORARY, Zurich



## > QUICK FACTS

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PHONE: +41 44 212 22 00  
OPEN Tue - Fri 11am - 6pm; Sat 12pm - 4pm or by  
HOURS: appointment  
TAGS: photography, video-art



## > DESCRIPTION

KATZ CONTEMPORARY is pleased to present the solo exhibition "VIRUS" of the Ecuadorian artist Tomás Ochoa (\*1965).

Science finds viruses within the mysterious border between the living and the inert; the virus may be the organic component that defines this border. In his body of work "VIRUS", which has given its name to the exhibition, Tomás Ochoa investigates the poetic and metaphoric possibilities of this so-called border. Using a complex technique combining painting, photography and digital procedures of iteration on canvas, he analyses the basic processes of microorganisms -such as their interaction and space disposition- and proposes analogies to human beings. This leads him to see individuals, once observed from above, as a mass of biological organisms or as Multitude ("Eukaryote I", 2009).

For the artist, the concept of Multitude has a double meaning: on one hand, it is a concentration of people who interact in a specific atmosphere, guided by cultural agreements, but also -like viruses- are determined by their genetic information. On the other hand, it can be understood in a political sense as defined by the philosopher Paulo Virno (\*1952): "The Multitude consists of a net of individuals; the many are singularities."

Observing the individual from a distant point of view also plays a central role in "After Hitchcock- Microrelatos". To film "Rear Window" (1954) Alfred Hitchcock had to use an artificial setting, although he always wished that his movie could have been shot in a natural location. Today, reality seems to be based on an enormous architectural setting in which the society unfolds and shines.

Through a series of photographs and videos, Tomás Ochoa makes reference to this paradox. The pictures, taken in various cities, do not aim to show the beauty of the buildings, but rather the people working inside of them. It is the artist's voyeuristic view that converts the capturing of these featureless scenes - executives, clerical workers and cleaning ladies in their tasks - into micro narratives. At this point, Ochoa starts to imagine, as in "Rear Window", scenes of a secret passion or a crime about to be committed. According to the artist, if Hitchcock had to film his movie today, he certainly wouldn't need an "artificial setting" anymore.

Tomás Ochoa (born in 1965 in Cuenca, Ecuador) won a scholarship to study Visual Arts at UNAM in Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) and before, studied Language and Literature at the Cuenca University. His work has been shown at numerous international events as for example: the Venice Biennial, 2003 (Italy), the Singapore Biennial, 2006 (Singapore), LA Freewaves Biennial Film Festival, 2006 (USA). In 2009 Tomás Ochoa takes part in the Dojima River Biennial in Osaka, curated by Fumio Nanjo. He was invited to the travelling exhibition Madrid Mirada, which first opened at the Circulo de Bellas Artes in Madrid, 2008-2009 (Spain) or to the Expanded Box at the ARCO Madrid (2008). Ochoa was as well part of the travelling exhibition Políticas de la Diferencia (Politics of Difference, 2001) curated by Kevin Power. He won the Marcelino Botín Award in 2004/2005 (Spain) as well as in 2000 the first prize at Fundación de Guayaquil, Salón de Julio in Guayaquil the most important price in Ecuador. In 2001 he teamed up with Andriana Meyer to work on various video installations. He currently lives

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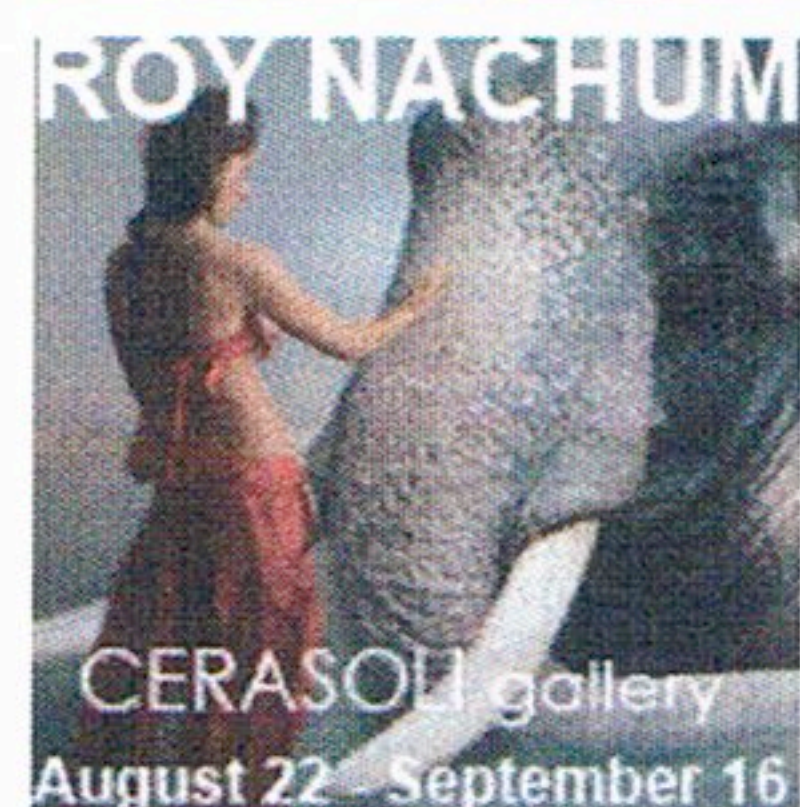
LILI M. LASZLO



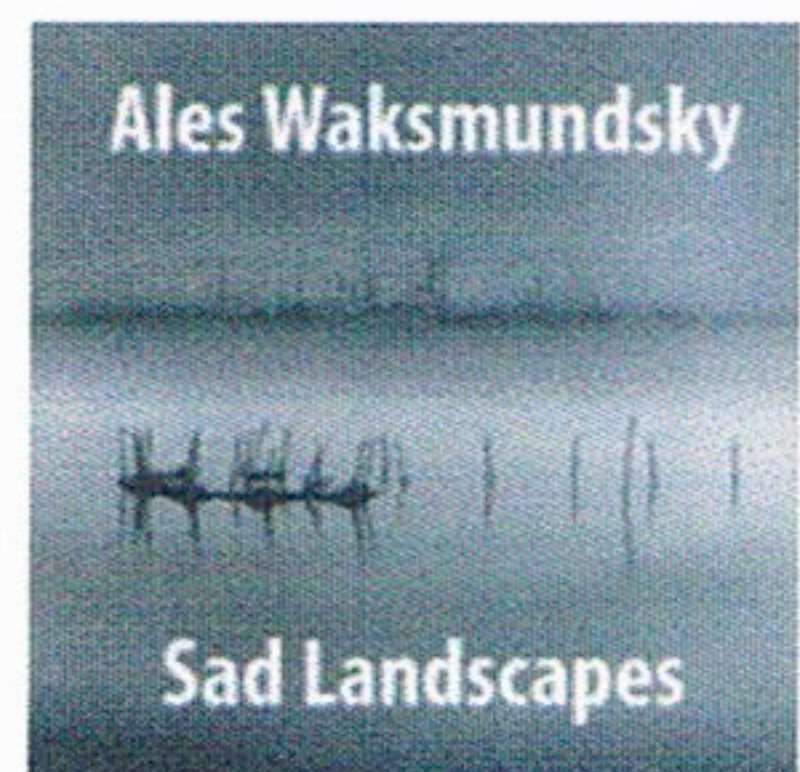
Rania Emmanouel



KATHERINE  
PETITTI KORNEL

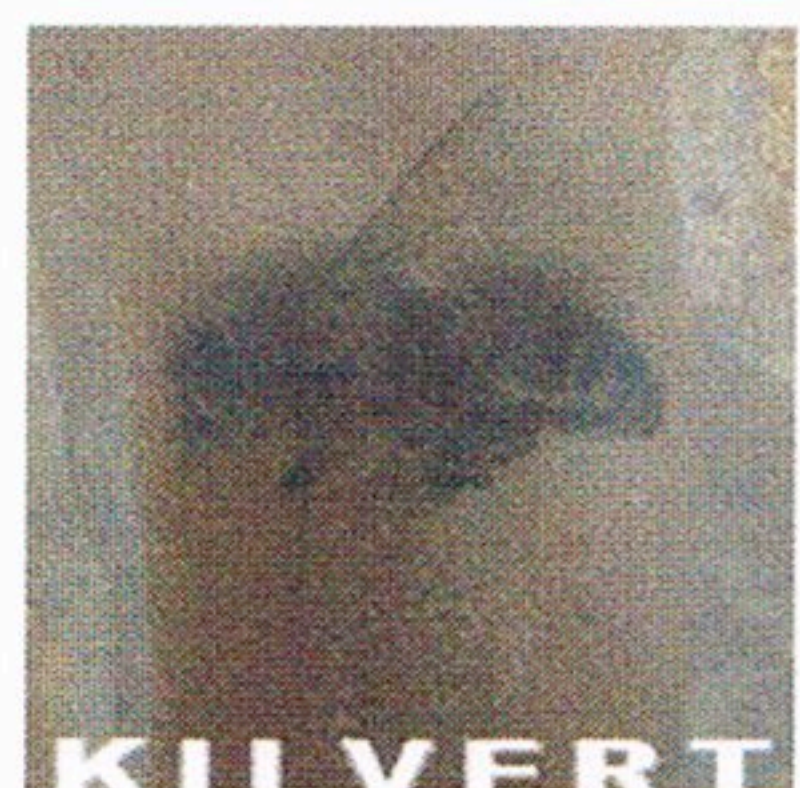


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Ales Waksmundsky

Sad Landscapes



KILVERT

