

Zurich, Summer 2009

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 and works in Madrid and Zurich.

Opening reception 27 August 2009, 5 pm - 8 pm

Exhibition **Tomás Ochoa: VIRUS**, 27 August – 17 October 2009

Opening hours: Tue – Fri 11 am – 6 pm, Sat 12 pm – 16 pm, or by appointment

Events:

Screening

A selection of video works by **Tomás Ochoa**
23 September 2009, 6:30 pm

Art Lunch: ART & NOODLES

We are pleased to invite you to a **guided tour** through the current exhibition, following a **noodle lunch** (menu 25.- CHF).

Friday 18 / Saturday 19 September 2009, 12 pm (Registrations until Thursday 17 September)
Friday 16 / Saturday 17 October 2009, 12 pm (Registrations until Thursday 15 October)