



MIKA ROTTENBERG DOUGH

Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery is pleased to present *Dough*, a solo exhibition of videos, sculptures and drawings by Mika Rottenberg. The exhibition is on view from January 27th to February 25th, 2006, with a reception on Friday, January 27th, from 6 to 8 p.m.

"Bodies, at once repulsive and sensual, larger-than-life and ever-so-ordinary, are vital to factories: their products appropriated; their shapes subsumed; their excretions packaged; their quirks put to work. Here is where the freakshow meets the sweatshop. Factories take on the features of cages and kitchens, their technology at once whimsical and industrial. A pinwheel spins. Dough rises. A bicycle chain ferries fingernails. Sweat is shrink-wrapped. Virginity is conveyed along belts. An allergic reaction becomes a force of production.

There is materialism and anti-materialism. On the one hand, factories are designed to the minute specification of material substance: dough is subject to entropy and gravity, yeast is subject to oxygen and heat, value is subject to demand and supply, and bodies are subject to growth and decay. While on the other hand, causal processes violate expectations of space and time: sweat drips too slowly to collect in that quantity; dough is too thick to stretch that far; bodies are too fragile to sit so stooped; life is too short to labor that long.

There is at once a contraction and expansion of human capability. Persons, though full-blooded and able-bodied, have their degrees of freedom constrained to a single plane. Twist, pull, peddle, shove. Squeeze, blow, wipe, crinkle. Yet, their seemingly useless properties are finally utilized; their seemingly monstrous attributes are finally actualized. A sneeze is harnessed. Double-joints are welded. Gender becomes a motive force. Gigantism is yoked. Obesity is deployed. Ethnicity provides traction.

In an economic climate evermore set on circulation-based theories of value, Mika Rottenberg's videos and drawings emphasizes the centrality of labor. In a political climate evermore set on delocalization, these works brings otherwise disparate processes into a single frame of view. And in a social climate evermore set on fragmentation and depersonalization, Rottenberg's work emphasizes whole persons and unique personalities." —Paul Kockelman

Mika Rottenberg received her MFA from Columbia University in 2004. She lives and works in New York City. In 2005, her video installation *Tropical Breeze* was included in *Greater New York* at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center. *Mary's Cherries* (video installation, 2004) was included in *New Works/New Acquisitions* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York and *Dough (Oslo version)* was included in *Uncertain States of America* at the Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art in Oslo. Ms. Rottenberg's video installations are part of the Guggenheim Museum and The Museum of Modern Art collections, both in New York, as well as the Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art in Oslo. This will be her first solo show in New York.

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Dough was realized with the help of Paul Ruest of The Argot Network.com with sound design and sound installation, Kartin Altecamp with special effects and Ann T. Rossetti with videography.

Special thanks goes to Ms. Julia Stoschek.

Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery is located at 526 West 26th Street, No. 213, in New York City. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, or by appointment. To find out more about this exhibition or to see more images, please email gallery@nicoleklagsbrun.com or call 212.243.3335.