



MAKE IT BIG: MIKA ROTTENBERG

Having unnerved and delighted New Yorkers earlier this year, thirty-year-old Argentinean-born artist Mika Rottenberg's *Dough* (2005-6) slithers its way to Europe, showing at the KW Institute For Contemporary Art in Berlin and London's Serpentine Gallery. A mixture of video and installation, *Dough* depicts a surreal sweatshop, at the centre of which is an enormous woman whose job it is to guide sticky dough from a hole in the ceiling to another in the floor. Underneath, other women intercept and package the dough; meanwhile, the large woman's tears, triggered by an allergy to the flowers around her cause the dough to rise. The viewer watches the video in a box nearly as claustrophobic as the nightmare environment on screen and, on the way out you pass a square of linoleum on which tears fall and evaporate.

Mika Rottenberg, still from *Dough*, 2005-6, video sculpture, 7min
Dimensions variable, edition of five. Courtesy the artist and
Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, New York

It's all queasily suggestive of everything from the exploitation of labour and women's bodies by globalised capitalism, to the artistic process itself, and its sinisterly tacky atmosphere (literally tacky, in the case of the dough) will smear itself over your consciousness. Rottenberg also became the first recipient of The Cartier Award this April, and will showcase the resulting new work at the Frieze Art Fair as part of Frieze commissions.
Alex Needham

DOUGH WILL BE SHOWING
AS PART OF UNCERTAIN
STATES OF AMERICA AT
THE SERPENTINE, LONDON
UNTIL 15 OCTOBER WWW.
SERPENTINEGALLERY.ORG
AND AT KW GALLERY, BERLIN
UNTIL NOVEMBER 12
WWW.KW-BERLIN.DE