



**The Kowalsky Gallery at DACS  
Press Release  
1 June 2010**

**Raul Ortega Ayala  
Extra-Extra  
16 June – 31 July 2010**

**This exhibition is the first in a new series at The Kowalsky Gallery where international artists select fellow artists for exhibition. Raul Ortega Ayala who lives and works in Mexico City was selected by Francis Alÿs.**

Raul Ortega Ayala's work comes out of his research into different activities such as cooking, gardening, office work. Assuming the role of 'participant observer', the artist immerses himself in these environments for extended periods of time at the end of which he produces 'souvenirs' and 'field-notes' that offer a response to the subject researched.

The first series entitled 'Bureaucratic Sonata' followed Ortega Ayala's immersion into the world of office work which he investigated for a year, culminating in a series of works featuring post-it notes, liquid paper, envelopes and chairs based on his reflections of the corporate world.

The second series 'An Ethnography of Gardening' arose from the artist's work as a gardener in London over a period of two years and uses plants, grafting techniques and botanical painting as their inspiration.

The third series 'Food for Thought' is an ongoing project that explores food as something more than physical sustenance. Courses in cookery and butchery in Mexico, London and New York have resulted in works that use video, performance and installation works.

The exhibition takes its title from Ortega Ayala's ongoing project 'Extra-Extra' in which he takes roles as an extra in films, soap operas, shows and advertisements as a way of reflecting on his practice as an artist intervening in different milieus. Concerned with questions of change, uncertainty and difference, Ortega Ayala's work speaks poignantly to the times we live in.

#### **Exhibition details**

**Opening times:** Monday–Friday 10am–5pm

Saturday 11am–4pm

Thursday 1 July 10am–9pm

**Venue:** The Kowalsky Gallery at DACS

33 Great Sutton Street, London, EC1V 0DX.

**Contact:** 020 7336 8811 / [info@dacs.org.uk](mailto:info@dacs.org.uk) / [www.dacs.org.uk](http://www.dacs.org.uk)

**Nearest Tube:** Barbican / Farringdon

**For images and further information please contact:** Joanne Milmo at DACS on 020 7553 9064 or [joanne@dacs.org.uk](mailto:joanne@dacs.org.uk).

**END**

**Notes to editor:**

The Kowalsky Gallery at DACS opened in autumn 2006 with an exhibition to celebrate the life and work of DACS founding artist Elaine Kowalsky (1948-2005). Today the exhibition programme includes contributions from emerging and established artists, international artists and site-specific works. A regular series of talks and performances engage the wider public in a debate about the role of artists in contemporary society and culture. The Kowalsky Gallery is located at DACS, London. The exhibition was curated by Gilane Tawadros in collaboration with the artist and is in partnership with ROKEBY, London and sponsored by 'Cognite'.

Established by artists for artists, DACS (the Design and Artists Copyright Society) is the UK's leading visual arts rights management organisation. As a not for profit organisation, DACS translates rights into revenues and recognition for a wide spectrum of visual artists. DACS exists to generate and distribute money to artists, which in turn, helps to sustain their practice and livelihood.

Visit [www.dacs.org.uk](http://www.dacs.org.uk) for more information about DACS and its services