

About Francis Alÿs

Francis Alÿs was born in Antwerp, Belgium, in 1959, and trained as an architect, studying both in his native country and in Venice, Italy. In 1986, he moved to the Centro Histórico of Mexico City, and within a few years he had left the field of architecture for a broader-based visual arts practice. Along with Gabriel Orozco and Damien Ortega, Alÿs is one of the key members of a generation of Mexico City-based artists who emerged in the 1990s and have won world-wide acclaim.

Alÿs was first known primarily for paintings made in collaboration with local sign painters from his neighborhood that questioned ideas of authenticity and replication. Since then he has become a highly regarded video artist, photographer, and orchestrator of performative events. He also continues to paint and draw extensively.

Alÿs's work has been the subject of numerous one-man exhibitions in Europe and Latin America, but in the United States his work has been shown only in group exhibitions and in a handful of projects, most notably *The Modern Procession* (2002) at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. In *Francis Alÿs: Politics of Rehearsal*, the Hammer will for the first time bring works from across Alÿs's career and in a range of mediums to a broader museum audience.

Solo Exhibitions

Since 1991, Alÿs's work has been displayed in museums and galleries across Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America, including the National Portrait Gallery, London; Centro nazionale per le arti contemporanee, Rome; Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; MALBA, Buenos Aires; and Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City. In the United States, his work has been exhibited in the contemporary projects series of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford.

Group Exhibitions

Since 1991, Alÿs has also participated in more than 100 group exhibitions at such venues as the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Musée d'Art moderne, Paris; the Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin and the Guggenheim Bilbao; the Contemporary Art Center, Brussels, Belgium; the Burgundy FRAC, Burgundy, France; the Museo Universitario de Ciencias y Arte, Mexico City; and Tate Modern, London. His projects have been included in numerous biennials, including La Biennale di Venezia, 2007, Venice; PERFORMA 05, the First Biennial of New Visual Art Performance, New York, 2005; the 14th Biennale of Sydney, 2004; the Fourth Bienal de Mercosur, Brazil, 2003; the 3 Bienal Iberoamericana de Lima, Peru, 2002; and the Shanghai Biennale 2002.