

Lena Marie Emrich
I left the window open for you
27.06.2026–11.10.2026
Kunsthalle Osnabrück
Curated by Nina Diel

Text: Nina Diel and Lena Marie Emrich

In “I left the window open for you” at Kunsthalle Osnabrück, set in the cloister of a former monastery, the corridor no longer appears as a mere passage, but as a space that disrupts orientation. Emrich has developed a new ensemble of kinetic sculptures and altered spatial conditions.

Inscribed in bronze-coloured light, “Traversing Poem” (2026) moves across twelve window bays, its shadows travelling over the tiled floor and shifting throughout the day. Mirrored mobiles approach balance not as a state, but as a continuous process of adjustment.

As the corridor opens into the side wings, “Rowing laughter crawling down the spine”, (2026) appears in two gently moving mobiles that reflect their surroundings. One consists of laughing mouths in mirror and faux marble. The work draws on Nuar Alsadir’s “Animal Joy”. Laughter appears not as a light gesture or humorous surface, but as a bodily impulse that slips beyond control, resisting a culture in which presence is increasingly mediated, numbed and held at a distance.

The second mobile takes the form of a curved spine rendered entirely in mirror. Light breaks across its surface and is thrown back into the corridor and across passing bodies. Its title plays on the German “Rückgrat”, composed of “Rücken” (back) and “Grat” (ridge). The spine becomes a line that holds and carries the body. Here, that line is curved and set in motion: less a functioning system than a sensitive structure.

In “Reversed View”, (2026) a window grille normally positioned on the exterior of a building is relocated inside. Removed from its original function, the grille makes protection visible as both barrier and threshold. At its centre, a marble-like inlay shows a woman turning slightly towards the viewer, her skin and ribs appearing to peel away. A bronze mirror occupies the opening in the body, returning the viewer’s own reflection.

After all, the mirror gets the last look.

Worklist

Picture: 1-4
Lena Marie Emrich
Reversed View, 2026
Sculpture made of steel, Natural
Acrylic Stone, and bronze mirror
106 x 280 cm

Picture: 5-8
Lena Marie Emrich
Traversing Poem, 2026
Installation on 12 windows:
Poem and frame elements made of MDF;
fabric made of polyester and copper thread
Dimensions Variable

Picture: 9-11
Lena Marie Emrich
Rowing laughter crawling down
the spine, 2026
Mirror on Dibond, Natural Acrylic Stone
150 x 180 x 3 cm

Picture: 12-14
Lena Marie Emrich
Rückgrat, 2026
Mirror on Dibond, steel
160 x 90 x 100 cm

Picture: 15-17
Lena Marie Emrich
Life-Death-Life Balance, 2026
Six-part wall piece made of natural acrylic stone, bronze mirrors, cherry wood, and fabric.
Each 63 x 13 cm

Picture: 18
Lena Marie Emrich
Muscular Hope (Out of the Hesitation Series), 2026
Photo Film, Frosted Film in champagne shade
197 x 168 cm