

The Sum of Silence

Aslan Goisum

18 March – 22 April 2023

Emalin is pleased to present *The Sum of Silence*, a solo exhibition by Aslan Goisum (b. 1991 in Grozny, Chechnya, and lives in Grozny and Berlin). Seeking to convey experiences of existence without reducing them to stories, Goisum searches for modes of articulation that avoid reproducing hegemonies. To this end, he has used moving image, installation, sculpture and various kinds of works involving paper.

The Sum of Silence features four structures in welded steel from the series *Object* (2022). To some, they may invoke the kind of low fencing that can be found in cemeteries across the Eurasian Inland Empire – and yet, they are abstractions. The video titled *Touch* (2022) marks a new openness to bodily experience in Goisum's practice and, alongside *Object*, forms part of a wider meditation on transience and coercive power. The hind wall of the gallery is lined with 31 sculptural objects from the series *Spear* (2023). Now wrapped in paper, almond-shaped incisions have been neatly cut into the densely printed words, no longer legible. Much like the architecture of *Object*, the gestures across *Spear* enact the traces of life and its extinction.

The post-Soviet memory has left strange objects in the landscapes of its wake: forms of ritual, dispossessed. Speech, architecture and ritual are marked by patterns and rhythms of repetition, and they have a way of implicating objects in their intrigue. In philosophy, speech act theory tells of events that happen by way of utterance: a promise, a decision, a lie. Yet sometimes the only available speech is not the thing itself but something next to it. Speech, like architecture, can be structured by these absences: cut-outs, negative spaces, silences. In Goisum's practice, what is said and built and performed resonates with what has been left unsaid and unformed, remaining in a state of pre-articulation, still on the tip of the tongue.

With thanks to P/////AKT, Amsterdam.

LIST OF WORKS

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| <p>1. Aslan Goisum
<i>Touch</i>, 2022
single-channel HD video, colour, sound
on 15", 4:3 screen
duration: 00:47</p> | <p>4. Aslan Goisum
<i>Object #7</i>, 2022
welded and powder coated steel
262 × 158 × 136 cm
103 1/8 × 62 1/4 × 53 1/2 inches</p> |
| <p>2. Aslan Goisum
<i>Object #5</i>, 2022
welded and powder coated steel
235 × 191 × 130 cm
92½ × 75¼ × 51⅝ inches</p> | <p>5. Aslan Goisum
<i>Object #3</i>, 2022
welded and powder coated steel
214 × 167 × 100 cm
84 1/4 × 65 3/4 × 39 3/8 inches</p> |
| <p>3. Aslan Goisum
<i>Object #2</i>, 2022
welded and powder coated steel
180 × 180 × 139 cm
70⅞ × 70⅞ × 54¾ inches</p> | <p>6 - 36. Aslan Goisum
<i>Spear</i>, 2023
books, mixed media
dimensions variable</p> |

Aslan Goisum (b. 1991 in Grozny, Chechnya) lives and works in Grozny and Berlin. He graduated from Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam in 2019. Solo exhibitions include *Our memories are quite similar but pickled alive in a poison which accompanies objects too as part of this emptiness*, P/////AKT, Amsterdam, NL (2022); *If No One Asks*, CAG Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, CA (2019); *Dark Shelters*, Le CAP Saint-Fons, Lyon, FR (2018); *Crystals and Shards*, Kohta Kunsthalle, Helsinki, FI (2018); *All That You See Here, Forget*, Emalin, London, UK (2018); and *People of No Consequence*, M HKA Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp, BE (2016). Goisum's work has been included in group exhibitions at steirischer herbst, Graz, AT (2022); PARCUM, Leuven, BE (2022); KINDL, Berlin, DE (2020); Latvia National Museum of Art, Riga, LV (2020); Hamburger Kunsthalle, DE (2020); NS Dokumentationszentrum München, DE (2019); Liverpool Biennial, UK (2018); RIBOCA1, 1st Riga Biennial, LV (2018); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL (2017); and Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, AT (2017).

