

**Ben Werther - When you can no longer speak, sing me a song.**

May 30th - July 7th, 2024

Reception: May 30th, 2024, 6-9 pm

No Gallery - 105 Henry St. #4 NYC NY 10002

The photographs on view in Ben Werther's "When you can no longer speak, sing me a song" may look like journalistic dispatches from the frontlines of a conflict, but they are not. Though they borrow the visual language of objective reporting – or maybe something closer to a mockumentary or found footage horror film– they are first person POV photos made by the artist whilst participating in a Military Simulation game known as MilSim.

Unlike war reenactments, MilSim is Live Action Role Play, or LARP, with no empirical record of history acting as a guideline for the action. It is a world made and unmade in real time, its creation continuous and predicated entirely on the player's fantasies, memories, media references, and personal conceptions of violence. Werther acted as both an active participant in, and documentarian of, these multi-day events over the course of 3 years. The culmination of this devotional and fully immersive practice are the works presented in his solo "When you can no longer speak, sing me a song".

This is Werther's first time exhibiting with No Gallery and is in collaboration with Amanita, NYC.

Ben Werther (b. 1998 Nashville, Tennessee) received his BFA from Cooper Union in 2020. An impulsive collector from a young age, his practice often employs collections of found materials which he recontextualizes as social artifacts. Ben Werther is represented by Amanita, NYC.

No Gallery is an ambiguously commercial gallery space established in 2019, located in the lowest of the Lower East Side, Manhattan. Founded with the intention of curating exhibitions capable of pushing the boundaries of contemporary programming, No presents works dedicated to a nuanced exploration of extant social, personal and cultural paradigms.



Ben Werther - "A little earth between different stars", 2023 - dye sublimation print on aluminum - edition of 3 w/ 2 ap - 11 x 8 x 1.5 in