

Evidence

Aslan Goisum & Peng Zuqiang

18 January – 15 February 2025

CONDO London: Emalin hosting Antenna Space, Shanghai

Emalin is pleased to present *Evidence*, an exhibition of works by Aslan Goisum (b. 1991 in Grozny, Chechnya; lives and works in Berlin) and Peng Zuqiang (b. 1992 in Changsha, China; lives and works in Paris and Amsterdam), organised with Antenna Space, Shanghai.

The exhibition brings together two artists who use image as a medium – moving image and still image, image caught with a phone camera or film alone without any camera at all. Their works comprise scenes that have been staged or found, restaged again or improvised, accompanied by empty space or pierced through with its light. Both artists deal with the notion of affect and subjectivity – that is to say, for example, what is understood as true feeling and whose experience of the self is understood to be genuine. Our recognition of subjecthood in others is muddled with history and interpretations that we carry with us and project onto what we see – Goisum and Peng create works that reflect and refract these assumptions with oblique image-making strategies, either letting slippages of light in or closing down to render them almost completely opaque.

Peng Zuqiang makes film, video, and installations with an attention to the affective meanings within histories, bodies, and language. In *Evidence*, he presents two installations – *Autocorrects* and *Déjà Vu* (both 2023) – that stem from one body of research conducted in the wake of China's political upheaval of 2022. In *Déjà Vu*, the gravity of the crisis led Peng to hesitate on the possible aims of filmmaking: in questioning the tools of film, he arrived at the use of cameraless imagemaking, accompanied by text, sound, and a small sculpture that triangulate a meditation on the continuity of violence. The artist exposed 30 meters of metal wire used in emergency services and rescue operations directly onto 30 meters of negative film. The resulting one-to-one photogram is projected out through the gallery window, rendering the mechanism visible simultaneously inside and outside of the building. In *Autocorrects*, a video installation that plays with the format of a pop music video shows this projection of violence as internalised by the subject who forms a language that struggles to differentiate between a 'U' and an 'I'.

Aslan Goisum presents a new body of work developed alongside his upcoming solo exhibition at KINDL Centre for Contemporary Art in Berlin. The series of photographs combines different tools of image-making, from the immediacy of shooting on a phone to the more involved process of studio photography, but

the material process they have been through – printing, framing, displaying – collapses any of these distinctions. Each image puts forward a single subject: a person's face, light tearing through the fabric of a T-shirt or the blank surface of a metal panel on a wall. To an extent, they are mute – most questions one may pose to them remain unanswered. There is an extent, however, to which they do speak and this contested space of our interpretation and the agency of images, like an architectural crevice through which the light slips, is the site where Goisum articulates his works.

A shared concern between both artists is the opacity of subjects and objects – at points where language fails and where history creates too much of a burden, they question how much one can understand the other, and whether an object can provide better access to this understanding. This concern can be traced in their works through interactions with light and with the materiality of image-making: one subject cutting out or covering up the other, one sound overwhelming the voice of another. Assumptions that we make and feelings we repress form obstacles in their images, like physical structures that block out light and shape its projections.

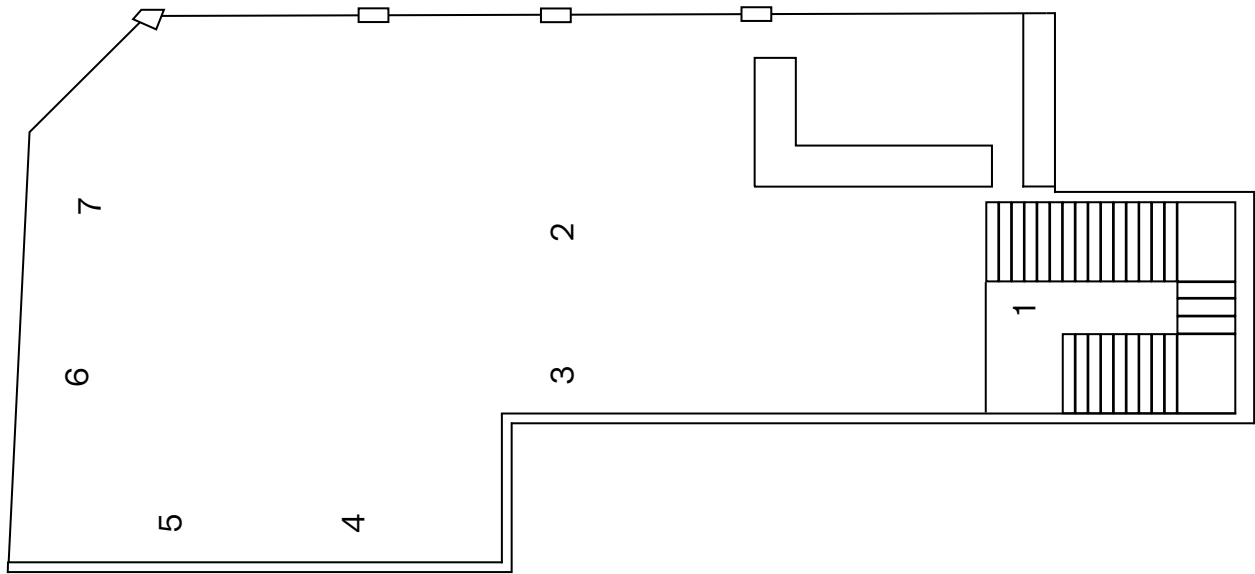
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Aslan Goisum graduated from the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam in 2019. Recent solo exhibitions have been held at Lunds Konsthall, Lund, Sweden (2024); Emalin, London (2023); P/////AKT, Amsterdam, NL (2022); Bury Art Museum, UK (2019); CAG Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, CA (2019); Le CAP Saint-Fons, Lyon, FR (2018); Kohta Kunsthalle, Helsinki, Finland (2018); and M HKA Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp, BE (2016). Goisum's work has been included in group exhibitions at Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, DE (2023); steirischerherbst, Graz, AT (2022); PARCUM, Leuven, BE (2022); Latvia National Museum of Art, Riga, LV (2020); Hamburger Kunsthalle, DE (2020); NS Dokumentationszentrum München, DE (2019); Liverpool Biennial, UK (2018); 1st Riga Biennale, LV (2018); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL (2017); and Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, AT (2017). His upcoming solo exhibition will open at KINDL, Berlin in 2025.

Peng Zuqiang graduated from the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam in 2024, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2017 and Goldsmiths, University of London in 2014. Solo exhibitions and screenings have been held at Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, Italy (2023); Kunstverein Kevin Space, Vienna, Austria (2023); e-flux screening room, New York, US (2022); Cell Project Space, London (2022); and Antenna Space, Shanghai (2021). Selected screenings and group exhibitions have been held at UCCA Beijing (2024); Times Museum, Guangzhou (2024); 22nd Biennial Sesc_Videobrasil, São Paulo (2023); The Physics Room, Christchurch (2023); CCA Berlin (2023); Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, Hawick, UK (2022); Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Germany (2022); OCAT x KADIST Emerging Media Artist Program, OCAT, Shanghai (2022); Macalline Art Center (MACA), Beijing (2022); Times Art Center, Berlin (2021); and the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (2020). His upcoming solo exhibitions will open at The Common Guild, Glasgow and the Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai, both in 2025.

EMALIN

1 Holywell Lane
London EC2A 3ET
www.emalin.co.uk



LIST OF WORKS

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|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Peng Zuqiang
<i>Autocorrects</i> , 2023
three-channel video installation,
16mm film transferred to HD
duration: 03:03 min | 6 | Aslan Goisum
<i>Move #1</i> , 2025
inkjet print,
custom aluminium frame
61.4 x 47.4 cm (framed)
24 1/8 x 18 5/8 inches |
| 2 | Peng Zuqiang
<i>Déjà Vu</i> , 2023
16mm film, sound, clay, iron oxide
duration: 02:45 min
installation dimensions variable | 7 | Aslan Goisum
<i>Panel</i> , 2025
silver gelatin print,
custom aluminium frame
76.4 x 58 cm (framed)
30 1/8 x 22 7/8 inches |
| 3 | Peng Zuqiang
<i>Untitled (Deja vu, fragment #1)</i> , 2023
film negative transferred to porcelain sheet
with emulsion, artist-made frame
32.5 x 25.8 cm (framed)
12 3/4 x 10 1/8 inches | | |
| 4 | Aslan Goisum
<i>Portrait</i> , 2025
silver gelatin print,
custom aluminium frame
31.3 x 45 cm (framed)
12 3/8 x 17 3/4 inches | | |
| 5 | Aslan Goisum
<i>T-shirt</i> , 2025
silver gelatin print,
custom aluminium frame
each 52 x 39.2 (framed)
20 1/2 x 15 5/8 inches | | |