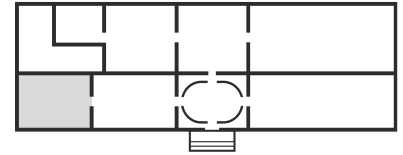


*Everything Is So Alive!*  
23 Jan — 30 Mar 2025



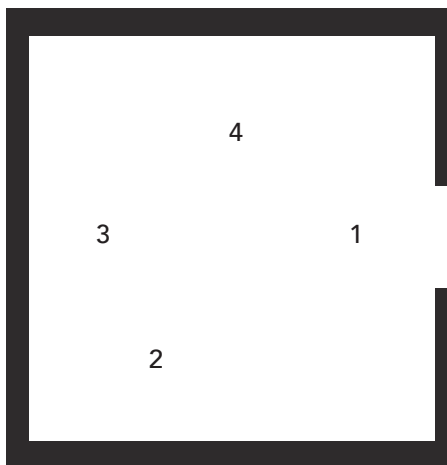
## Sal 5

**Nikita Gale** sculpts concrete, metal, light and sound. Composing atmospheric, large-scale installations, Gale's practice orbits themes of invisibility and audibility, interrogating the unstable relationship between performer and spectator, structure and ruin.

Building on Gale's *RUINS* series (2020-present) — aluminium armatures evoking crowd-control barriers, wrapped with concrete-saturated strips of cloth — *CCCIRCCCE* (2025) consists of remnants of a performance rendered in concrete. The adapted version at Bergen Kunsthall is based on the work *IN A DREAM YOU CLIMB THE STAIRS*, commissioned by Chisenhale Gallery in London (2022).

The work takes Toni Morrison's 1977 novel *Song of Solomon* as its starting point, notably the character of Circe, who shares her home with a pack of Weimaraner dogs. Referencing a passage from the book in the original work's title, Gale brings to life an ambitious interpretation of Circe's feral and free domain — once a grand house, now a decaying testament to the greed and violence of the family she previously served but outlived.

Two conical spotlights and pleated swathes of theatre curtain punctuate the gallery. Concretised knotted dog leads, which hang chandelier-like from the ceiling, have been woven into the kinds of elaborate knots a dog might make when left unattended with their restraints. Commands used by humans to summon dogs interrupt the gallery's stillness. The sound activates a lighting sequence which intermittently illuminates the exhibition, making reference to the dichromatic vision of dogs. These commands, layered with frequencies outside typical human hearing, emphasize the divide between human-centric control and the sensory worlds of other beings. Gale's installation is a materialisation of what might happen when social infrastructures of visibility and performance turn to ruin. How might these remains be reclaimed and navigated by sensory systems or modes of perception that exist beyond human visual dominance?



Sal 5

1

Nikita Gale  
*CCCIRCCCE CURTAIN*, 2022-2025  
 Concrete, steel, velvet  
 Appr. 347 x 320 x 226 cm  
 Nikita Gale, *CCCIRCCCE* 2022-2024.  
 © Nikita Gale. Courtesy of the artist,  
 Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen;  
 Commonwealth and Council, Los  
 Angeles; Emalin, London

2

Nikita Gale  
*CCCIRCCCE SPOTLIGHT I*,  
 2022-2025  
 Concrete, steel  
 Appr. 348 x 75 cm  
 Nikita Gale, *CCCIRCCCE* 2022-2024.  
 © Nikita Gale. Courtesy of the artist,  
 Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen;  
 Commonwealth and Council, Los  
 Angeles; Emalin, London

3

Nikita Gale  
*OBSOLETE LEASH I – XI*, 2022  
 Dog leash, concrete, lavender  
 11 parts: dimensions variable  
 Nikita Gale, *CCCIRCCCE* 2022-2024.  
 © Nikita Gale. Courtesy of the artist,  
 Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen;  
 Commonwealth and Council, Los  
 Angeles; Emalin, London

4

Nikita Gale  
*CCCIRCCCE SPOTLIGHT II*,  
 2022-2025  
 Concrete, steel  
 Appr. 348 x 75 cm  
 Nikita Gale, *CCCIRCCCE* 2022-2024.  
 © Nikita Gale. Courtesy of the artist,  
 Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen;  
 Commonwealth and Council, Los  
 Angeles; Emalin, London