



EBENSBERGER KAPELLE at Luxoom Lab
Waldstraße 52, 10551 Berlin

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Arhun Aksakal. *LAND BEFORE TIME*

Curated by Leonie Rösler & Marlene Sichelschmidt

Opening Thursday 11. SEP 2025, 6—10 PM
Exhibition Dates 11. SEP — 4. OKT 2025

With *LAND BEFORE TIME*, Galerie EBENSBERGER presents the first solo exhibition of young artist Arhun Aksakal (*1995, Offenbach), a graduate of the Städelschule Frankfurt, at DIE KAPELLE. The exhibition opens during Berlin Art Week (September 10–14, 2025) as part of Gallery Night.

At the heart of the exhibition is Aksakal's new video work ***Land Before Time***. The 19-minute film weaves together documentary and poetic imagery into a visual essay on past and present civilizations and their impact on landscapes, architecture, and memory. The film traces a path from the gleaming white potash mountains—once industrial waste, now elevated into tourist monuments—to the submerged ruins of the ancient city of Hasankeyf in Turkey, a cradle of civilization erased by massive dam projects. Other sites include Ferropolis, the “city of iron” where monumental excavators now serve as a festival backdrop, Mount Nemrut, the Ilısu Dam, the gardens of Diyarbakır, and the Zollverein Coal Mine in Essen, where young parkour athletes transform Ulrich Rückriem's sculptures into an obstacle course. The film also integrates the Kurdish Granî dance in the Hevsel Gardens—one of the world's oldest agricultural landscapes, today threatened by urban expansion. In this way, Aksakal creates a tableau that interlaces civilizations and their relationships to landscape, technology, and memory.

Fazıl Say's Sonata *Four Cities – Ankara* provides the musical structure for *Land Before Time*. In Nicolas Altstaedt's interpretation, a dialogue unfolds between proximity and distance, between East and West. The music expands the film's perspective on the landscapes, rendering their tension between industrial devastation and sublime natural beauty as an audiovisual experience.

Expanding on the film, the exhibition also presents a selection of new installations, forming a dense, immersive environment that allows visitors to experience and engage with Aksakal's artistic language as a whole.

With his series ***Windows (2025)***, Aksakal translates the proportions of Gottfried Böhm's sacred architecture into a painterly-sculptural wall piece. Fragments of fiberglass, onyx, and marble converge into window-like surfaces that mediate between interior and exterior, fragility and weight.

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Similarly, ***Cuts or Cracks (2025)*** addresses industrial relics: a 115-year-old wooden base from the quarries of Forte dei Marmi, marked by the cuts of massive marble blocks, is preserved like an archaeological artifact—a monument to time, precision, and labor.

Relief IV (2025) continues this dialogue: discarded fragments from the marble industry, encased in fiberglass and traversed by fine veins of tin, are transformed into poetic fragments that oscillate between natural form and sculpture. Just as the film approaches landscape and the body as archives, these works turn material itself into a vessel of memory—between industrial past, sacred space, and contemporary artistic transformation.

Arhun Aksakal (*1995, Offenbach am Main) works across video, film, photography, sculpture, and performance. He studied Fine Arts at the Kunsthochschule Kassel, Università Iuav di Venezia, the Art Academy in Sulaimani, and the Städelschule Frankfurt, where he trained with artists including Willem de Rooij and Cyprien Gaillard. His works have been shown internationally and have received multiple awards, including grants from the Hessian Cultural Foundation, DAAD, and Urbane Künste Ruhr. He lives and works in Frankfurt, Berlin, and Istanbul.

EBENSPERGER Kapelle in Moabit is a temporary venue of Berlin's Galerie Ebensperger. The former chapel will once again be transformed into a gallery and exhibition space for Berlin Art Week, made possible by Luxoom Lab.

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FILM CREDITS

Drehbuch & Regie

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Arhun Aksakal

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Drone Pilots / Aerial Cinematography

Arhun Aksakal

Muhammed Osmančević

Underwater Camera

Arhun Aksakal

Tahsin Ceylan

Schnitt / Editing

Oskar Lohse

Color Grading

Oskar Lohse

Sounddesign

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Komposition

Fazıl Say

Klavier / Piano

Fazıl Say

Cello

Nicolas Altstaedt

Tanz

Mustafa İzol

Parkour

Sergios Azidis

Niklas Walg

Felix Pelka

Finn Eichert

Freundliche Unterstützung durch:

Hessen Film

Urbane Künste Ruhr

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