



Press Release

The Contemporary Art Gallery presents the first solo exhibition in North America by Aslan Gaisumov



Aslan Gaisumov, *People of No Consequence*, 2016, film still
Courtesy the artist, Emalin, London and Galerie Zink, Waldkirchen

Artist: Aslan Gaisumov
Exhibition: *If No One Asks*
Dates: January 18 - March 24, 2019
Location: Alvin Balkind Gallery
Press Preview: Thursday, January 17, 5.30pm

The Contemporary Art Gallery announces the first solo presentation of Aslan Gaisumov's work in North America. *If No One Asks* brings together two works that have never previously been shown together and, in so doing, offers a new means through which to consider many of the concerns that have shaped the artist's practice over the past eight years.

Gaisumov's practice considers the entanglement of fictions and veracity, the inaccessible with the present and the acknowledged with the lost. As expressive forms, his artworks—whether moving or still images, found objects or installations—consider the pressures withstood by bodies and matter as witnesses to events.

Memories of War (2016) presents a single page torn from a found book. The artist's intervention is a simple act of redaction: obscuring the events conveyed by the author with line after line of black ink, only one word remains conspicuously untouched, left to bear the burden of communication in its entirety.

The single-channel video *People of No Consequence* (2016) considers memory and loss in a different way. During the Second World War, Soviet authorities organized and carried out the forced resettlement of entire populations within the USSR, including several nations from the Caucasus and Crimea. The work conveys the interior of a municipal hall filled with empty chairs. The video lasts eight minutes, the length of time it takes for 119 elderly Chechen survivors of the deportation, ranging from 77 to 105 years of age, to enter the room and take their seats. The group faces the camera, but they do not speak to us.

As with *Memories of War*, *People of No Consequence* carries a story but simultaneously withholds it from view. Gaisumov's work makes present both the stories and the silences that surround them, where the audience is given the responsibility of listener to images and witness to the witnesses.

Bio

Aslan Gaisumov was born in Chechnya in 1991. Recent solo exhibitions include *Dark Shelters*, Centre d'arts plastiques de Saint-Fons, Lyon (2018-19); *Crystals and Shards*, Kohta, Helsinki (2018); *All That You See Here, Forget*, Emalin, London (2018); *People of No Consequence*, Museum of Modern Art, Antwerp (2016); and *Memory Belongs to the Stones*, Zink Galerie, Berlin (2015). His work has also been featured in group exhibitions at Liverpool Biennial and the Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art (2018); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2017); Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco (2017); and Akademie der Künste, Berlin (2016) among many others. In 2014 he was awarded the Special Prize of the Future Generation Art Prize of the Pinchuk Art Centre in Kiev, Ukraine, and in 2016 the Innovation Prize of the National Centre for Contemporary Arts in Moscow, Russia. He lives and works in Grozny and Amsterdam.

-ENDS-

Events

Artist Talk | Aslan Gaisumov

Saturday, January 19, 3pm

Aslan Gaisumov joins us for an informal conversation with CAG Curator Kimberly Phillips discussing the broader concerns underpinning his exhibition and artistic practice.

Notes to Editors

For further press information and images, please contact

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About the Contemporary Art Gallery

Established in 1971 the Contemporary Art Gallery is the longest standing free public art gallery in Vancouver dedicated exclusively to presenting contemporary art. By the early 1990s the program expanded providing some of the first institutional exhibitions for many important Vancouver artists, including Brian Jungen, Geoffrey Farmer, Germaine Koh and Steven Shearer. The Contemporary Art Gallery is a publicly funded institution, generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Vancouver and the Province of BC through the BC Arts Council and the BC Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch.

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Opening hours

Tuesday - Sunday, 12-6pm
Free admission

Facebook: Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver

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Soundcloud: Contemporary Art Gallery