

Words

Displayed

wenn Deutschland mich wieder ansieht
und sagt mein Herz hat kein Platz hier
wenn die Wolken übers Land ziehn
mein Nachbar keine Menschen
sondern nur sein Land liebt

Almanya bana yine bakarsa
ve derse ki kalbimde sana yer yok
bulutlar ülkenin üzerinde gezinirse
komşum insanları değil sadece ülkesini severse

wenn die Blicke auf uns fallen
so wie Fäuste aus Metall
wenn meine Brüder meine Schwestern
fallen wie tote Blätter
schwarz rot goldene Blätter

bakışlar üstümüze düştüğünde
metalden yumruklar gibi
kardeşlerim, kız kardeşlerim ölü yapraklar gibi düştüğünde
siyah, kırmızı, altın yapraklar gibi

wenn wieder die Sonne fehlt
fragen wir uns sollen wir gehn
wenn wieder die Sonne fehlt
fragen wir uns sollen wir gehn

güneş yine eksik olduğunda
sorarız kendimize gitmeli miyiz diye
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komşum insanları değil sadece ülkesini severse

du kannst uns hassen wenn du Angst kriegst
Deutschland ja du kannst uns abschieben
deine Rentner sammeln trotzdem Pfandflaschen aus den Tonnen
und die Strassen bleiben kalt hier

korktuğun zaman nefret edebilirsin bizden
Almanya, evet bizi sınır dışı edebilirsin
senin yaşlıların yine de çöplerden şişe toplar
ve sokakların soğuk kalır

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fragen wir uns sollen wir gehn
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sorarız kendimize gitmeli miyiz diye

in einen Koffer passt kein Leben
in ein Koffer passt nicht meine Welt
in einen Koffer passt ein Pass
doch nicht meine Haut in der ich stecke

bir valize bir hayat sığmaz
bir valize dünyam sığmaz
bir valize bir pasaport sığar
ama içinde bulunduğum tenim sığmaz

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bir valize dünyam sığmaz
bir valize bir pasaport sığar
ama içinde bulunduğum benim sığmaz

Apsilon

Biographically informed, *Koffer* tells the story of family and migration, asking about origin, home, belonging, and the future of an exclusionary society. The text appears on display alternately in German and Turkish, reflecting the two languages spoken most frequently in Berlin. Apsilon's lyrics can be read as diagnostic of our times, socially reflective, anti-racist, and critical of capitalism. More than a political ambassador, however, he is a rapper and spokesman for a new generation of musicians from Berlin: "mit fünf Kanaks auf deiner Vernissage—drück' keine Hände, ich fick' deinen Werdegang—mein Baba hatte nicht viel, als er herkam—jetzt hat er zwei Kids, die durch Decke geh'n, vertikal."

Apsilon is a German rapper ("Moabit since '97"). With his brother Arman as producer, he has made a name for himself with his socially critical lyrics and energetic live performances. *Koffer* is a single from his debut album *Haut wie Pelz* (2024).

Hassan Khan

Totem & Taboo was commissioned by CCA Berlin for *Displayed Words*. The text solely consists of phrases excerpted from a 2023 *New York Times* article that investigates the decade-long, financially lucrative partnership between Adidas and Kanye West, its eventual termination, and the ambivalence that emerged in the fallout. This remix of a fact-checked investigative account of a shocking story involving a rapper and a corporation samples the public record to highlight the material context that underlies the system we live within. By situating the work at the city hall, the piece further politicizes its narrative, publicly engages with current polarized debates, and offers a critical examination of the fetishization of taboos and constructed national identities.

Khan is an artist, musician, and writer. He is the winner of the 2017 Venice Biennial Silver Lion and since 2018 a professor of fine art at the Städelschule.

Kinga Tóth

Kinga Tóth's *Durch Nadeln/Tűleveleken* is a tender negotiation between the body and elements of the world through insistent refusal. Reminiscent of old psalms and religious invocations, the poem implores an impossible ending to the violence we deem as necessary and righteous for our own existence and subsistence. Displayed on the balcony of the city hall, the poem quietly opens itself up to its surroundings, activating a space of "silentio" for contemplation and mourning across spatial and temporal divides.

Tóth is a writer, visual and sound-poet, performer, teacher, and translator who writes in Hungarian, German, and English. She presents her work in performances, exhibitions, international installations, and festivals. Tóth was a literature fellow of the DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program in 2023.

Cristina Rivera Garza

La geología del lugar [The Geology of the Place] delves into the origins of a mysterious place from an ancient, mythical time of "before." Cristina Rivera Garza employs a geological style of writing, mapping the terrains of the poetic landscape of our imagination. By transporting us back to an unknown past, the text embodies what she describes as "deep-time chronologies," transcending our usual way of reading time and looking at history. It invites us to envision a city through touch, smell, and the experience of its painful miracles. Does this place exist in reality, as a metaphor, or does it remain forever hidden between the lines?

Rivera Garza is a distinguished professor in Spanish and creative writing at the University of Houston, and a literature fellow of the DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program in 2023. Her most recent book, *Liliana's Invincible Summer*, won the Pulitzer Prize in 2024.

lost for

words

Tim Etchells

Lost for words says it all. At the same time the end and a beginning. It is a performative juxtaposition by Tim Etchells, who has been exploring contradictory aspects of language in playful and poetic ways throughout his body of work. Originally shown as a neon piece in 2013, these words have been translated into a moving image dissolving into pixels reflecting its contemporary mediality in the framework of *Displayed Words* at the Staatsbibliothek in 2024. The reasons for feeling lost may have also shifted in the face of current environmental, political, and societal crises. In the end, again: lost for words.

Etchells is an artist and a writer based in the UK, whose work spans performance, video, photography, text projects, installation, and fiction. He has also worked collaboratively in a wide variety of contexts, notably as leader of the world-renowned performance group Forced Entertainment.

This book is published on the occasion of

Displayed Words

Don Mee Choi, Athena Farrokhzad,
Volha Hapeyeva, Quinn Latimer,
Rike Scheffler, Yasmine Seale,
Hajra Waheed

Klosterruine Berlin

15 Dec 2022–16 Apr 2023

Curated by Fabian Schöneich

Displayed Words

Ingeborg Bachmann, Angélica Freitas,
Hassan Khan, Otis Mensah,
Rafael Moreno, Nhã Thuyên,
Nazanin Noori, Kinga Tóth

15 Dec 2023–30 Apr 2024

Bezirksamt Mitte, Rathaus Tiergarten

Curated by Fabian Schöneich, Nan Xi,

Lou Ferrand, and Mathias Zeiske

Displayed Words

Apsilon, May Ayim, Tim Etchells,
Logan February, Friederike Mayröcker,
Cristina Rivera Garza

11 Sep 2024–2 Mar 2025

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin,

Haus Potsdamer Straße

Curated by Fabian Schöneich, Nan Xi,

Franz Hempel, and Mathias Zeiske

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