

# zungen ~~은~~ brecher

Grant Application – Kemmler Foundation

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## Exhibition Text

*zungen ~~은~~ brecher* is Surya Suran Gied's inaugural solo exhibition at Paint Shop Berlin, bringing together a new body of work developed specifically for the space. The exhibition takes a biographical rupture as its starting point: the loss of Gied's Korean mother tongue as a result of migration to Germany. From this point, an artistic investigation unfolds, exploring how experiences that are barely expressible in language can be articulated visually and spatially.

At the center lies the question of how migration, cultural estrangement, and processes of reappropriation can be represented beyond linguistic terms. The loss of the mother tongue is understood not only as a personal fracture but also as an expression of the historical and social conditions that shape identity and belonging.

Gied's artistic practice operates at the intersection of painting, installation, sculpture, film, and sound. It examines how visual and spatial forms can reflect and transform identity, particularly within the tension between figuration and abstraction. Her German-Korean migration history constitutes a crucial point of departure. While figuration functions as an anchoring point for personal and cultural narratives, abstraction opens up spaces in which fragmentation, displacement, and ambiguity become visible. Drawing on (auto)biographical materials—including oral histories, photographs, and other documentary sources—she develops artistic strategies that render biographical ruptures and absences perceptible.

In *zungen ~~은~~ brecher*, this approach is translated into a spatial, multimedia installation. The exhibition combines painting with sculptural elements, sound works, and installative structures. Together, the works form a spatial framework in which personal memory fragments, cultural codes, and historical references overlap and interweave.

Between figurative representation and its dissolution, an open visual vocabulary emerges — one that negotiates processes of translation, loss, and reappropriation. The installation serves as an experiential space in which questions of language, identity, and cultural belonging unfold not only conceptually but also sensorially and spatially.

## Short Biography

Surya Suran Gied is a German-Korean artist whose work explores the sense of fragmentation and the resulting abstraction of identity through the mediums of painting and multimedia installation. She studied at the University of the Arts (UdK) Berlin, graduating in 2008.

Recent awards and fellowships include the Stiftung Kunstfonds Publication Grant (2026), the German Academy Rome Casa Baldi (2023), the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, NYC (2022), and the Dieter-Ruckhaberle-Preis, Berlin (2021).

Her work has been shown in numerous exhibitions worldwide, including at Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW), Berlin; Villa Massimo, Rome; Kasseler Kunstverein; Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin; PyeongChang Biennale, South Korea; and Savvy Contemporary, Berlin. Surya Suran Gied lives and works in Berlin.