

Press release
Berlin, 18 October 2022

energy/power
Haroon Mirza
11 November – 28 January 2023

max goelitz gallery is pleased to announce the opening of a second location in Berlin with a solo exhibition by artist Haroon Mirza in November 2022.

Founded less than three years ago in Munich in March 2020, max goelitz shows an international and contemporary program. The gallery represents established and emerging artistic positions in conceptual and post-minimal art, focusing on the intersection between art and current technologies. The new gallery resides in the former premises of Alexander Levy in the 1914 built and today listed commercial building at Rudi-Dutschke-Strasse 26 in Kreuzberg. The central location is characterized by its immediate proximity to important institutions, numerous galleries and Checkpoint Charlie. In addition to the exhibition program in Munich, the 160sqm exhibition space in Berlin will showcase statement artistic presentations in the future.

„Berlin is a center of artistic production and international exchange, where the national art discourse takes place, which we will directly interact with through our artists and exhibitions. We want to be dynamically involved in the gallery scene, as we have already been in Munich. In doing so, we plan to strengthen the connections with our artists and collectors who live there. I am convinced that Berlin will optimally complement the gallery's positioning and consistently continue its cutting-edge development.“ - Max Goelitz

For the opening exhibition *energy/power*, the British-Pakistani artist Haroon Mirza (*1977 in London, UK) has developed a multi-sensory presentation intertwining various references of technology, nature, human and the universe with socio-political issues. The medium of electricity is at the forefront of his work, combining light, sound, and photovoltaic panels into complex circuit systems that create a dynamic audiovisual experience. Mirza draws on a variety of scientific, musical, art-historical and spiritual influences, referring to Minimal Art strategies on a formal level.

At the center of the presentation is the large-scale sculpture *Dyson Sphere* (2021/2022), its core octagonally enclosed by solar panels with intensely radiating halogen lamps, absorbing the light. Mirza takes this idea from the physicist Freeman Dyson, which in turn refers to the little-known science fiction novel „Starmaker“ (1937) by Olaf Stapledon: in the future, with technological progress, a star can be enclosed with a collection of solar panels to store its enormous reserves of energy and make it usable for humans. Using the power generated by *Dyson Sphere* as an energy source, surrounding works of sound-generating objects and psychoactive plants in space will be powered and operated as if within its own ecosystem. In addition Mirza's series of *Light Works* and *Solar Powered LED Circuit Compositions* are presented in the exhibition.

Beyond Mirza's interest in music and the sound of electronic signals, the exhibition title *energy/power* refers to a very ambivalent relationship of dependencies: *„Semantically they are different, but there is overlap between energy and power: you need energy to have power and electrical signals. The key for me is that it's a circuit: there is always a plus and a minus, which is conjoined to create the power. (...) Because in all of life and in the universe, ultimate power doesn't come from just one source, it's a combination of two or more things. Then philosophically this*

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is interesting, because this negates monotheism. And then politically, those that have energy have power."

In German, „power“ can stand for both electricity, force, or social-economic power, which, against the backdrop of current environmental and energy crises, also opens up connections to political issues in Mirza's works.

With Haroon Mirza, an internationally present and multimedia artist, the opening exhibition at the Berlin gallery highlights essential aspects of the upcoming program at the Berlin location - both through the themes negotiated in terms of content and through their overall installative composition. The exhibition takes place in collaboration with Lisson Gallery, London, New York, Shanghai.

About the artist

British-Pakistani artist Haroon Mirza (b. 1977 in London, UK) describes himself as a composer, developing a multi-layered body of work with sound, video, electronic circuits, and everyday objects by altering the function of the components used, as well as the meaning of their cultural and social codes. In his multisensory installations, he tests the interplay and dissonance between sound, light, and electric current, challenging viewers to abandon perceptual distinctions between noise, sound, and music and to experience the relationship between the individual components and the surrounding space in new ways. In doing so, he formally refers to strategies of Minimal Art and fuses contemporary technologies with political themes.

In 2011, Haroon Mirza was awarded the Silver Lion at the 54th Venice Biennale. He received further honors with the Zurich Art Prize (2013), Nam June Paik Center Prize (2014), Calder Art Prize (2015), and the COLLIDE International Award (2017), which included a two-month residency at CERN in Switzerland. The *Dyson Sphere* was presented at the exhibition "Novacène" in 2022 as part of lille3000 and supported by Maison Ruinart. Selected solo exhibitions of the artist's work have been shown at the New Museum, New York (2012), Museum Tinguely, Basel (2015), and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (2019). The work *The National Pavilion of Then and Now* (2011) has been part of the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York since 2021, and other works by the artist are in the collections of the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and the Tate London, among others.

About the gallery

max goelitz was founded in Munich in March 2020 and shows an international and contemporary program. The gallery represents established and emerging artistic positions in conceptual and post-minimal art and focuses on the intersection of art and current technologies. The dynamic and cutting-edge gallery model is characterized by a combination of digital innovation and traditional art historical expertise. At its core is an ongoing, collaborative partnership with artists and a fundamental support of artistic freedom. max goelitz follows a collaborative approach and acts within a global network of partner galleries that include OMR, Mexico City; François Ghebaly, Los Angeles; and Häusler Contemporary, Zurich, among others.

Since 2020, exhibitions in Munich have included Niko Abramidis & NE, Neïl Beloufa, Nina Canell, Rosemarie Castoro, Liz Deschenes, Natacha Donzé, Sébastien de Ganay, Lou Jaworski, Rindon Johnson, Brigitte Kowanz, Haroon Mirza, Jürgen Partenheimer, Gabriel Rico, Keith Sonnier, Troika, and Michael Venezia, and the gallery presented the artists at the fairs Artissima Turin, Art Düsseldorf, Spark Art Fair Vienna, and Art Cologne.

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