



# Mila Zhluktenko & Daniel Asadi Faezi In the IBB Video Space

3.6.26 – 7.9.26

**Programme:**  
Speaking of Video Art  
Mon 22 June, 5-7 pm

Artist Talk  
Thu 23 July, 6 pm

“Aralkum” (2022, 14 min.) was the first video work co-directed by Mila Zhluktenko and Daniel Asadi Faezi. The film serves as a memorial to the Aral Sea, the fourth-largest inland sea in the world until the 1960s, though it has now almost entirely dried up. Its transformation into a barren desert landscape is particularly visible in the border region between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. A vast expanse of arid land (the “Aralkum” of the title) now covers the area that was once a body of water.

The video conveys with striking clarity how human intervention, specifically the Soviet Union’s destructive irrigation policies in support of cotton production, gradually destroyed an entire ecosystem and the life it sustained. The two filmmakers combine archival material with contemporary footage. Images of nature, still hauntingly beautiful despite the catastrophe, appear alongside intimate family scenes and shots of preserved animal specimens.

“rückblickend betrachtet” (in retrospect, 2025, 14 min.) brings together three different historical moments. Munich’s Olympia-Einkaufszentrum or Olympia shopping mall was largely built in the 1970s by so-called “guest workers” and was considered the largest shopping centre in Europe at the time. In 1982, the Iranian director Sohrab Shahid Saless made the film “Empfänger unbekannt” (Addressee Unknown) in response to the increasingly overt hostility directed towards people labelled as “foreign” in West Germany. In 2016, nine people were murdered in a far-right terrorist attack at the Olympia-Einkaufszentrum. Zhluktenko and Asadi Faezi weave these layers together to show that racist violence is not an isolated phenomenon, but part of a continuing historical trajectory.

## **About the artist**

Mila Zhluktenko and Daniel Asadi Faezi studied documentary filmmaking at the University of Television and Film (HFF) Munich. Their films have been screened and honoured at numerous international festivals, including the award for Best Short Film at Visions du Réel for “Aralkum”. “rückblickend betrachtet” premiered at the 75th Berlin International Film Festival, and it received the German Short Film Award.

This project has been facilitated by  
Investitionsbank Berlin (IBB).



## IBB Video Space

The IBB Video Space presents artists who work with timebased media. The programme features not only established names in contemporary video art but also up-and-coming artists rarely seen in museums to date. For these, the Berlinische Galerie seeks to facilitate an institutional début.

Each month brings a new encounter with work that raises questions about the medium and about social or political issues. Importance is attached to including marginalised perspectives and to shedding light on the impact of power structures.

Selected video works are also being shown online: [bg.berlin/en/video-art-online](http://bg.berlin/en/video-art-online)

## Programme

### Artist Talk

Thu 23 July, 6 pm

with Daniel Asadi Faezi, Mila Zhluktenko and Anne Bitterwolf, curator

Registration required at: [berlinischegalerie.de/en/registration-artist-talk-mila-zhluktenko-daniel-asadi-faezi/](http://berlinischegalerie.de/en/registration-artist-talk-mila-zhluktenko-daniel-asadi-faezi/)

### Speaking of Video Art

Mon 22 June 26, 5-7 pm

Once a month, the Berlinische Galerie hosts “Speaking of Video Art”, an exchange in a small group about the current programme of the IBB Video Space. This series of events offers an open space for anyone interested in discussing films or socio-political questions in the arts and getting to know various artists and authors. Together, we watch selected videos and read short excerpts from essays, theory, fiction or poems in English or German that are connected to the works in terms of content or form. The following discussion leaves room to explore both the discursive threads of the video works as well as perspectives and questions raised by the group.

Starting with the film “in retrospect” by Daniel Asadi Faezi and Mila Zhluktenko, in June we will read the poem “Mein Name ist Ausländer” by the poet Semra Ertan, a letter from the filmmaker Sohrab Shahid Saless about his film “Empfänger unbekannt”, and an excerpt from the book “Undeutsch” by the historian Fatima El-Tayeb. Like the film, the texts approach the topic of racism in the Federal Republic of Germany before and after 1990 from different perspectives. The video and the texts, in dialogue with each other, raise questions about how and whether a

visual language can be found to make the continuities between different incidents of racist violence visible.

Participation is free of charge. The event will be held in German and English. Registration required at: [berlinischegalerie.de/anmeldung-speaking-of-video-art/](http://berlinischegalerie.de/anmeldung-speaking-of-video-art/)

Next dates: Mon 20 July, 5-7 pm; Mon 24 August, 5-7 pm

## Press Berlinische Galerie

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Berlinische Galerie

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Admission 12€, concessions 7€

Every 1st Wed of the month

7€ for everyone

Wed–Mon 10 am–6 pm

Tue closed

### Press images

[berlinischegalerie.de/pressemitteilung/mila-zhluktenko-daniel-asadi-faezi/](http://berlinischegalerie.de/pressemitteilung/mila-zhluktenko-daniel-asadi-faezi/)

### Online tickets

[bg.berlin/en/tickets](http://bg.berlin/en/tickets)

### Social media

#VideoArtBG

#BerlinischeGalerie