



● EMIRHAKIN

0m away



● Jonas Lerch

0m away

Today

SPIKES / They are going to die anyway

They are going to die anyway, 2024, video 7'07"

SPIKES 2024, sound piece, 4-channel audio, 8'00'm (self-censored)

Due to the recent increasingly restrictive political atmosphere in Turkey, where censorship has become a pervasive force, artists EMIRHAKIN and Jonas Lerch have made the difficult decision to withhold their sound piece from public exhibition. They only present the video component of this work.

SPIKES and They are going to die anyway delve into the intricate dynamics of authority and its manifestations within the human body. By zooming in on political leaders, this work scrutinizes how these figures, often depicted as paternal and inviolable, conceal their mortality.

The video work captures evocative scenes of an aging male leader, juxtaposing his formal attire with the decaying reality of his body—concealing weaknesses with the portrayal of unwavering strength. The imagery explores the hidden facets of power, emphasizing the physical attributes that the patriarchy strives to keep hidden: decay.

The accompanying sound piece presents a dramatic reenactment of a conversation between a doctor and an autocratic leader. The doctor delivering grim news in English following the SPIKES protocol (Setting, Perception, Invitation, Knowledge, Empathy, Strategy) is countered by a translator who intentionally misinterprets the news when translating to the leader in Turkish.

The story maps out the unseen dissonances in the physical preservation of power, while simultaneously looking at society's obsession with the potential fragility of those in power, informed by speculations, rumors, and conspiracy theories about illness and death.

Integral to this narrative of physical fragility is the perspective of the populace, who cling to the hope that "they are going to die anyways," viewing the mortality of these leaders as a promise of inevitable change. This sentiment underscores a collective resignation and a belief that natural change will ultimately defy oppressive power structures.

They are going to die anyway reflects on the nature of authority and its inevitable decay, asking various paradoxical questions: Would this decay change anything on a structural level? Isn't it only the body that decays, and not the power structures?

Say something...

