

Gerry Bibby
In Case of Emergency

August 25 - September 29

O-Town House is pleased to announce the exhibition *In Case of Emergency* from Gerry Bibby.

By turning the gallery spaces into a kind of multi-pronged 'performance' of a cautionary tale, the physical space becomes the site of Bibby's unique brand of concrete poetry. The walls, windows and floor are the bricks and mortar for a conversation that begins now. This exhibition marks the end of Bibby's current residency at the MAK Center, where the city of Los Angeles and his experiences there all play a starring role in this dark, unravelling drama.

Bibby's original texts are written almost in a 'call-and-response' manner, and the words themselves perform aspects of the O-Town House architecture in his glass poem-sculptures scattered around the space.

The *Civil Disobedience* sculptures were liberated from bus-stop benches around Los Angeles. These so-called 'armrests' are installed by the city in order to prevent people from using the benches as beds - but in the exhibition Bibby has them perform a far less odious function of displacing only the works themselves from the walls.

With *In Case of Emergency*, Bibby is cultivating a complex, cut-up-tactic of linguistic seduction - where words are as generous as they are nefarious. His humor and heart are borne through acts civil disobedience and his undeniable (unstoppable) optimism is often cleverly disguised as fervent rancor.

Gerry Bibby was born in 1977 in Melbourne and currently lives in Berlin. His works have been shown at galleries and museums internationally including the Museum für Gegenwartskunst in Basel, in the Based in Berlin exhibition at Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin, the Lyon Biennial, the KUB Arena at the Kunsthaus Bregenz, Sismografo in Porto, Frieze Projects in London, and recently the Midway Contemporary in Minneapolis. He published his first novel, *The Drumhead*, in 2014 with Sternberg Press, *If I Can't Dance, I Don't Want To Be Part Of Your Revolution*, Kunsthaus Bregenz, CCA Glasgow, The Showroom in London, and the Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane.