

Sem Lala (b. 2000, Albania) is an artist that lives and works in New York.

Lala's work has been exhibited at Lovay Fine Arts, Geneva (2025); Foksal Gallery Foundation, Warsaw (2025); Hot Wheels, Athens (2024); Forde, Geneva (2024); Plymouth Rock, Zurich (2021), Haus Wien, Vienna (2021) and Les Urbaines, Lausanne (2020) among others.

Sem Lala, *Debt* (2026)

Debt is a new body of work by Sem Lala (b. 2000, Albania), developed through an ongoing investigation of material alongside the social and economic structures that underpin institutional life.

For the first exhibition of chess club in collaboration with Archiv Becker, Lala examines debt not simply as a financial condition, but as a system of relations that fundamentally conditions institutional life.

For the *Debt* series, Lala photographed the sewage processing plant of a private college in New York. The black-and-white photographs depict septic pits and tanks where the institution's waste is processed. The work creates a pun between debt as the financial substrate of an institution and sewage as its material counterpart. By bringing these two invisible systems together - money and waste - Lala points to the forms of excess and exclusion that are necessary for institutions to function.

Break Point with Eyes Cut Out is a monochrome collage made of golden scratch-off sticker sheets. It draws on the visual and formal conventions of monochrome painting while using a fragile and everyday material. The sticker sheets introduce a relational and discursive aspect within the work, elaborating a formalism that is put into question by the conditions that give the work its value as a monochrome. *Bucket of Singularity* is a found sculpture containing the artist's weight in shattered mirror fragments. The work questions the idea of identity as singular and self-contained. Instead, the fragmented reflections suggest that the individual is constituted through relations with others. Across the works, *Debt* connects economic, material, and social forms of dependency, making visible the hidden systems through which institutions and identities are produced.

chess club founded in 2022 by Amanda Weimer, continues its independent curatorial programme at 71 by bringing together emerging and established local and international artists while fostering dialogue across disciplines. The programme is complemented by the Bookshop, featuring thematic publications and a carefully curated selection of artists' books that extends engagement with contemporary artistic practice beyond the exhibition space.

Sem Lala | Andrea Fraser

04.09 – 03.11.2026, Opening 03.09.2026

chess club in collaboration with **Archiv Becker**

List of Works

Debt (I-IV), 2026
Gelatin silver print
28 × 35.5 cm
Edition of 3 + 1 AP

Debt (V), 2026
Gelatin silver print
122 × 95 cm
Edition of 3 + 1 AP

Bucket of Singularity, 2026
Container, the artist's weight in mirror fragments
Variable dimensions

Break Point with Eyes Cut Out (Go-go), 2026
Cardboard, scratch off stickers
142 × 120 cm

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