

Untitled Act, Berlin 2011

A Performative Installation

Untitled Act is a three-day and three-night continuous performance in which Dolanbay paints directly onto a monumental wall of ice. The work unfolds within real time, governed by the gradual melting of the ice itself. As the surface transforms, pigments flow downward onto an unprimed canvas spread across the floor, creating constantly shifting forms, traces, and accumulations.

The ice wall functions simultaneously as material, image, duration, and living metaphor. Its slow disappearance evokes the fragility of ecological balance and the accelerating realities of climate change. The work confronts the viewer with a material undergoing irreversible transformation — a body dissolving before one's eyes.

Painting upon ice becomes an act of resistance against disappearance. Every gesture made by the artist is temporary; forms emerge only to collapse, colours dissolve, and images vanish into fluidity. The performance exists within a continuous cycle of formation, erosion, and re-formation. Rather than producing a fixed image, the work reveals impermanence itself as material process.

Throughout the performance, Dolanbay remains continuously present within the installation space, physically enduring the same temporal conditions as the melting structure. Artist, material, environment, and duration become inseparable elements within a single evolving act.

Traversing painting, performance, installation, and sculpture, *Untitled Act* examines the unstable condition of existence itself. The ephemeral nature of ice becomes a reflection on the vulnerability of life: fragile, transitional, and inevitably subject to transformation.

With the final melting of the ice wall, the performance comes to an end, leaving behind a large-scale painting formed through the interaction of gesture, gravity, water, pigment, and time — a residue of an event that can no longer exist except as trace.

Dolanbay