

Sisel Lan – Statement

My artistic practice investigates the infrastructures that organize contemporary experience—economic systems, political borders, mediated images, and social constructs that shape perception and assign value. I work from the tension between the position of privilege from which I observe and the structural inequities that define the environments I inhabit. That distance is not resolved; it becomes the ground of inquiry.

I am interested in how abstractions such as justice, equity, happiness, and progress acquire the appearance of neutrality, and how their normalization transforms lived experience into data, statistics, or symbolic surfaces. My work focuses on the fractures where these abstractions collide with the body, with territory, and with subjectivity.

Rather than illustrating social issues, I materialize the systems that sustain them. Through repetition, accumulation, measurement, erosion, and displacement, I construct situations in which economic value, political violence, and mediated narratives regain weight and consequence. For me, the image is not a transparent document but an unstable infrastructure—capable of constructing, distorting, and eroding reality at once.

Across photography, installation, and intervention, I approach art as an experiential field rather than a self-contained object. Time, spatial configuration, material presence, and viewer implication become structural components of the work. I am drawn to moments of perceptual instability—when certainty hesitates, when neutrality reveals its force, when what appears fixed exposes its fragility.

I recognize that my perspective is shaped by specific social and economic conditions; I therefore subject that position to scrutiny within the work itself. I do not seek to speak for the “other,” but to examine the mechanisms—visible and invisible—that produce distance, hierarchy, and exclusion.

My practice situates itself in the unstable intersection between structure and experience, where infrastructures of power meet territories of subjectivity, and where constructed realities begin to fracture.