

Resistance Relapse

Nico Krijno

Resistance Relapse showcases Nico Krijno's unique ability to disrupt and reinvent. Building on his extensive work with performance, photography, and sculpture, Krijno boldly bends the traditional rules of the photographic medium. Through deliberate distortion and reconfiguration, he creates an unusual landscape that challenges our perception of the familiar. Krijno's playful work goes beyond a mere disruption of reality, giving birth to an inventive construct. In this realm, time is not tethered to a linear path; it bends, reorders, and reshapes in a realm free from everyday constraints.

The centrepiece of Resistance Relapse is a large grid of 45 prints, interweaving into a vibrant and disordered tapestry. Among them are sculptures crafted from found materials, hand-painted digital collages bursting with colour, veiled faces, and cultural artifacts from Krijno's South African hometown. Each print serves as a piece of a larger puzzle, a disjointed reflection echoing the unpredictable nature of Krijno's photographic world. Combined, they generate a striking mosaic of visual rhythm, with contrasting textures, colours, and patterns disrupting and dancing with each other in their delightful disarray.

His artistic process, which is highly performative, is rooted in his theatre background. Beginning with a sketch or image in his mind, he meticulously crafts his compositions, "constantly changing the lighting and arrangement of objects for the camera, skewing perspectives, overlapping shadows, adding, subtracting, intersecting and interleaving the photographic information."

This layered and choreographed approach is evident in the video piece Die Son. Presented in portrait orientation, the piece begins with a tight crop on an egg yolk delicately rolling through someone's hands, the glossy blob shining as it passes over the skin. Concurrently, a rapid montage of disparate scenes flicker in the background—a crackling bonfire, a child swimming, tomatoes cascading over clear plastic, and glimpses of Krijno's other artworks. The mesmerising footage is accompanied by a soothing soundscape, inducing an ASMR-like experience that blurs the boundaries between the ordinary and the extraordinary. The piece is a testament to Krijno's ability to elevate the mundane into an object of intrigue.

Beyond pushing the limits of the photographic medium, Resistance Relapse ventures into uncharted territories of display and experiential engagement within the gallery setting. At the heart of the gallery space is a pentagonal sandpit installation. Within this intriguing setting, partially concealed prints emerge from the sand, akin to recently discovered treasures waiting to be unveiled. The act of revealing these images mirrors the essence of Krijno's artistic process—an endeavour to expose and illuminate the obscured layers of reality, inviting viewers to delve deeper into the enigmatic realms of his creations.

Resistance Relapse provides more than just a visual encounter—it is a philosophical invitation to traverse a world under different principles. Krijno's work sits at the intersection of observation and imagination, reality and illusion, resistance and relapse. It shakes up the conventional and dismantles viewers' pre-existing ideas about the nature of photography and its possibilities.

- Gabrielle Hall-Lomax

About Nico Krijno

With a background in theatre and experimental video, Nico Krijno (b. 1981, South Africa) works at the blurry intersection of photography, collage, painting, sculpture and performance. Probing the thresholds of each, his work materialises through a stream of unique and colourful abstractions that not only act as autonomous pieces of art but when seen as a collection, Krijno's obsession and constant intrigue into the perception of photographs becomes decidedly evident.

Often working with discarded materials found in his immediate surroundings, he interprets and re-imagines them to find alternative structures for how meaning and matter are both constructed and perceived. Photographing these ephemeral structures, as he describes himself, are a private and physical performance, with the camera being the audience. Importantly, the act of photographing these theatrical scenes is only one part of Krijno's work. Through an array of digital tools, he then re-imagines the materials, colours and forms countless times until our understanding of each photograph is constantly being challenged, always failing to remain still.

Image list

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| 1 | Nico Krijno, Resistance Relape, 2023, inkjet prints, 21 x 15 cm each | NFS |
| 2 | Nico Krijno, Resistance Relape (sandpit), 2023, sand, inkjet prints, dimensions variable | NFS |
| 3 | Nico Krijno, Die Son, 2023, single chanel video, 16:9 (vertical) | NFS |