

NICOLE KRSTIN

Calgary, AB

## ARTIST STATEMENT

Nicole Krstin is a self-taught Filipino-Canadian visual artist whose current body of work imagines the kinetic and complex process of cellular mutations as they metamorphose to create new fragments and figures. With a focus on the internal mechanisms of transformation in the body, Nicole explores and brings forward the inherent and ubiquitous nature of change and evolution. As part of Nicole's practice, paint left on her palette is dried, scanned, and meticulously edited to create a catalogue of source material for digital compositions and paintings. Nicole's work can be found in private collections in Canada and the United States. Nicole currently lives in Calgary, Canada with her husband and children.

## ARTIST STATEMENT – *touch*

Nicole Krstin combines the mediums of film photography, painting, and collage, to create digitally rendered pieces for *touch*, 2023, a collection of work that explores the visceral feeling of connection beyond time and space. Separated into four visually related sections, each group of work depicts various stages of connections and intimacy, with the final piece being *Perceive Me*, 2023 – a singular form where the hands and paint are entwined and individually indistinguishable.

Independently, each of the mediums are compositions with layered materials and imagery. The photographic elements are pulled from Krstin's 35mm multiple exposure series titled *Living in Two Places*, 2017, where Krstin first photographed her partner's hands while they lived together in New York City, and then using the same roll of film, took multiple exposure photographs of her own hands whenever she had to travel alone to Toronto for several weeks at a time. The transparent ghost-like hands appear as phantoms longingly reaching for each other.

The painterly elements are from Krstin's catalogue of hi-resolution scans of oil-paint palettes used in her art practice, which serve as source material for digitally rendered compositions. For *touch*, the paint creates environments that frame the photographic elements in otherworldly portals where connections are made.

*touch* is Nicole Krstin's first solo exhibition at Wall Space Gallery

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WALL SPACE GALLERY  
1090 Bank St. Ottawa, ON. K1S 3X5 | 613.729.0003 | info@wallspacegallery.ca



## CURATORIAL STATEMENT – *touch*

Wall Space Gallery is proud to introduce *touch*, the first solo exhibition of painter Nicole Krstin. Krstin works fluidly between acrylic painting, digital art, and film photography, often combining working processes between mediums to open new avenues of perception. Using layered and juxtaposed imagery Krstin allows her subjects to transition between the digital and the material world.

In *touch*, Krstin draws new inspiration from a previous series of her film photography. This series stemmed from a period of time when Krstin was living between New York and Toronto; constantly transitioning spaces and leaving those she loved behind. To distill the essence of existing in two places at once, along with the longing that accompanies it, Krstin began exploring double exposures; capturing photos of her and her partner's hands in one city, overlaid with second-exposures of her hands in the following city. Through this series, she began building intimate moments of touch from impossible distances.

The works in *touch* extrapolate on Krstin's use of double exposure by combining them with her hallmark layered and manipulated digital renders of her painting palette. These environments of emotive colour create a connection between paint and body, the material and the immaterial. Once the material world is transposed into light, whether in pixels or through the photographic process, its presence and meaning changes. Similar to the functioning of memory, it becomes the ghost of a reality; time-stamped with our own record of emotion and vulnerable to manipulations that might re-write its initial significance.

Within Krstin's ongoing bodies of work is an interest in reiteration and the pathways this process opens to creation and meaning making. Grouped together into 'chapters' of experience, *Perceive Me* functions as the epilogue. In *Perceive Me*, the expansive environments of digitized paint and playful interactions of transparent bodies present throughout the exhibition works collapse inward into a self-contained form. Though it has echoes of symmetry, subtle differences create movement within the central formation lending it a distinct presence as a growing and lively organism. There is a calm in *Perceive Me* that suggests a final and complete coming together of previously disjointed parts.

- Tiffany April  
Curator

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# CV

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 *touch*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 *Layers of Love*, Contributing Artist, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, ON  
2020 *Alternative Process*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
2020 *Untitled*, Ollie Quinn, Toronto, ON  
2019 *Untitled*, Ollie Quinn, Toronto, ON  
2019 *Daegu Art Fair*, Partial Gallery, Daegu, South Korea  
2019 *Movement*, Remote Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2019 *The Great Big Wall of Smalls*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
2018 *Timeraiser*, The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2018 *X: The Tenth Anniversary Collection*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
2018 *Wondrous Ways*, Arta Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2017 *Who Are You?*, Red Head Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2017 *Extend*, Great Hall, Toronto, ON  
2016 *The Braids*, Akin Vitrine Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2016 *Artifacts - Akin Collective x Project Gallery*, Project Gallery, Toronto, ON

## ART FAIRS

2020 *The Artist Project 2020*, Better Living Centre, Toronto, ON  
2019 *Daegu Art Fair*, Partial Gallery, Daegu, South Korea  
2019 *The Artist Project 2019*, Better Living Centre, Toronto, ON  
2018 *The Artist Project 2018*, Better Living Centre, Toronto, ON  
2017 *Edition Toronto*, Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON

## COLLECTIONS

Works held in private collections in Canada and the United States.

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