

## **Artist Statement:** Norris L. Duckett III

In my photographic practice, I bring the underrepresented cultures to light. To bring an understanding mindset to our issues of unemployment, hunger, and low education to the world's attention and being fixed. At the young age of five was already diagnosed with chronic asthma and come to find out I was left-handed. From this I was expected to not play outside with other children and found that I live in a right-handed world; forcing me to adjust and be in this middle space of doing both. For example I became ambidextrous due to my natural ability and what had been forced upon me. Society's restrictions forced me to make choices of learning multiple ways to do things. I had my natural abilities in contrast to society's way of doing things; which was the majority over the minority. These occurrences pushed me into a place of understanding and wanting to help others that are misunderstood; these are the circumstances that led me to Krump. From my experience the mentality of a person of poverty is to make it out the best way you can. This issue alone causes people to be unhappy, trapped in insane judicial cycles, and separation of families. The Krump movement provided me an outlet to express my life and what I wanted to say through dance. Krump is an action, activated through exchange of energy mixed with self-created originality. Essentially there is a feeling to Krump, which can only be seen in person because it must be felt. The performer's out of body spiritual experience is a moment to behold because it is in the this particular space that a viewer feels and sees the performer's released energy that is something that is beyond words. Krump is used as a tool to have story telling, push physical and mental boundaries, and to motivate people. Most people refer to it as a dance; but to me Krump is so much more than a dance; because of its many parts of universal communication. For example, Krump for some within the movement is a means of financial stability. For others Krump is a way to release emotion.

My recent work *Context & Time*, has been created using simplistic universal technology in its final presentation format. Utilizing both sides of the technology modern and low tech; such as a non-linear timeline, video showcasing live streams of today and traditional interviews, and photography captured in traditional format and displayed in an edgy modernized way. This body of work was inspired because the new generation of Krump dancers have forgotten Krump Tradition and foundation. Which is also an issue in the world's society at large. For example one of the realms I work in as a photographer, traditionally we utilize film and are masters of light; with the boom of social media content the profession has become a less respected skill from the mindset of quantity over quality. The industry and society have begun accepting unrefined works and the amateur has become glorified. Due to the lack of knowledge for the profession by those within this field we have lowered our standards and are failing future generations. In *Context & Time* I take a stand to educate and come to common ground between the old and the new. In my work I break the mold of tradition to mix non-traditional techniques by breaking the rules and still achieving foundational purpose. For example traditionally in photography you must create a photograph using mastery of lighting skills, which is showcased in my *Krump Life* work. As a finalized presentation traditionally you have a wooden framed image; in my work you will see the image mounted one of two ways. One of which is done with masking tape; and the other is customized metal frames. The distinction between the two techniques is to showcase solidarity and foundation represented in the metal images. As for the masking taped images showcasing the fluidity of the dance movement itself; and are to inform the public and honor those that have contributed to the Krump movement.

My work is displayed in a raw modular format because this reflects to the viewer how Krump is something that hits you all at once. This effect immerses the viewer into the world of Krump; to consume large amounts of information and how everything correlates to each other. This process develops a structure for understanding of the world presented to the viewer. This is a similar affect our current social media outlets use in this new age of technology. This style is fused with a commercial approach to engage the viewer and to compliment my subject matter; this reflects Krump's intense lifestyle. Krump is a mode of resistance to our government's outlook of oppressed people. To improve our situation of poverty in the world; I plan to take a stand through my art. Connecting the Krump community's dots by creating things such as a

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support system, work, and guidance on success. Building is what I'm doing, and equally as important first it starts at home in the community I was raised in Krump.

In fact, many people are unaware of who created the sound of Krump music, which is *Tha J-Squad*. Helping make this sub-culture understood by educating the world is the goal; and to unite people as Krump has done for me will bring progress to my community and other communities as well.