

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 from classism 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. This led me to Krump; The Genre of dance Krump originally started as the Krump Movement and originates from Los Angeles California. In fact, many people are unaware of who created the sound of Krump music, which is *Tha J-Squad*. Tha J-Squad provided unique sound that matched the styles of Krump. The Krump Movement is made of a diverse group of individuals that collaborate inside and outside of the dance in pursuit of uplifting the community's welfare. Krump provided me a community to express my life and what I wanted to say through dance. 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. 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 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*, utilizes both sides of the technology modern and low tech; such as a non-linear timeline, video showcasing live streams of today and traditional interviews, photography and live performance. This body of work was inspired because the new generation of Krump dancers have forgotten Krump tradition and foundation; and the elder generation have stopped teaching. Im calling into question the divisions created through classification and professionalism; this is the point we struggle with and have created regress. Because we become stagnant and refuse to grow with each other and start a cycle of selfish destruction. There is a need for adaptation to interaction and engagement between entities such as our elder and our new comer. To understand the needs and improve upon them. Which is also an issue in the world's society at large; such as communities and our government. 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 recently become open for the upcoming photographer to be at least available to be showcased; but not necessarily accepted into prestigious institutions such as your local gallery. Due to the lack of knowledge for the profession by those within this field we have lost the balance between knowledge and new growth. Failing future generations and teaching division which becomes the pattern.

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 frame your finalized piece; in which everything put into a frame looks good. As a photographer, I create a photograph using mastery of lighting skills, which is showcased in my *Krump Life* work. As my finalized presentation, you will see the images mounted by way of masking tape; this technique is to showcase my skill, defy the standard, and magnify the fluidity of the Krump movement it self. The way the way work is hung is unique because it challenges the concept of professionalism. Context and Time is made up of several

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bodies of work to inform the Krump world, 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 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.