

PRESS RELEASE

KIRTIS CLARKE

## LIFETIMES LIVED APART

16 - 24 OCTOBER 2021



*Lifetimes Lived Apart Triptych, 2021*  
Image by Pierre Castignola

British-Jamaican artist and designer Kirtis Clarke is a recent graduate from the Contextual Design Masters at Design Academy Eindhoven, with a project entitled, 'Lifetimes Lived Apart'. Staged annually in Eindhoven during Dutch Design Week, the work will be shown as part of the DAE Graduation Show taking place between 16-24 October 2021.

Clarke (b.1996) is a designer that works between art, design, and cultural/historical research. He takes a conceptual yet critical approach to telling stories related to his own heritage, the wider black diaspora and the performance of blackness in our everyday as a way to connect to knowledges and rituals rooted in our collective sense of identity. Working across performance, sculpture and digital media, his constellations of reference material, abstract forms, films and audio create imaginary spaces to rediscover blackness outside of a white lens.

Short:

Countless cultures and artefacts have been severed, fragmented, buried, revived and reimagined through various diasporas. Kirtis Clarke's films, abstract structures and heavy sculptural forms are the performative results of such a process. Following an inquiry into the complexity of the designer's own diasporic community, relational gestures defined the form of the sculptures, that become buried and fossilised in material processes representative of time lost and the condition of scattered populations. Presented as sites for unknowable rituals to be reimagined, *Lifetimes Lived Apart* asks: What does it mean to excavate history in a present tense? What does it mean to materialise the personal in this historical moment?

Long:

Countless cultures and artefacts have been severed, fragmented, buried, revived and reimagined through various diasporas. As children of the water, from our root we have become dismembered, and scattered throughout the Atlantic whereby only blackness itself is where we can make our claim. Kirtis Clarke's films, abstract structures and heavy sculptural forms are the performative results of such a process.

*Lifetimes Lived Apart* begins with a research into where the designer was able to identify blackness in the relational gestures, verbal and non-verbal communications present in his every day. From the nod to calling aunty, aunty - this vocabulary of utterances, codes and gestures are performative identifiers of a global and ever-present black vernacular. Following an inquiry into the complexity of the designer's own diasporic community, relational gestures defined the form of the sculptures, that become buried and fossilised in material processes representative of time lost and the condition of scattered populations.

Using a co-created process at its core - words between strangers are translated into a choreography. Movements performed with virtual tools become abstract forms - a metal structure turns monument that enters a material process of fossilisation and excavation. Presented as sites for unknowable rituals to be reimagined, the work asks: In a present tense, how might we excavate cultures that have become fragmented? What does it mean to materialise the personal in this historical moment.

SELECTED IMAGES: LIFETIMES LIVED APART



*We may have lost some of the signification, 2021*  
Image by Seung Hwhan Ji (**left**)

*AH! This reminds me of ... no that's something else, 2021*  
Image by Seung Hwhan Ji (**right**)



*WAIT! It didn't go like that: Starting together, passing the other. We kind of move. You know?, 2021*  
Image by Seung Hwhan Ji (**left**)

*(Pictured left) We may have lost some of the signification, 2021*  
*(Pictured right) WAIT! It didn't go like that: Starting together, passing the other. We kind of move. You know?, 2021*  
Image by Pierre Castignola (**right**)



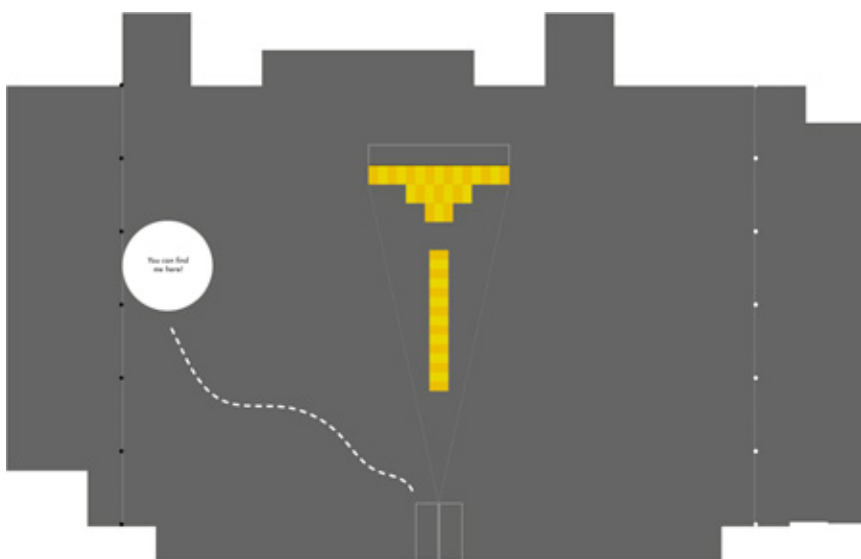
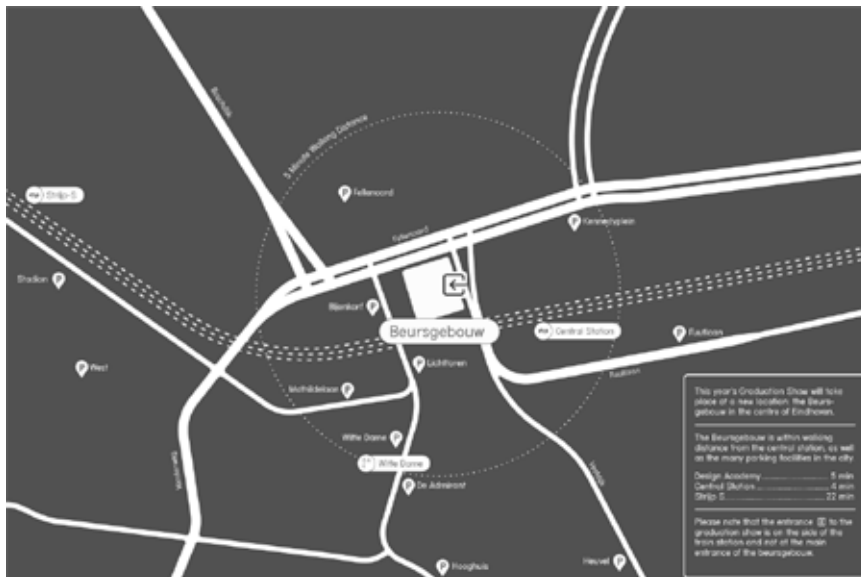
*Lifetimes Lived Apart Triptych, 2021*  
Image by Pierre Castignola



SELECTED IMAGES: KIRTIS CLARKE (PORTRAITS)



Images by Boudewijn Bollmann



**DESIGN ACADEMY GRADUATION SHOW:**

16-24 October 2021

Beursgebouw (Lardinoisstraat 10)

5611 ZZ Eindhoven

**OPENING HOURS:**

16 Oct 1 PM - 6 PM

17 – 24 Oct 11 AM - 6 PM

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