

INTERLOPER



Mar Kristoff

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Text by Raina Alonge

Interloper marks the first solo exhibition of Mar Kristoff , positioning the artist within an ambiguous terrain of both participant and outsider. The title itself suggests intrusion, a figure who moves between spaces without fully belonging. Kristoff inhabits this role deliberately, treating memory not as stable inheritance but as a contested field where intimacy and estrangement coexist.

Central to the exhibition is the question of authorship and the fractured temporality that governs memory and time. Working with family photographs and found objects, Kristoff treating as a transparent vessel of memory. In his paintings, the photograph becomes an apparatus of power: one that constructs, separates, and distorts identity as much as it records it. In this light, the archive is not a fixed repository but a fluid site, subject to revision, erasure, and speculation. Through painterly gestures of blurring, reframing, and displacement, Kristoff unsettles inherited meaning and sets memory on alternate trajectories.

Photographs once confined to the familial album, formerly objects of sentimentality and inheritance, are displaced into the institutional frame of the gallery, where their status becomes newly unstable. Their circulation raises unresolved questions: *Who owns an image? Who is entitled to narrate it? Whose truth is made visible?* By foregrounding this instability, Kristoff underscores the politics embedded within the image itself. The photograph, as mediated through his paintings, ceases to operate as a passive record and emerges instead as an active instrument of negotiation between memory and fabrication.

Interloper also signals a decisive expansion of the artist's vocabulary. While painting remains central, the exhibition introduces moving images and sculpture into his practice for the first time. In the video work, he revisits his childhood home, collaging sequences that visually articulate his position as an interloper.

The sculptures, crafted from his late father's belongings, reanimate private objects as carriers of memory and presence. Having long worked through the personal archive, Kristoff approaches loss here with greater immediacy, mapping the fragile bonds of kinship and the ways intimate histories unfold and multiply across shifting, interpenetrating forms.

Beneath the exhibition lies a paradox of remembering: the will to preserve versus the inevitability of distortion. Every image gestures toward a suspension of time, yet once it circulates, it begins to drift, absorbing new readings, accumulating contexts, and gradually betraying its origins. Kristo does not resolve this tension, he amplifies it. The result is a portrait of memory not as a static archive but as a living, mutable process: discontinuous, volatile, and perpetually unresolved.

About Raina Alonge

Raina Alonge is a Jakarta-based editor and writer whose work examines the intersections of art, design, fashion, and contemporary culture. Her writing often centres on the conditions of making, highlighting the craft, process, and intention, while attending to the human narratives behind them.

Mar Kristoff
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What does he think of that? I mean, what do I?, 2025
Gesso and acrylic ink on cotton canvas
50 x 40 x 5 cm

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The Passenger, 2025
Gesso and acrylic ink on cotton canvas
70 x 90 x 5 cm



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The End, 2025
Gesso and acrylic ink on cotton canvas
130 x 160 x 5 cm

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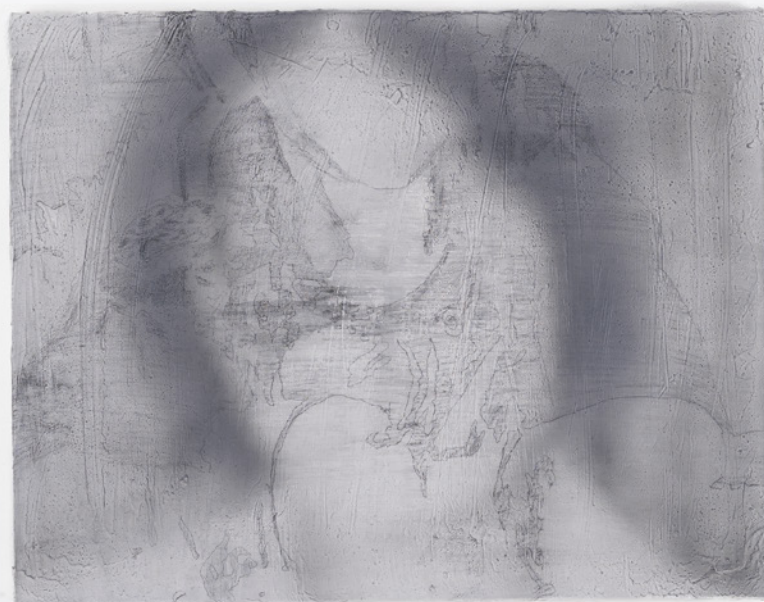
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The Dance, 2025
Gesso and acrylic ink on cotton canvas
90 x 70 x 5 cm

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You, 2025
Gesso and acrylic ink on cotton canvas
70 x 90 x 5 cm

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Cleanse, 2025
Gesso and acrylic ink on cotton canvas
50 x 40 x 5 cm

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Do it again, 2025
Gesso and acrylic ink on cotton canvas
70 x 90 x 5 cm

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Where do we go from here, 2025
Gesso and acrylic ink on cotton canvas
30 x 25 x 5 cm

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Who do you love, 2025

Gesso, gypsum-based joint compound, mesh tape, acrylic and
acrylic ink on repurposed cardboard
45 x 40 x 1 cm

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The Lesson, 2025
Gesso and acrylic ink on canvas
30 x 25 x 5 cm

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The Play, 2025

Gesso, gypsum-based joint compound and acrylic ink on plywood panel
44.5 x 54 x 1 cm

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Handover, 2025
Gesso and acrylic ink on canvas
90 x 70 x 5 cm

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mar Kristoff is a multidisciplinary artist currently based in Bali, Indonesia. Gathering inspiration and references from his personal archive and found imagery, Kristoff is known for his interpretation of a photographic image in paint that captures the nature of memories. Kristoff interrogates both the limitations and potential, and the contrast and the likeness, of painting and photography as a medium while delving into the themes of identity, memory, nostalgia, the concept of time, and the eternal pursuit of belonging.

Kristoff has participated in exhibitions such as ARTJOG *Motif:Amalan*, Jogja National Museum (JNM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2025); *We begin with everything*, ara contemporary, Jakarta, Indonesia (2025); *Tandur*, Nonfrasa Gallery, Bali, Indonesia (2024); *TERRA*, Burgundy, France (2024); OPC Collectors Show, Gajah Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia (2024); *Salon Et Cetera*, Ace House Collective, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2024); *The Inaugural Exhibition at SUN. CONTEMPORARY*, Bali, Indonesia (2024); *TOREH*, Nonfrasa Gallery, Bali, Indonesia (2023); and *Coalesce - OPC Collectors Show*, ROH Projects, Jakarta, Indonesia (2023). He is the gold winner of the emerging artist category in the UOB Painting of the Year 2024, Indonesia.



CV

b.2001

Lives and works in Bali, Indonesia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Screen Print Showcase*, Collaboration with Krack! Studio, Newsagency Gallery, Petersham, Sydney, Australia
- 2025 *Setelah Padam*, Collaboration with Krack! Studio, Cemeti Institute for Art and Society, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2025 *ARTJOG 2025: Motif Amalan*, Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2025 *We Begin with Everything*, ara contemporary, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2024 *Tumbuh Rimpang*, NonFrasa Gallery, Bali, Indonesia
- 2024 TERRA, Burgundy, France
- 2024 Art Jakarta, SUN.CONTEMPORARY, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2024 Art Jakarta Scene, BWP Value - Ace House Collective, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2024 OPC Collector's Show 2024, Gajah Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2024 *Salon et Cetera*, Ace House Collective, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2024 The Inaugural Exhibition, SUN.CONTEMPORARY, Bali, Indonesia
- 2023 *Forever Young*, UYCC Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2023 TOREHA^Δ, Nonfrasa Gallery, Bali, Indonesia
- 2023 *Coalesce - One Piece Club collectors show*, ROH Projects, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2023 *Television Takeover*, Gonzo gallery, Bali, Indonesia
- 2021 *Frekuensi*, Park 23 Creative Hub, Bali, Indonesia
- 2021 *OMAH*, Titik Dua gallery, Bali, Indonesia

SELECTED AWARD AND PRIZES

2024

Gold prize - Emerging Artist category, UOB Indonesia Painting of The Year, Indonesia



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