

THE FRONT

KRISS MUNSAYA

Dreams Tonite. Highway Reflection, The Eraser, 2020. C-Print framed, 43.75 x 35 in. Edition of 3. Courtesy of the artist. Winner, The Salt Spring National Art Prize 2021/2022.

The Eraser Series

The Eraser juxtaposes experiences of the past with desires of the future. It is a story of change and transformation that centres a Black man revisiting experiences that have been normalized in critical reflection of internalized supremacy. Things that at the time he thought were normal now have new meaning and he wants to share the lessons within.

With *The Eraser*, he aims to translate his experiences into invitations to reflect on the impacts of supremacy. This project reflects critically on the past to inform transformational offerings for the future. As the protagonist revisits memories to reimagine his past, he tries to erase the dominance of whiteness by transposing Blackness. However, memory is not easy to manipulate! Digging into the past always brings up unexpected things. With that, it imagines creative reclamations of space.

Highway Reflection

When he was six years old, his family went on a road trip to Germany. They stopped at a really low budget motel on the highway. He remembers he couldn't sleep that night because of the sound of cars. The next day, he and his father played soccer in the parking lot while his sister and mother hung out on the grass.

At one point, the ball got away and rolled toward the fence separating them from the highway. On the other side of the highway, he could see a hotel. But that one was a fancy one. He could see rich white families in the pool. He remembers the patio was full of flowers. He was really jealous and maybe a bit mad at his parents for choosing where they were staying.

He wanted to be on the other side of the highway.

It took him years to understand that he was exactly where he was supposed to be.

Now that he's older, he's trying to reclaim the past he never had. He's trying to change his memories to change his future. But digging up the past always brings up unexpected things.

ARTIST BIO

Kriss Munsya is a Belgian, Congolese-born visual artist currently living in Vancouver, BC. From a very young age, Kriss has been exploring art through drawings, photography, and video. His journey started with his long feature film *Us And Them* in 2015, shot on his hitchhiking trip from New York to Rio de Janeiro.

Being on the road as a Black male shifted his vision of the world and transformed his approach of art. After having directed his first documentary, Kriss focused on photography and decided to tell his story of racism and abuse he was victim of for a long time.

Saying without saying, showing without showing. That is his mantra of his latest project *The Eraser*.

Text courtesy of Mónica Reyes Gallery.