NIKOLAOS RAFAIL KAPETANIOS

It takes silence to see
I am a Greek visual artist based in The Hague. My practice investigates how personal histories and social structures shape perception and, through it, the ways we relate to ourselves, others and the world. Growing up closeted and queer made me attentive to visibility, external gazes and the ways these can become internalised. My work starts from this situated experience but moves towards broader questions of memory, belonging, embodiment and relation. I am interested in how artistic practice can interrupt habitual perception and create space for more consciously shaped ways of seeing and relating. Photography remains central to my practice, but I do not approach the photograph primarily as an autonomous outcome. Images operate alongside installation, writing, code, materials, instructions and participation within situations that can be activated and transformed. My process is non-linear and iterative, moving between embodied observation, material experimentation, prototyping, conversations and encounters with viewers. The room recurs in my work as both refuge and perceptual space: a place for withdrawal, attention and opacity. At the same time, I explore how this room can become porous, allowing different situated perspectives to meet without collapsing into a single meaning. Through participatory installations, collaborations and workshops, I investigate how knowledge and meaning can emerge relationally, while preserving boundaries, difference and the possibility of refusal. Keywords: perception, relationality, queerness, memory, opacity, participation

WEBSITES

Personal website

nikolaskapetanios.space/

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/n__kapa/

EDUCATION

2024 - 2026 MA Photography and Society Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten

2022 - 2023 Advanced photography course phéno

2021 - 2021 Photobook Workshop METROPOLITAN ORGANISATION OF MUSEUMS OF VISUAL ARTS OF THESSALONIKI

EXHIBITIONS

2025 To touch the sun Paradise The Hague, Netherlands In collaboration with De Correspondent, students of Master of Photography and Society visually responded to the Netherlands' growing spatial-planning dilemma: the country's competing needs collectively demand more space than is physically available.
Group

2023 Visual deviations Phéno Thessaloniki, Greece A process of inner exploration is expressed through the personal photographic perspectives of the participating artists. The individual works presented were works in progress, developed through the artistic research conducted as part of PHĒNO's Photography II workshop series, led by Nikos Kostopoulos.
Group

2023 Touching transcendence UltraSuperNew gallery Tokyo, Japan Touching Transcendence investigates into the symbolic representation of the hand as a connection between the divine and humanity. It examines the significance of gestures that transcend verbal communication, bridging spirituality and the real world through the power of touch.
Group

PROJECTS

2026 Observations from a small house on the moon The Hague - Thessaloniki Observations from a Small House on the Moon explores how queer experience, trauma and withdrawal condition perception. Through photography, installation and participatory methods, the work transforms hypervigilant observation into a way of sensing, relating and reclaiming subjectivity.

2025 My sister is not a bad person The Hague, Netherlands My Sister Is Not a Bad Person explores the

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

2026 phéno Thessaloniki, Greece I was invited for a residency in Thessaloniki, hosted by Phéno. I had the chance to develop part of my graduation project and provided a photo zine workshop to students of the photography course at Phéno.

complexity of familial trauma, where harm, care and innocence can coexist. Through photography, the work resists simple judgments while creating space for memory, ambiguity and the right to opacity.

2023 Fairy finger Thessaloniki, Greece Fairy Fingers explores body dysmorphia, inherited ways of seeing and the desire for connection. Through algorithmic camera and Instagram manipulations, the work externalizes the perceptual distortions and defence mechanisms shaping the experience of the body.

2023 My eyes are still burning Thessaloniki, Greece My Eyes Are Still Burning connects present and past through photographs and writing printed on gradually fading thermal paper. Moving between childhood memories and the relationship with my nephew, it explores emotional neglect, suppressed feelings and the changing meaning of memory.

2022 Programmed Cell Death Thessaloniki Programmed Cell Death maps the subconscious connections between the inner mind and the surrounding world. Through dark, direct-flash photographs, the work develops a visual language for understanding the hidden structures that shape perception and emotional responses.

PUBLICATIONS

2025 Dynamic Identities Book self-published Multiple The Hague, Netherlands www.instagram.com/p/DI6I29rtv0-/?img_index=1 Master of photography and society students went on a field trip to Zagreb where projects resulted from an exploration on Dynamic Identities. They were shown in the pop-up exhibition Push-Pull-Shift.

2024 The Annihilation of Space and Time Book zerofeedback Collective Tokyo, Japan zrfdbck.com/the-annihilation-of-space-and-time-book The Annihilation of Space and Time is a collective publication that reflects on how speed, distance, and connection have been reshaped in the contemporary world. Instead of treating space and time as fixed ideas, the book examines how they stretch, compress, and lose definition in a society driven by global movement, information flow, and shifting cultural borders.

2023 Fairy fingers Book self-published Nikolaos Rafail Kapetanios Thessaloniki, Greece Fairy Fingers explores body dysmorphia, inherited ways of seeing and the desire for connection. Through algorithmic camera and Instagram manipulations, the work externalizes the perceptual distortions and defence mechanisms shaping the experience of the body.

2019 Summer from afar Book self-published Nikolaos Rafail Kapetanios Alexandria, Greece www.yumpu.com/xx/document/read/64984487/- All photographs in this self-published zine were taken during summer of 2019. I had just finished my studies in the university and my greek army duties. I felt lost and disconnected from my- self. I recorded this experience as I was struggling to define my next step in life.

-- Screwdriver issue 1 www.instagram.com/p/DJ_9ap_KiBm/?img_index=4

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2023 - -- Crafting narratives workshop On-going

2023 - 2024 Photography teacher, Phēno, Thessaloniki



Observations from a small house on the moon (graduation show), 2026
01:32



Live camera from Observations from a small house on the moon, 2026
00:24



Observations from a small house on the moon, 2026
00:18



Observation from a small house on the moon (installation), 2026
Multimedia



Part of overflow protocol, 2025



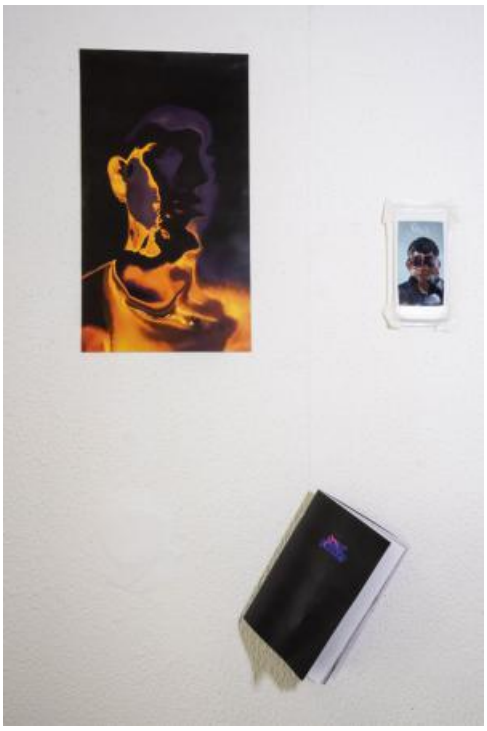
Documentation of Push, Pull, Shift, 2025
00:21



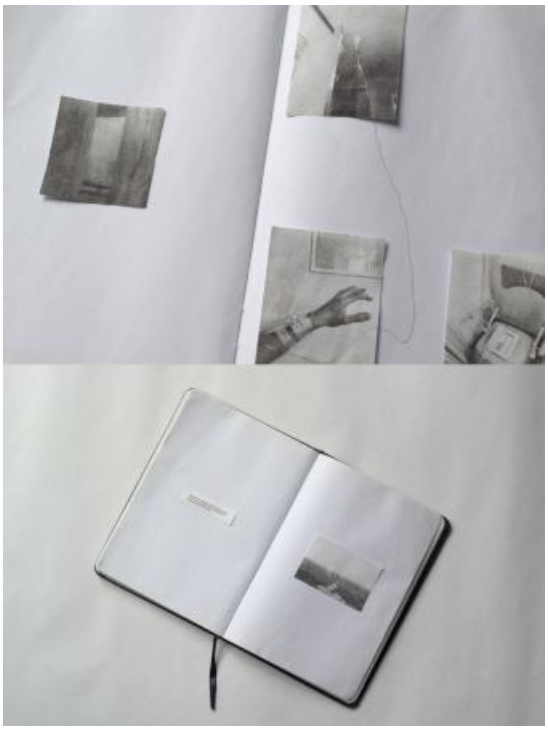
My sister is not a bad person, 2025
Multimedia installation



Documentation of Overflow protocol, 2025
Multimedia installation



Fairy Fingers, 2023
Multimedia installation with a print, a photozine and a scree/video.



Research diary of My Eyes are Still Burning, 2023
Thermal prints, 15x21