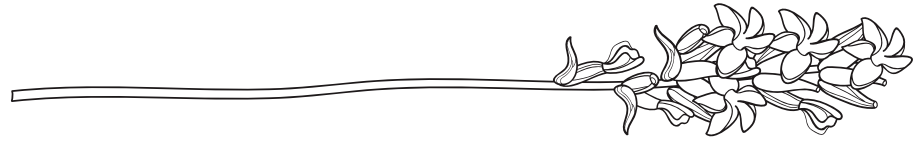
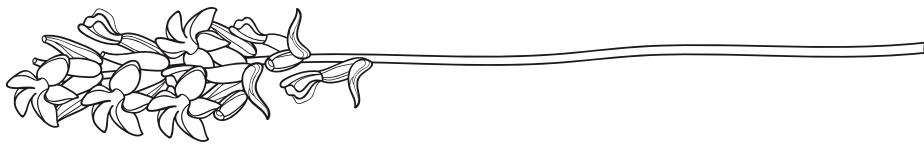


Virtual



LAVENDER



Labels

NICK CAVE

(American, b. 1959)

Drive-By, 2011

Blu-ray Disc, 16 Minutes

Gift of Nilani Trent, © Nick Cave



Sometimes it is easy or simple to distance the artist from the artwork — yet, **Nick Cave** thrusts us into sudden proximity with his Soundsuits, especially when they are brought to life by human bodies animating all the colors and textures and sounds. When he made the first one in the early 90s, he decided to try it on. It shifted how he experienced his body in the world. He felt shielded, declaring the space he occupied as natural and loud with a strange otherness that concealed him as it heralded his presence. Rhythmic sounds, vibrant images, and vivid movements become this compelling invitation to watch, drawing us in as it unsettles us.

Nick Cave (the sculptor and performance artist — not the musician/singer) is a profound polymath of an artist. His works are layered, intricate, complex — never just one thing. Born in the United States and exhibiting since the late 90s, he is Black and queer and a host of other identities. These are inseparable from his works and his work.

In 2010, Cave shared insight on the soundsuits, that they are “forcing the viewer to sort of come face-to-face with the unfamiliar.”

Cave created the first Soundsuit soon after the 1992 acquittal of LAPD officers after the brutal violence against Rodney King a year earlier in March 1991. These Soundsuits take up space, increasing the size of the wearer's body. They are establishing a presence. They make noise. They insist on being seen and heard. These Soundsuits, the choreographed movement, the colors, and sounds — all blended in a looping video moment — are queering our expectations and experience.

In 2017, Cave created Drive-By Remix which was projected on enormous screens in New York City's Times Square.

He used this same content and remediated it via large-scale iterations broadcasting all around. It changed the work to place the spectating audience — inside- the video images. He exhibited this during a Midnight Moment in December 2018.