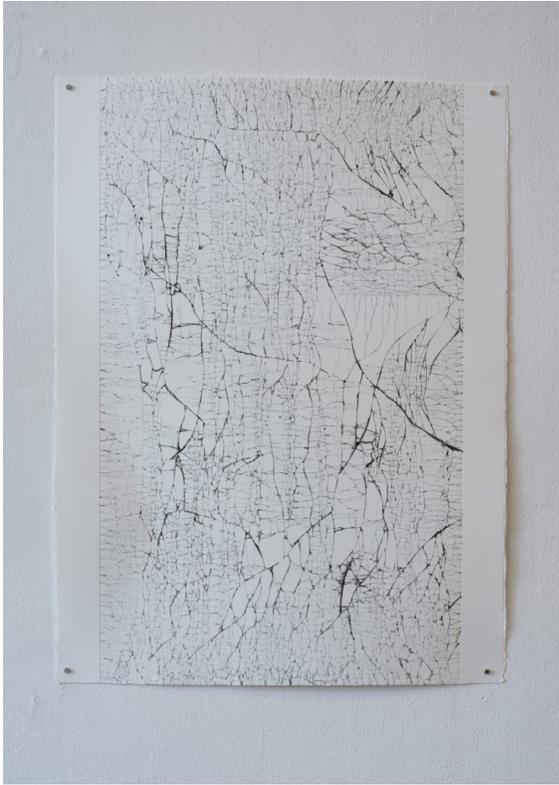


Artpace Spring Artist-in-Residence Exhibition

by [Neil Fauerso](#) | April 3, 2017



Nicholas Frank's *Frain* quickly settles itself in a dialogue of corporeal community and metaphysics. Frank is something of an intellectual mensch—the piece includes pamphlets (Artpace chronicles) of his political and philosophical musings framed through the relationships he developed throughout the residency (Frank is staunchly anti-social media and made a concerted effort to engage the local community directly). Frank also hosted various artists and thinkers in the space (such as Black Kirby's visit and presentation on mass incarceration and Afro-futurism). *Frain* consists of four pieces playing in an ethereal quartet. The prints were made by running glass plates through a printing press, thereby shattering them and resulting in a print detailing every shard's break surround two larger bleachers; they're separated by a glass chain. The bleachers look onto shattered ceramics—Frank brought in teenagers to envision the future and then break the ceramics—and a sound-art piece, made in collaboration with the San Antonio artist Justin Boyd, of the queasy, prickly audio of the glass being run through the printing presses.



The result is like an elegant, perfected mathematical equation, whose ultimate meaning requires effort, but is guided and planned. The shattered prints in conjunction with the sound piece (which positioned in the corner ceiling by a skylight, sounds like a ghost, a dying bird, or the that type of wind that feels like an unsettling omen) form a simple and wise illustration of the experience of being alive—the chaotic fragmenting of individuality rendered ultimately the same for all, broken over time by the press of the world. The bleachers divided by a pristine glass chain looking onto ceramic debris articulate the folly of division. Sitting on the bleachers (which will move in different formations once a week) the ridiculousness of the significance of self crystallizes in cold mirth. *You fool, what have you sequestered yourself for? To look onto dust?* Despite the weightiness of the themes, Frank's piece is not ultimately depressing or desolate. The solution of the equation of Frank's piece is community, the solace in knowing that we all break the same.

Through May 7 at [Artpace](#), San Antonio. Photo credit: Adam Schreiber, commissioned and produced by Artpace San Antonio.