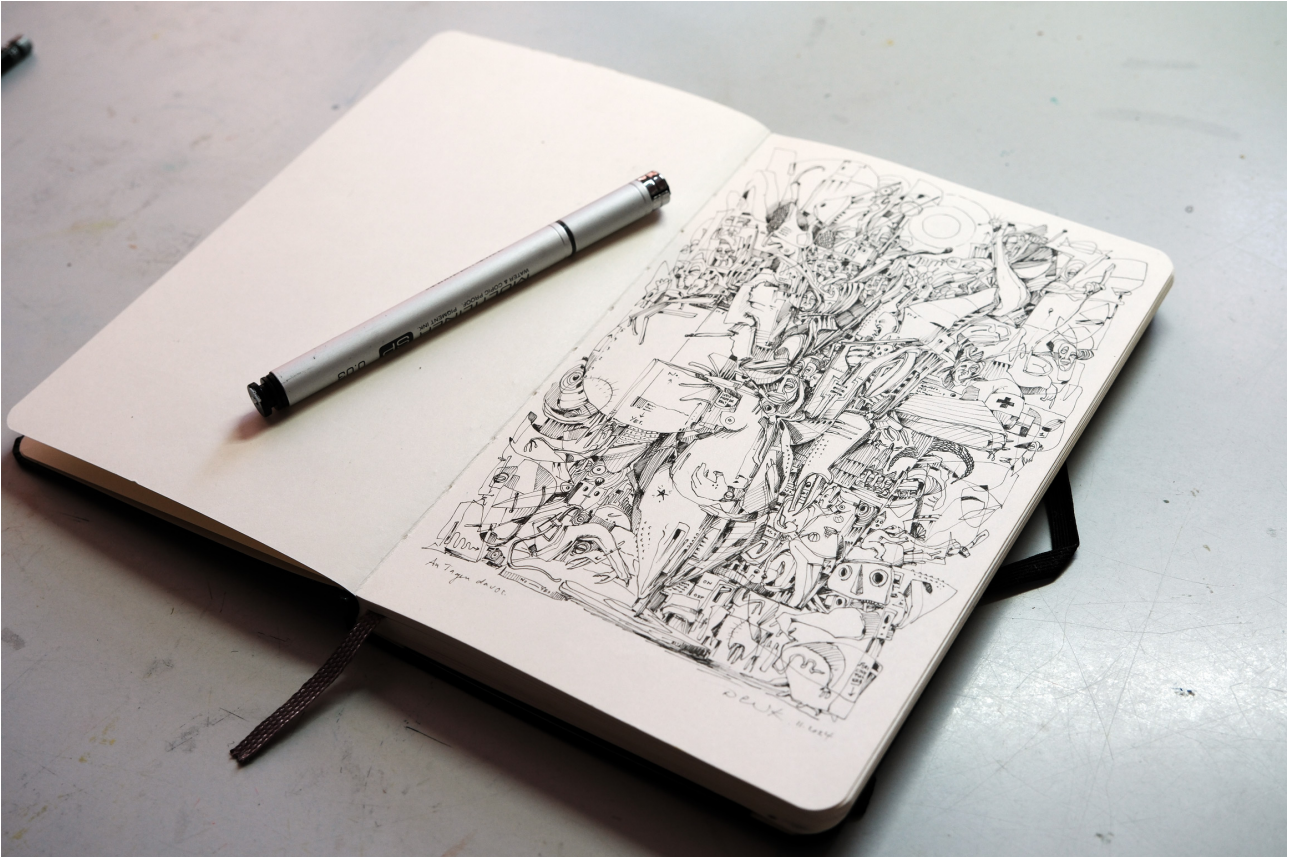


PEER KRIESEL – PRESS RELEASE

A Sketchbook as Total Artwork: Peer Kriesel presents *Surreale Visionen* at paper positions berlin 2026



50 hand-drawn pages, a contemporary tarot deck, one original Moleskine – Berlin-based artist presents the sketchbook as autonomous work and origin of a limited edition

Berlin, April 2026 – At *paper positions berlin 2026* (April 30 – May 3, Tempelhof Airport), Berlin-based artist Peer Kriesel will present his Moleskine sketchbook *Surreale Visionen* (Surreal Visions) as a standalone exhibition object for the first time. The book comprises 50 pages of finely hand-drawn grotesques, masks and surreal figures – created as the source for a same-titled edition of 50 individual motifs. The sketchbook will be on view at the stand of *Galerie Martin Mertens*.

A Tarot for the digital age

The work draws on the legacy of the *Jeu de Marseille* – the legendary tarot deck conceived by André Breton and fellow Surrealists in 1940–41 during their exile in Marseille, replacing traditional card symbols with surrealist archetypes. Kriesel continues this lineage and transposes it into the present: his figures – absurdly distorted grotesques and masks, drawn in fine line on paper – are archetypes of our digital society. They reflect the performance of identity on social media, the tension between authentic selfhood and digital self-presentation, and the fundamental question of what separates the human from the machine.

The sketchbook is far more than preparatory work. It is a record of a meditative, drawing-obsessed process – an artefact of thought that makes the creative origin of the editions visible, and stands as an autonomous work in its own right.

The original and its editions

From the sketchbook emerged a *limited edition of 50 motifs* (edition of 5 each, 24 × 18 cm), available as individual works. At paper positions berlin, selected edition prints and the original sketchbook will be on view. Kriesel will be personally present throughout the fair.

About the artist

Peer Kriesel, born in Berlin in 1979, spent over 15 years as a creative director in the advertising industry. He now works as a freelance artist, consistently exploring identity and values in the age of digital transformation. His series – Fratzen (grotesques), Wimmelbilder (panoramic drawings), Übermalungen (overpaintings), FRTZNABSTRCTN – have been exhibited internationally, including at Art On Paper Amsterdam, Art Karlsruhe, paper positions in Berlin and Vienna, and in solo exhibitions in Berlin, Frankfurt and Stuttgart. International presentations have taken him to Beijing, Barcelona, Amsterdam and New York.

paper positions berlin 2026

Tempelhof Airport, former departure hall, Berlin

Stand: Galerie Martin Mertens

Opening: Thursday, April 30, 2026, 6–9 pm

Friday, May 1, 2026, 1–6 pm

Saturday, May 2, 2026, 11 am–8 pm

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 11 am–6 pm

Further information & images:

<https://peerkriesel.com/presse>

<https://peerkriesel.com/surreale-visionen-skizzenbuch/>

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From Sketchbook to Exhibit – Intimacy as an Artistic Gesture in the Digital Age

The sketchbook as a product. The Moleskine notebook is, first and foremost, a physical object with a specific materiality, format and tactile quality. It draws on a long tradition of the sketchbook as a design tool – as a space for thought between idea and artefact. In design practice, the sketchbook is not a neutral medium, but a product that structures processes, enables action and leaves traces. Engaging with this object sharpens our understanding of function, materiality and configuration – core categories of product design.



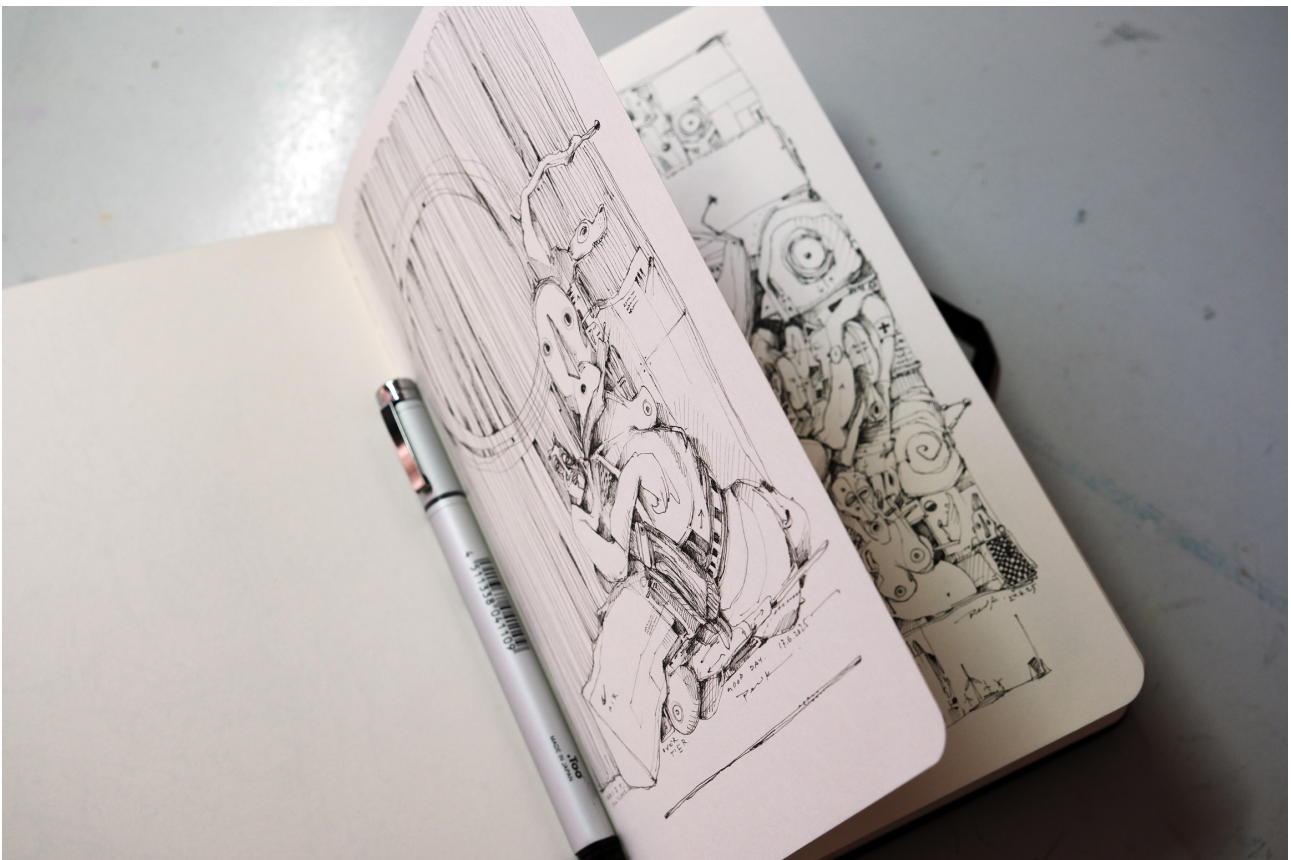
The sketchbook as a space. At the same time, the sketchbook is a space in a figurative sense: an intimate, private place of experimentation, of mistakes, of exploration. This conceptual space – open, non-representational, committed to the process – stands in productive contrast to the public, impact-oriented spaces of the exhibition or the digital presence. The question of how this private process space transforms into a public presentation space is a genuinely design-oriented question that directly intertwines product and spatial thinking.

Mediation and appropriation. The exhibition or presentation of the sketchbook itself – as an object, as an accompanying medium and template to the edition – raises questions of staging and mediation: How does a private artefact become a public exhibit? How does the perception of an object change when it is transferred from the studio into a curatorial context? These questions touch upon the relationship between the material object and social space – and thus one of the central tensions of design practice.

Social dimension. In terms of content, the project addresses questions that extend far beyond the individual artefact. The sketchbook carries a peculiar tension within it: it is a deeply intimate object – comparable to a diary – whose viewing inevitably entails a glimpse into something

private. This experience of curiosity and voyeurism, the quiet thrill of leafing through someone else's thoughts and images, is not a side effect, but part of the work. At a time when corporations such as Meta or Google have systematically transformed human exhibitionism and voyeurism into a product – into the infrastructure of social platforms that thrive on the voluntary disclosure of private matters – this glimpse into the sketchbook takes on an added poignancy. It brings home what it means to share intimacy: as an artistic gesture, as a calculated offer, or as an unreflective reflex in an attention economy that has declared self-exposure to be currency.

Added to this are the thematic questions raised by the work itself: the erosion of authentic identity in digital spaces of visibility, the relationship between human and machine, and the function of symbols and archetypes in an accelerated visual culture. The surreal visual vocabulary – grimaces, masks, distorted figures – functions not as decoration, but as a critical instrument: it reveals what lies beneath the smooth surface of digital self-representation.



More images:

<https://peerkriesel.com/surreale-visionen-skizzenbuch>