



Gustav Klimt, *The Kiss*, 1907 vs. Irene Mamiye, *Collapse (The Kiss)*, 2017

"The Kiss" is the final painting of Klimt's Gold Period, during which he incorporated gold leaf into his works. The post-Victorian society of the early 1900s perceived "The Kiss" as pornographic, even though both figures are fully robed. Mamiye's *Collapse* piece has two sides to it. From one approach, you see Klimt's 1907 "The Kiss" and from the other, you see an image of two policemen making out. By today's standards, some would consider this a provocative image as well. It's interesting to see these two images against each other. It makes you question what society might view as provocative at a specific moment in time. Something completely normal but might not be commonly shown in media can become something taboo, but as we start to see more images like this one, we can drop that ridiculous view. French-born and New York-based artist Mamiye is best known for her critical employment of advanced digital imaging techniques, and for her passion for up-ending the status quo.