

ABSOLUTE FAILURE
Victor Olafsson

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● 20.03–05.04.2026

MELK – Elisenbergveien 7, 0265 Oslo

Victor Olafsson (b. 1992, Oslo) is a Norwegian artist working across visual and spatial practices. Olafsson works explores the unseen structures that shape how we move, act, and perceive the world in everyday life. He has recently exhibited at Vasli Souza (NO), Tommy Simoens Gallery (BE), SECONDroom (BE), Melk x Høyersten (NO) among others. Alongside his artistic practice, Olafsson continues to develop Pteron Studio (founded in 2022), an open platform working across art, design, and fashion. The studio extends his interest in staging and experimentation, allowing ideas tested in the studio to move into spatial and constructed environments.

We are pleased to present **ABSOLUTE FAILURE** by Victor Olafsson, his first solo exhibition at MELK.

The exhibition presents new works of silver gelatin prints, giclée prints, and digitally printed textiles. Some images are produced when the film glitches—a moment when the outcome is least predictable. Others are more figurative, shaped through the physical development of the film itself. Throughout the works, light and darkness coexist, creating a subtly uncanny atmosphere where control and unpredictability meet.

The exhibition moves through moments of testing and the idea of choice—like sliding doors. The systems and expectations that structure society often suggest a clear direction, yet choosing a different path can carry a quiet sense of doubt or unease. Olafsson continues to push against this tension, leaving behind traces of both accident and deliberate deviation.

These gestures echo the process in the studio. The works unfold through trial, departure, and frustration, mirroring the experience of navigating a world where the “correct” path is never entirely clear.

Many works begin as simple glimpses but function more as records of attempts. Surfaces retain hesitation—like a sheet of paper crushed in the hand or a discarded test print—holding the uneasy sense of not knowing whether something has succeeded or failed.

For Olafsson, process is not merely a step toward a finished image. It is a site where things may fall apart, yet where something larger can begin to emerge. The title **ABSOLUTE FAILURE** reflects this condition: pushing a process to its breaking point and recognizing failure not as an endpoint but as an essential part of discovery.

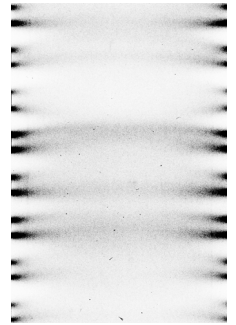
The psychological dimension of the work remains central—tension, frustration, luck, anger, and the strange momentum that keeps a process moving. The images move between abstraction and faintly surreal undertones, a quality that has increasingly defined his recent practice.

The viewer is left within the act itself: repetition, adjustment, doubt, irritation, chance, refusal.

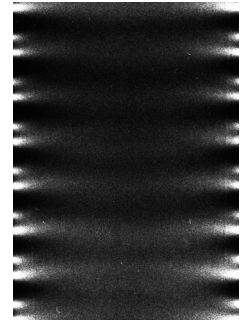
Curled sheets settle back into place. What appears minimal from a distance reveals pressure up close. Rather than correcting instability, Olafsson allows it to accumulate. Failure becomes material; the image becomes a site where control, emotion, and structure meet—and where the unexpected can occur.

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Absolute failure 1 (2026)
Victor Olafsson
105 x 157,5 cm
Pigment print on Kozo paper
Unique
40.000 NOK + 5 % art tax



Absolute failure 2 (2026)
Victor Olafsson
107,5 x 152,5 cm
Pigment print on Kozo paper
Unique
40.000 NOK + 5 % art tax



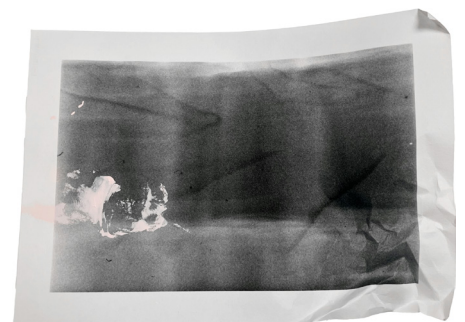
Attempt 7 (2026)
Victor Olafsson
20 x 15 cm
Silver gelatin print
Unique
10.000 NOK + 5 % art tax



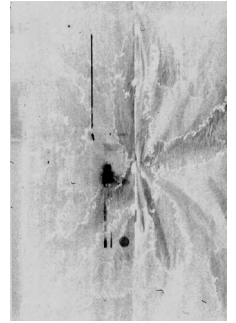
Attempt 10 (2026)
Victor Olafsson
20 x 15 cm
Silver gelatin print
Unique
12.000 NOK + 5 % art tax



Attempt 2 (2026)
Victor Olafsson
25 x 17 cm
Pigment print on Kozo paper, acrylic
Unique
12.000 NOK + 5 % art tax



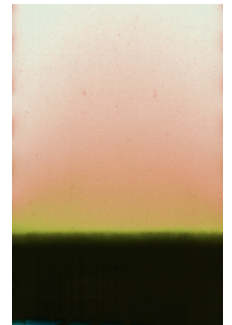
I (2026)
Victor Olafsson
85 x 126 cm
Pigment print on Kozo paper
Unique
30.000 NOK + 5 % art tax



Absolute failure (2026)
Victor Olafsson
Burned double-sleeved organic cotton T-shirt,
digital print
Unique
10.000 NOK + 5 % art tax



TEP01
Victor Olafsson
103 x 157,5 cm
Pigment print on Kozo paper
Unique
40.000 NOK + 5 % art tax



TEP02
Victor Olafsson
100 x 152 cm
Pigment print on Kozo paper
Unique
40.000 NOK + 5 % art tax



TEP03
Victor Olafsson
85 x 130 cm
Pigment print on Kozo paper
Unique
32.000 NOK + 5 % art tax

