

Not Home

Alyss Vernon



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Artist Statement

My parents no longer reside in my childhood home. Their current home is filled with items that I grew up surrounded by and the memories that those objects hold, but they are now contained within foreign walls. I live 1000 miles away from where I grew up while my parents live 5 miles from my childhood home.

I am interested in how the process of representing those closest to me photographically can be fraught with an array of emotions while something as simple as observing a ray of light on the kitchen floor can reveal a personal truth. I find it curious how a family portrait can speak volumes while simultaneously giving little insight into the lives of those in the image. For example, I am not pictured in the small family photo that sits on my parents' mantle because my mother was pregnant with me at the time.

This project is an acknowledgement and exploration of the inherent joy and sorrow that comes with the passage of time and the redefining of my relationship with my parents, their home, and how I fit into the current picture.

Artist Bio

Alyss Vernon is an experienced contemporary art gallery director and fine art photographer. She explores themes of life, loss, home, and belonging through photography, video, and book arts. Her work has been exhibited and held in private collections internationally. Alyss holds a BFA in photography and art history from New Mexico State University and an MA and MFA in photography from the University of Iowa.

“My photographic practice has always served as a facilitator for processing and making sense of the internal and external forces at play in my life. I tend to explore themes of flawed memory, loss, familial relationships, disappointment, and curiosity among others.

While my photos are a result of my personal experiences, the imagery allows viewers to join my exploration and still have room to attach their own interpretations to the work.”