

The mood of my images is ambiguous and timeless, with subject matter drawn from my family, rural environments and domestic scenes. Childhood themes reoccur, with the context shifting.

The images in this exhibit are film based; I continue to work in film because of the tactile, deliberateness of the darkroom process. Many of the photographs are shown in book format, allowing the viewer to also experience the work in tactile way. Sequencing of the images defines a more precise context.

My origins are from Northern Minnesota, graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1991 and receiving my MFA from the University of Nebraska in 1995. I am a well-educated Midwestern woman photographing domestic and family life which is quite ordinary. What is unique to my work is the context from which I view family, personal history, and the notion of nostalgia. I am one of four daughters, the youngest and only adopted child. Being adopted creates an existential mystery and detached independence that has stayed with me throughout my life, comfortable with the dark unknown and portents of the everyday. Lack of familial resemblance and living, in a sense, as the Other within my intimate world is normal, I am interested in the past, but feel untethered by it, living within my own history.

The editing process is crucial in trying to understand the compulsive instinct of one's aesthetic. In photographing my children, I have always been drawn to the ineffable, non-verbal world, and am coming to understand how my own relationship with others and to family comes through in my work, living with wonder while making peace with the unknown.