

Structures of Feeling

Jamil Baldwin, Janna Ireland, Arlene Mejorado, Luis Motta, Adee Roberson, Polo Silk, Jennifer Teresa Villanueva and Al-Ameen Archive (Raya Manaa)

December 6 – 22, 2024

Human Resources, Los Angeles

Structures of Feeling is a group exhibition featuring Jamil Baldwin, Janna Ireland, Arlene Mejorado, Luis Motta, Adee Roberson, Polo Silk, Jennifer Teresa Villanueva and Al-Ameen Archive (Raya Manaa) organized by Keko Jackson. It considers works made using family photographs as material and the afterlives of these images as they move from in-to-outside the home.

Historically, photographs have played a role in affirming family values. As a tool they have been implicated in the standardization of the nuclear model which includes its familial structures, roles, values and aesthetics. Despite any single definition, families can sometimes be a sustaining or punishing institution, but they are always constitutive. Inside the home, the photos may act as highly social devices actively constructing memories and relationships in order to come to terms with one perspective of living, eventually growing to become important sources for a material and affective understanding of history.

A comprehensive history however is never the aim of the family photograph or album. Individual stories in and of themselves aren't right or wrong, but we run a risk when just considering a single version. In their afterlives, these images together can complement or complicate the past and bring forth insights from the average and ordinary. Disconnected from their original sources they become reinterpreted as cultural texts—cultural not just informed by an economic base, but collectively produced over time. Raymond Williams shares the phrase “structure of feeling” which helps to describe the impact of the afterlives of family photographs and how feelings are evoked in a belated but emergent stage as both social and material. Feelings that suggest an incoherency that instead must be inferred by reading between the lines.

The works in this exhibition challenge us to find other ways to talk about photography and the problem of interpretation. Together they acknowledge, explore and trouble cultural genealogies as well as systems of value, familial and otherwise, both locally and globally. What these images guarantee is something unpreservable in that they are unable to do what we want. They cannot preserve the things we want them to and at some point, both the image and the memory will be gone.

D says the image of the ocean is lodged in her; coming from Guayaguayare at the southernmost tip of Trinidad. Coming from the northwest corner of a four-way intersection in Wayne, Pennsylvania, I wonder what image is lodged in me.

- Christina Sharpe

The exhibition will include a screening of short films organized by Andrea C. Nieto and Emilianna Vazquez exploring related topics. The screening will take place Saturday, December 14, at 6pm with the program of titles forthcoming. It will be free and open to the public with a suggested donation of \$10.

Jamil Baldwin

For Millard "Pooter" Frazier Jr., 2022
Silver gelatin print, 20" x 24"

For Olivia "Olee" Lee, 2022
Silver gelatin print, 20" x 24"

Tenacity (n.) The determination to continue, 2022
Silver gelatin print, 20" x 24"

Janna Ireland

Selections from *Pauline*, 2023
Archival pigment prints, 22" x 28"

Arlene Mejorado

Ana's Apartment, Winnetka, CA, 2021
Archival inkjet print, 26" x 40"

Dad's Alleyway Driveway, 2024
Archival inkjet print, 26" x 40"

Cortina con mujeres trabajando/Curtain with women working, 2022
Digital print on polyester fabric, 86" x 51"

Luis Motta

Celestial Coordinate #05161971, 2024
Silver gelatin print, 11" x 14"

Celestial Coordinate #11011991, 2024
Silver gelatin print, 11" x 14"

Celestial Coordinate #09061993, 2024
Silver gelatin print, 11" x 14"

Celestial Coordinate #09241996, 2024
Silver gelatin print, 11" x 14"

*Celestial Coordinate #****2021, 2024*
Silver gelatin print, 11" x 14"

Celestial Coordinate #****2023, 2024
Silver gelatin print, 11" x 14"

Adee Roberson

Parallel Celestial, 2021
Screen print and acrylic on paper, 19" x 25"

It Is What It Is, 2021
Screen print and acrylic on paper, 19" x 25"

Polo Silk

Selections from *Live From Lo Orleans!!!*, 1990's
Polaroids, 22" x 28"

Jennifer Teresa Villanueva

U.S. Petition for Alien Parents, 2022
Silkscreen on paper, 56" x 36" (install, series), 11" x 8.5" (each print)

Al-Ameen Archive (Raya Manaa)

Selections from Al-Ameen Archive, 1950's-1990's
Digital projection, 1:34 min