

## **1. Contribution to Family Line Ups.**

- <http://www.familylineups.com/>
- It is an exploration of family visual lineage and memory. It is one of my most personal works. When I did it, I had just moved to Ireland after having lived seven years in Germany and I was missing everything and everyone back in Germany and in Spain. This work gave me the opportunity to stop and think about where I come from. I reflected on my relationships with my family and I tried to project a couple of years in the future. It was a very challenging process and it took a lot of me.
- In a feminist context, this project can be linked to the well known slogan of the personal is political. I believe that much more attention still needs to be given to the role that women have historically played in society at many levels. My way of doing this, is to examine my own surroundings, my origins first. I come from a family of strong women, what others might call matriarchy, and that together with my very open-minded, tolerant and almost feminist dad, has shaped me. I guess I held some anger against the women in family because I saw and see how often they sell themselves short. This work was about letting it go. It served me to understand that feminism is not dogmatic or prescriptive. Through this work I learnt to respect everyone's circumstances, educational and cultural background, including those of my own family.



MY AUNT AND I WERE VERY CLOSE DURING MY TEENAGE YEARS. SHE WAS YOUNG ENOUGH TO MEDIATE BETWEEN ME AND MY MOTHER. SHE GAVE ME MY FIRST JOB AND I USED IT AS A SCAPEGOAT. THE LITTLE TOWN WHERE ALL MY FAMILY LIVES HAS ALWAYS SUFFOCATED ME. MY AUNT WAS PRETTY AND CHARMING AND SUCCESSFUL. I WANTED TO BE LIKE HER. HOWEVER I AM MORE LIKE MY MUM: SHY AND RATHER QUIET, ALTHOUGH I LOOK MORE LIKE MY AUNT.

ELEVEN YEARS AGO I LEFT HOME FOR GOOD. I VISIT ONCE A YEAR BUT NEITHER I BELONG THERE ANY MORE, NOR HAVE I CREATED MY OWN NEST ABROAD. I AM STILL IN LIMBO. THESE PHOTOS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WITH ME THOUGH. THEY HAVE SURVIVED COMPUTER MELTDOWNS AND MOVES EVER SINCE I SCANNED THEM MANY YEARS AGO.

SOMETIMES I LOOK AT THEM TO ESTIMULATE MY BRAIN AND TRIGGER MEMORIES OF OLD DAYS. SOME OTHER TIMES I CONSCIOUSLY AVOID THEM. AND AT TIMES I LOOK FOR EMPOWERMENT WHEN I STARE AT MY MUM'S PORTRAIT.

MY FAMILY IS FULL OF WOMEN. WE ARE A BUNCH OF WORKING-CLASS STRONG FEMALES. LIVING ABROAD HAS MADE ME A MORE CYNICAL PERSON. THAT IS WHY SOMETIMES I NEED TO VISUALIZE MYSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF A WHOLE WITH PAST AND FUTURE. FACING MY MUM'S GAZE FROM TIME TO TIME KEEPS MY FEET ON THE GROUND.

TODAY MY AUNT IS A MUM HERSELF AND I FEEL BAD NOT TO BE SHARING MORE TIME WITH MY LITTLE COUSIN. I FEEL IN DEBT WITH MY AUNT. SHE TAKES CARE OF MY MUM TOO. SHE ALWAYS HAS. I KEEP SENDING POSTCARDS FROM EVERYWHERE WHERE I TRAVEL. THEY SAY THAT MY COUSIN LOOKS LIKE ME. SHE IS MORE AS PRETTY AS HER MUM.