

Family Files

September 2008

A proposal for exhibition

17 artists, 17 families, 17 alternative family photo albums

The artists taking part in the exhibition immortalize familial relations through photographic series. Some reconstruct a family, some invent a family, desires, memories, pains or joys. As the artists themselves attest, the artwork-photograph allows them to create a narrative of differing, healing and longed-for familial relations. Each in his or her own way goes on a private journey, dealing anew with the idea of the 'family album'.

The artists touch on personal, revealing places. In some of the works, the figures gaze directly into the camera, achieving a sense of sincerity and credibility. This gaze, and the scathing exposure it entails, characterizes the work of a contemporary, non-compromising generation of Israeli artists.

The departure point for the suggested exhibition is the 1955 traveling exhibition "The Family of Man", which offered the immortalization of moments of frailty that unite us all as a community with a shared 'family album' – experiences such as birth, childhood, old age and death.

In this exhibition, we offer a different look at 'the family of man', which, beyond the shared experiences of one human community, focuses rather on the other and the personal.

Curators :

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