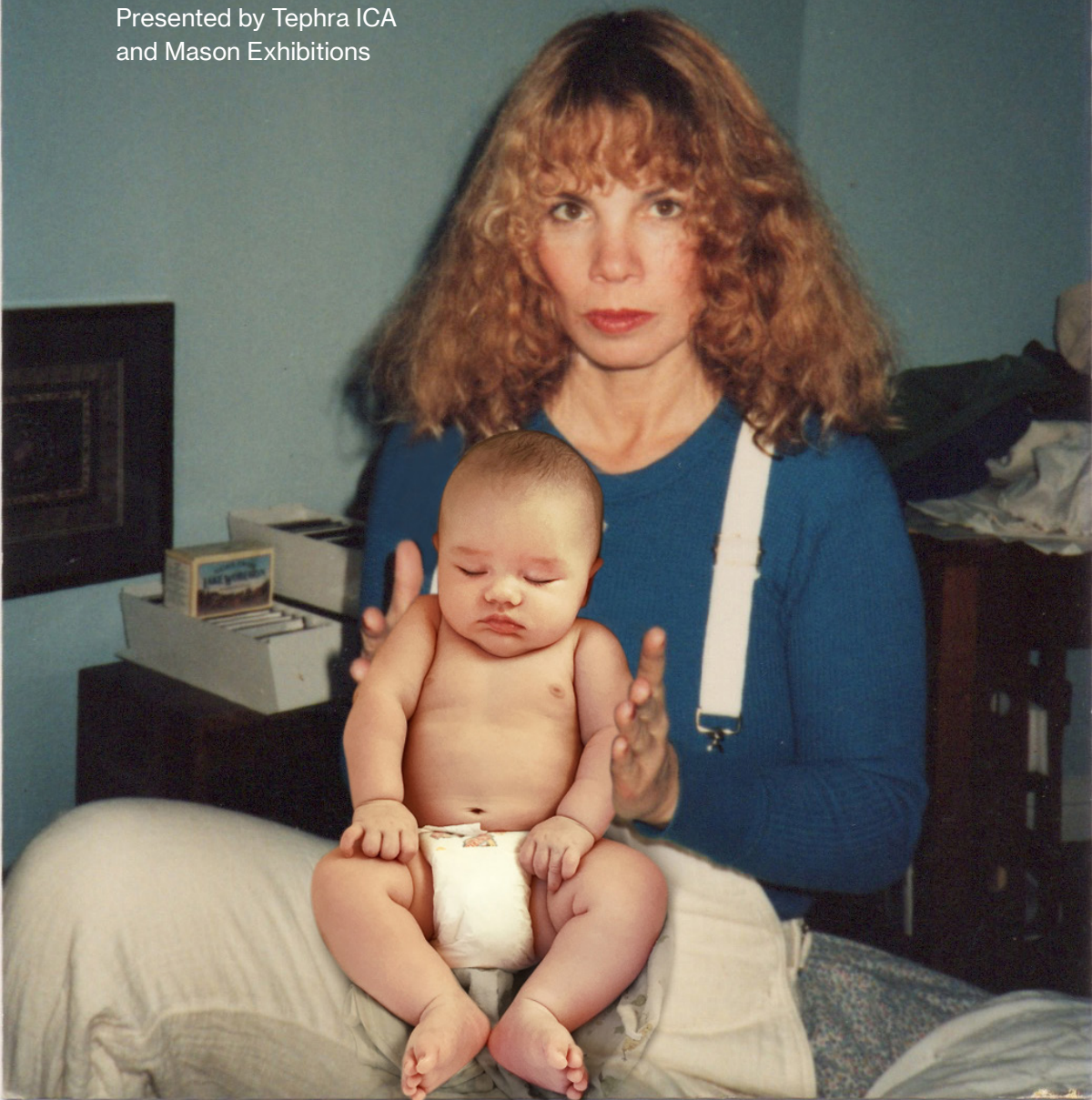


Laurel Nakadate: Mother Line

and

MOTHER

Presented by Tephra ICA
and Mason Exhibitions





Laurel Nakadate: Mother Line

Solo Exhibition
On View at Tephra ICA
January 22–May 29, 2022

MOTHER

Group Exhibition
On View at Mason Exhibitions Arlington
April 1–May 29, 2022

Curated by Laurel Nakadate,
Don Russell, and Lily Siegel

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Introduction by Lily Siegel and Don Russell

Laurel Nakadate (b. 1975, Austin, TX; lives and works in Boston and New York) creates work that explores contemporary modes of self-representation and identity formation. Exploring loneliness and relationships amongst strangers, her practice predates, yet foreshadows, the onslaught of social media that pervade our everyday lives, including Instagram and Facebook, freelance marketplaces like fiverr and Upwork, and consumer genetic testing services such as 23andMe. This exhibition presents two series, Relations and The Kingdom, which result directly from the artist embracing such platforms. Two works from Nakadate's earlier Stars series are also included, stylistically heralding her Relations series.

After taking an at-home genetic test, Nakadate utilized subscription ancestry databases and social platforms to identify and connect with people who were reported to share her DNA within eight or nine generations. She connected with hundreds of distant relatives in the United States, and she asked to come and take their photograph in whatever manner they chose to present themselves. For each portrait in the Relations series, she met the person near their home, at night, using only a flashlight for illumination. In doing the research for Relations, only three of approximately 1,500 DNA connections appeared from her father's side of the family. Nakadate's father is Japanese American, and his family has only been in the United States for around 100 years. In result, what we see represented in this series of portraits is Nakadate's matrilineal heritage – her matriline or “mother line”.

In The Kingdom, photographs depict Nakadate's mother and newborn son together. In 2016, the artist gave birth to her son and her mother died shortly thereafter before having the opportunity to hold her grandson. To achieve the final images, Nakadate

hired a technician over the internet to merge images of grandmother and child, with the only directive to put the baby in the grandmother's arms. She was attracted to their claim that, with their Photoshop skills, they could "fix anything." The entire series is being shown together for the first time.

Nakadate's desire to connect with her genetic legacy as means of truth-finding becomes emblematic of our collective desires for validation. Her methodically devised research process also accepts chance as a source of narrative meaning. Photography's status as arbiter of truth, while not necessarily challenged, is revealed as a lucid dream state where the real and the dream are experienced as one.

In conjunction with *Mother Line*, the exhibition *MOTHER*, is presented at Mason Exhibitions Arlington which explores contemporary ideas of motherhood from a diversity of perspectives. *MOTHER* includes photography and video made by artists about mothers – their mothers, other people's mothers, themselves, the labor of motherhood, the sadness, the joys, mystery, and discovery. Much as Nakadate confronts these desires for validation in her work, *MOTHER* looks at the way we, as a society, validate (or invalidate) mothers through different forms of mass representation.

MOTHER is the third iteration of the group exhibition co-organized by Nakadate, which was first shown at Leslie Tonkonow Artworks+Projects, New York in 2018, with a second iteration of the exhibition at the New Mexico State University Art Museum.

Mother Line

Select Images



Laurel Nakadate, *Tyler, Texas #1*, 2013









Laurel Nakadate, *Carolina Beach, North Carolina #1*, 2013









MOTHER

Select Images



Catherine Opie, *Self-Portrait/Nursing*, 2004



Jon Henry, *Untitled #55*, Little Rock, AR, 1/2020















Exhibition Checklist

Mother Line

Star Portraits Series

Tucson #1, 2011

Type-C print
41 x 61 inches

Tucson #3, 2011

Type-C print
41 x 61 inches

Relations Series

Happy Valley, Oregon #1, 2012

Type-C print
31 x 46 inches

Hereford, Arizona #1, 2012

Type-C print
31 x 46 inches

West Palm Beach, Florida #1, 2012

Type-C print
31 x 46 inches

Akron, Ohio #1, 2013

Type-C print
31 x 46 inches

Carolina Beach, North Carolina #1, 2013

Type-C print
31 x 46 inches

Coleman, Alabama #1, 2013

Type-C print
31 x 46 inches

Gainesville, Georgia, #1, 2013

Type-C print
31 x 46 inches

San Diego, California #1, 2013

Type-C print
31 x 46 inches

St. Louis, Missouri #1, 2013

Type-C print
31 x 46 inches

Tyler, Texas #1, 2013

Type-C print
41 x 60 inches

Tyler, Texas #2, 2013

Type-C print
41 x 60 inches

Urbana, Illinois #1, 2013

Type-C print
31 x 46 inches

Haworth, Oklahoma #1, 2014

Type-C print
31 x 46 inches

Longwood, Florida #1, 2014

Type-C print
41 x 60 inches

Wilmington, North Carolina #1, 2014

Type-C print
31 x 46 inches

Branford, Connecticut #1, 2015

Type-C print
31 x 46 inches

Kingdom Series

The Kingdom (#1–34), 2018

Inkjet prints
11 x 8.5 inches

All courtesy of the artist and
LeslieTonkonow Artworks + Projects

Exhibition Checklist

MOTHER

Tracey Baran

Daren Meets His Birth Family For The First Time,
2003
Vintage type chromogenic print
30 x 40 inches
Courtesy Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects,
New York

Patty Chang

Things I'm Scared of Right Now, 2018
Inkjet prints
20 1/16" x 9 3/4" inches each
Courtesy of the artist

Lenka Clayton

Mothers' Day, 2020
7 1/2" x 4 3/4" inches
Published by An Artist Residency in Motherhood
2,000 copies

Tierney Gearon

Untitled, 2001
Chromogenic print
20 x 24 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Kate Gilmore

Top Drawer, 2014
Digital video
24:25 minutes
Courtesy of the artist

Jon Henry

Untitled #55, Little Rock, AR, 1/2020
Digital archival print
30 x 24 inches

Untitled #31, Wynwood, FL, 11/2017
Digital archival print
30 x 24 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Pao Houa Her

Maiyou and Derik, 2016
Archival pigment print
24 x 30 inches

Brian and Vince, 2018
Archival pigment print
24 x 30 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Las Hermanas Iglesias

Commiserates I (disco ball), 2012
Digital print
14 x 10 inches

Commiserates I (globe), 2012
Digital print
14 x 10 inches

Commiserates I (watermelon), 2012
Digital print
14 x 10 inches

Commiserates III (cabbage), 2019
Digital print
14 x 10 inches

Commiserates IV (Janelle 37 weeks: Nove),
2020
Digital print
9 x 25 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Kaitlin Jencso

Untitled (April), 2020
Archival pigment print
36 x 24 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Lisa Kereszi

Showing her a leaf skeleton Connecticut, 2016
Archival pigment print
25 x 21 inches

Pregnancy test stick by the side of the road, Connecticut, 2016

Archival pigment print
21 x 25 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Tommy Kha

May (Summoning the Kitchen God), WI, 2015

Archival pigment print
32 x 40 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Justine Kurland

Expulsion, 2006

Chromogenic print
30 x 40 inches

Nursing in River, 2004

Chromogenic print
30 x 40 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Higher Pictures
Generation

Malerie Marder

Untitled (Mother in Yellow Sweater with Peter), 2000

Archival pigment print
48 x 60 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Marilyn Minter

Coral Ridge Towers (Mom Dyeing Eyebrows), 1969-1995

Gelatin silver print
48 1/4 x 40 3/8 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Salon 94, New York

Laurel Nakadate

The Kingdom, 2018

34 inkjet prints
11 x 8 1/2 inches each
Courtesy of the artist

Tyler, Texas #1, 2013

Chromogenic print
30 x 45 inches

Courtesy of the artist and Leslie Tonkonow
Artworks + Projects, New York

Catherine Opie

Self-Portrait/Nursing, 2004

Chromogenic print
41 x 32 inches
Tony Podesta Collection, Washington, DC

Nzingah Oyo

Naima & Medhane, 1998

Chromogenic print
30 x 40 inches

Medhane & Naima, 2007

Chromogenic print
30 x 40 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Caitlin Teal Price

Untitled (NOMF), 2002

Chromogenic print
14 x 14 inches

Untitled (Mother), 2002

Chromogenic print
14 x 14 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Wendy Red Star

Apsáalooke Feminist #1, 2016

Digital archival print
34 x 40 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Laurie Simmons

Some New: Grace (Orange), 2018

Pigment print
71 1/8 x 49 1/8 inches
Courtesy of the artist and Salon 94, New York

Rachelle Mozman Solano

Hermana Americana, 2013

Chromogenic print
23 x 26 inches

Biography

Laurel Nakadate was born in Austin, TX and raised in Ames, IA. She currently lives and works in Boston and New York. Nakadate's work can be found in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Yale University Art Gallery, the Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Princeton University Art Museum, Smith College Museum of Art, LACMA, the Guggenheim Museum, the Saatchi Collection, and other private collections. Nakadate received a BFA from Tufts University and The School of The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and an MFA in photography from Yale University.

Acknowledgements

Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (Tephra ICA) is committed to promoting innovative contemporary art and thinking. Leading with curiosity and care, we are a catalyst, generator, and advocate for visual and interdisciplinary arts.

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