

Family Ties Network Research Seminar: Eti Wade and Sally Waterman

Manchester Metropolitan University
Friday 28th June 2013 (2:00-5:00pm)

The Family Ties Network welcomes you to a research seminar on 28th June 2013 in the New Art School Building at the Manchester School of Art, MMU, Manchester. This is the second research event organised by **The Family Ties Network** since they were formed after the *Family Ties: Recollection and Representation* conference held at Senate House, University of London in March 2012.

This afternoon event, chaired by **Dr. Jane Fletcher** (University of Derby) will include presentations and discussion with the artists **Eti Wade** and **Dr. Sally Waterman**. There will also be an opportunity to view post-graduate student portfolios.

The Family Ties Network is a research group of artists, filmmakers and writers based in the UK who explore memory, space, place and the family in photography and moving image. They aim to investigate a range of issues encompassing the visual representation of family memories, the family album, oral history, bereavement, displacement, estrangement and the family home.

Schedule

2:00pm	Eti Wade
3:00pm	BREAK (Portfolio viewing: MMU graduate and post-graduate students)
3.30pm	Sally Waterman
4.30pm	Plenary
4.45pm	Portfolio viewing
5:00pm	Close

The Seminar will be held in the New Arts School Building at Manchester Metropolitan University room NAD308. To book a place, please email Jacqueline Butler at j.a.butler@mmu.ac.uk. This event is free. For information on travel: <http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/travel/allsaints/>

Eti Wade is a visual conceptual artist identifying as 'Mother/Artist'. Her practice concerns invisible aspects of the maternal in contemporary art and culture with a particular focus on the visual articulation of hidden aspects of maternal experience i.e. maternal ambivalence, post-natal depression, difficulty in attachment etc.

Eti's work often involves her children's bodies although she insists that the works should not be read as collaborations. She states that the children are co-opted as props or elements enabling her to express aspects of maternal subjectivity. This strategy is fundamental in occupying a 'mother/artist' position, which counteracts the invisibility of the maternal subject versus the child in Psychoanalytic dogma. Eti will show and discuss works produced in the past decade, including *Kisses*, *The 2.4 Project*, *Jocasta*, *Bathwomb* and *Goodnight Boys*.



Sally Waterman employs literary adaptation as a mechanism for self-portraiture, creating photographic and video works that explore memory, place and familial relationships. She will be presenting recent work from her *Translucence* series. Serving as a reflection on the fragility of life, this project investigates her experience of loss, in particular, that of her grandmother, who passed away nearly twenty years ago.

The final collection of videos, *February, Against* and *Wisdom*, will interpret three instrumental tracks from Donna McKeivitt's musical score, 'Translucence' (Warner Classics, 1998), which were inspired by the writings of artist and film director, Derek Jarman. The accompanying series of image/text photographs elaborate upon the theme, extracting carefully chosen lines from Jarman's books, *Chroma* (1994) and *Smiling in Slow Motion* (2000), together with literary quotations sourced from works by Kate Chopin, Emily Dickinson, T.S Eliot, Sylvia Plath and Christina Rossetti.



Biographies

Eti Wade is an artist and academic. Her practice is an investigation of the limits of maternal subjectivity expressed through photography, video and performance. She publishes and talks publicly about the subject of the maternal in contemporary art. She is a senior lecturer in Photography at the University of West London and is currently working on her doctoral research; 'The Mother as Subject and Author in Contemporary Visual Art'. Eti has delivered papers at the 'From Private to Public' symposium, Women's Library, London (2011) and the 'Birth Rites' Symposium, Whitechapel Gallery, London and Whitworth Gallery, Manchester (2011) and was invited to take part in the panel discussion, 'Voice of the Grain' at the Ambika P3 gallery, London in September 2012. Her work was selected for the 2006 photographic portrait prize exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, London.

<http://www.etiwade.com/>

Sally Waterman is an artist/researcher based in London, UK. Her PhD in Media & Photography at the University of Plymouth, entitled, 'Visualising *The Waste Land*: Discovering a Praxis of Adaptation' was awarded in 2011. Recent exhibitions include Ruskin Gallery, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge (Solo, 2012) and Künstlerhaus Dortmund, Germany (Group, 2013). Sally's work is held in public collections including the National Art Library, V&A, London and the Yale Center for British Art, New York. She has lectured at Plymouth College of Art and the University of Plymouth and was a visiting fellow at the University of London (2011-2012), where she organised the 'Family Ties: Recollection and Representation' conference. She was able to develop the *Translucence* series during her recent Artists Access to Art Colleges (AA2A) residency at Wimbledon College of Art (November 2012-May 2013).

<http://www.sallywaterman.com/>

Jane Fletcher (Senior Lecturer at Derby University) is a writer and curator. She has a PhD in Photography History and Theory, and contributes regularly to photographic journals and magazines, exhibition catalogues, encyclopedias and photo-books. She is currently Sub-Editor for *Next Level Magazine*. Recent publications include *Stand Before the World* (main essay) in J Blakemore (2011) *John Blakemore: Photographs 1955-2010*, Stockport: Dewi Lewis, *The Empty Lens: Teaching Photography As A Dead Language* in *Source: The Photographic Review* Issue 72, Autumn 2012, pp.32-5 and *Lost in Camera* in *The Photograph and The Collection* (due 2013) Edinburgh: MuseumsEtc publishing in collaboration with Greg Lucas.