MADELINE SWAINHART

I wonder what family could look like outside the binary, considering the question ‘Can we all mother?’

Madeline Swainhart is an American born (1997) visual artist and writer. Currently based in The Hague, Netherlands. Swainhart explores representations of queer families through self-portraiture, moving image, and installation. Their practice revolves around research and construction. They research the archetypes of the Mother, the Nuclear Family, and what nurturing looks like while constructing a queered image of those. Swainhart wonders what family could look like outside the binary, considering the question ‘Can we all mother?’ Swainhart’s use of self-portraiture allows them to shift between fantasy and reality and emphasize the expectation of gender roles within domesticity while giving you your own playground of The Home. Their most recent publication Nuking the Nuclear Family can be found in bookstores throughout the Netherlands and New York City. Madeline’s work utilizes the combination of text, image, sound, and textiles to examine the act of nurturing and its role within gender and the home. Their work is for their younger self and all the queer kids like them, an archive in the making. Giving you more options is the way I nurture. Family - Home - Mother - Motherhood - Parenthood - Queer - Domesticity - Care - Nurture - Masculinity

WEBSITES

madelineswainhart.nl

www.spiltmilkgallery.com/artist-members/2021/2/7/madeline-swainhart?rq=madeline

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/made_line_lu/

MAAKT DEEL UIT VAN KUNSTENAARSINITIATIEF / COLLECTIEF / BROEDPLAATS

Studio Bel

OPLEIDINGEN

2023 - 2023	Mentorship with Pablo Lerma Centre de la photographie Genève
2018 - 2021	Photography - Fiction department Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten Diploma behaald
2016 - 2017	Photography Pratt Institute NY, USA

TENTOONSTELLINGEN

2023	Bermuda Open The Grey Space in the Middle The Hague, Nederland "Bermuda Open is a yearly open studio event that presents studios of artists with a contemporary practice in the city center of The Hague (NL)." bermudaopen.studio/ Groep

PROJECTEN

2023	We at least deserve softness The Hague, Nederland Focusing on representations of masculinity within the home and within domestic/ nurturing family portraits. With the use of a more environmental portrait technique. Bringing the viewer into the space of The Home. Reimagining families

2023 Der Greif Guest Room: Bindi Vora Der Greif Guest Room: Bindi Vora Digital
dergreif.org/guest-room/bindi-vora/
Groep

2023 “A State of Consciousness” with ProfiFoto Rencontres Arles Arles, Frankrijk
Groep

2023 Encontros da Imagem — Discovery Awards Encontros da Imagem Braga, Portugal
Groep

2023 Creating Homes Worm Rotterdam, Nederland
www.instagram.com/p/CtgwcjmlDFu/?img_index=1
Groep

2022 "Whose Story Is It?" with Spilt Milk Gallery Gallery 1, St Margaret’s House Edinburgh, Verenigd Koninkrijk My photographic work "Grammy's Praying For Me" as well as my video work "Mother, May I (ask you)" have been selected to be shown in an upcoming exhibition in March 2022.
www.spiltmilkgallery.com/exhibitions/whose-story-is-it
Groep

2022 Everything New Under the Sun The Grey Space in the Middle Den Haag, Nederland
Groep

2021 Call for Graduates with Nest and 1646 Exhibition in Public Space Den Haag, Nederland
Groep

2021 "If Not Now, When?" with Spilt Milk Gallery Online Exhibition My work was selected from an Open Call to be shown in an online exhibition (due to covid).
www.spiltmilkgallery.com/exhibitions/if-not-now-when
Groep

2020 Noorderlicht Foto Festival "Generation Z" Museum Belvedere Heerenveen, Nederland My work "Can they mother me, if I let them?" was selected from an Open Call to be shown at the Generation Z exhibition.
https://www.noorderlicht.com/en/kunstenaars/madeline-swainhart/
www.noorderlicht.com/en/programma/noorderlicht-internationaal-fotofestival-2020-generation-z/museum-belvedere-heerenveen/can-they-mother-me-if-i-let-them-2020/emerging-adulthood-werktitel-2020
Groep

and who they are made up of. Self-portraiture allows me to explore my own gender identity. Helping me to imagine my future as a non-binary parent.

2021 Can they mother me, if I let them? The Hague, Nederland
madelineswainhart.nl/motherhood.html
Can they mother me, if I let them? Comfort comes in many forms. It is both simple and complex. Who gives and who takes? By breaking down the boundaries of where we get comfort and with whom we feel safe; I search for what closeness looks like. I wonder why it is so hard to be vulnerable enough to be cared for. This work is a choreography of intimacy based on dependency and trust. Would you let me hold you?

2021 Grammy's Praying For Me The Hague, Nederland Grammy’s Praying For Me If a home is where we become. What happens when we don’t fit? I am collecting, digging through the archive of my upbringing. An archive that holds memories I no longer know except in the way I move, in the way I am. With a family that represents something I could never become, I search for an image of what family can look like outside of the binary. With thorough research into the objects, photographs, writings, fabrics, and artworks that are left from my childhood I am drawing parallels between what is found and what is remembered in order to better understand my own relationship to gender and sexuality. I begin to understand what didn't fit right. By knowing what I was shown I can make sense of my inner child. A baby raised a girl, and never grew up to become a woman.

2021 Mother, May I (ask you) The Hague, Nederland vimeo.com/600728571 password: MOTHER Mother, May I (ask you) A video work directed towards my mother, asking her questions on my upbringing. Using a selection from my family home videos — I look closely at how my parents documented us, and how they raised us. Mom, these are the things I wish I could ask you.

OPDRACHTEN

2021 Where is my confirmation? with BGSQD LGBTQ book store New York City, Verenigde Staten BGSQD is a queer bookstore located in NYC at the LGBT Community Center. I did a commission work for them -- creating a series of bookmarks which told collected stories on queer childhoods and includes images from many family archives. There are 15 bookmarks and they were Riso- printed in an edition of 500 — The documentation of the bookmarks can be seen on my instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CWVFo8to1f-/ bgsqd.com/ Uitgevoerd

AANKOPEN/WERKEN IN COLLECTIES

2021 Queering The Family LVMK Gallery The Hague, Nederland My framed image "Queering the Family" was sold to gallery Creative Director Miranda Lanink. Another edition of the framed work will continue to be shown at the gallery.

PUBLICATIES

2023 Divide Magazine Catalogus Divide Magazine London, Verenigd Koninkrijk www.dividemagazine.com/ My photograph was featured on the cover of Divide Magazine

2023 Braids Journal Boek Ire The Hague, Nederland linktr.ee/braids_journal A few of my works were printed in the first edition of Braids journal

2022 “Let us overthrow, in short, the ‘family.’” Catalogus Witte Rook Madeline Swainhart The Hague, Nederland witterook.nu/artikelen/madeleine/ I have written an article for the Vrouwenmantel Art Research Group. I will do a series of articles speaking about many topics such as: the role of the mother within the home, queering the family, my work and process of making, and the importance of the archive. Each month the article is posted on Witte Rook.

2021 Nuking the Nuclear Family Boek Self Published Madeline Swainhart The Hague, Nederland www.instagram.com/p/CRoQg34lsii/ My BA thesis "Nuking the Nuclear Family" has been self published and printed in two editions of 20 copies. The book can be found for sale in the BGSQD bookstore in NYC, and more bookstores to come.

RECENSIES

2020 De Limburger Krant Rob Cobben Limburg, Nederland www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1250968281915092&set=pcb.12509714452+ https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1250968311915089&set=pcb.12509714452 De Limburger made a review about the Noorderlicht fotofestival 2020 and featured my work on the cover and spread.

2020 Noorderlicht International Photo Festival 2020 Catalogue by Buro van Baar and Robert Jan Verhagen
Catalogus robert jan verhagen
Noorderlicht International Photo Festival Nederland
www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4_ockAeMLI a catalog containing the works shown at the Noorderlicht fotofestival 2020.

VERTEGENWOORDIGING

-- LVMK Gallery The Hague, Nederland
https://www.lvmk.eu/



We at least deserve softness, 2022



Grammy's Praying For Me- Installation at Grad Show, 2021
Archived images, custom made passpartout, framed



Nuking the Nuclear Family, 2021
Academic and Personal Writing



Where is my confirmation?, 2021
RISO printed -- archive material



Where is my confirmation?, 2021
RISO printed -- archive material



Nuking the Nuclear Family, 2021
Academic and Personal Writing

Rejoice from "Letters From the Archive" , 2021

On Weddings from "Letters From the Archive" , 2021

On Eating from "Letters From the Archive" , 2021

On Domesticity from "Letters From the Archive" , 2021