

Amber Peck | Artist Statment

Images of my family and myself are my primary material. I photograph my children with the closeness and affection of one who knows them and is curious about them. As I edit the images, I find elements with which I identify, like an awkwardly bent limb or a cast of harsh light. At times, the image prompts me to alter the print in various additive and subtractive ways. As I cut, glue, sew into, or layer my prints, I am able to process my feelings about motherhood and myself.

I am currently printing images onto each other, building up an inky surface. I'm observing the behavior of papers when saturated with ink. I'm also creating thick object-like photographs by layering several printed sheets with glue. These approaches speak to the repetition in my life and mind, the limits I am constantly pushing against, and the way no moment is allowed to exist on its own. The print as an object, one that shows my hand, is as important to me as the image on the surface.

In the past I tried to avoid including my children in my work. Married at age 19, I had four children before I ever studied art. It took me years to find a voice, and I've resented that sometimes. But after living so closely together during our two years in graduate school in NYC, and especially during the Covid lockdown, I've felt compelled to photograph my family. I am a woman finding my own identity within and outside of motherhood.