

ARTIST STATEMENT

Built upon an exploration of the dying physicality of the photographic image, my work aims to remain as close and tangible to the viewer as possible, in its most literal sense. As a result its dissemination is mainly through printed media, such as a set of prints or photobooks, which can be torn, ripped and worn out. The vast majority of my photographic work belongs to the analog realm and again this is an effort to remain as close as possible to the image's physicality. It is a way of coming back to a more humane way of consuming photographs as opposed to our new habit of scrolling through an endless feed of images in order to avoid eye contact with the tube passenger sat opposite us.

Through the use of tangible objects, I create juxtapositions of images leading to narratives which can be constantly revisited by the viewer as they occupy a physical space in their home or gallery. This results in an open work which invites the viewer to apply it to their own life and freely interpret it. Each reader will come to a work with a different set of life experiences and sensibilities, so each reading is custom to the person.

Dealing with themes such as loneliness or a sense of belonging, my work is very driven by location and its surroundings and the impact these have upon our lives. Constantly working between the United Kingdom and Spain, my practice explores the notion of home in a nostalgic yet positive way, as a means to understanding how 'fitting in' does not require us to be attached exclusively to one place. In a world where we are constantly connected through the digital realm, it is very interesting how often we find ourselves so isolated behind screens.

Irene Gonzalez