

Press Information

Family: taking a new look at an old concept

Family, as a social construct, has never been as diverse as it is today. Everyone interprets family differently; it has a particular significance for each and every one of us. In the volume of photography entitled *ChosenFamily – Less alone together* (Christoph Merian Verlag) contemporary photographers present portraits and photo series of very different concepts of family dating from various decades. The photographs are complemented by short essays devoted to the multifaceted depiction of family in photography and art: private everyday life and set scenes, emotional moments and poses.

The pandemic has changed a lot of things – including the notion of family. On the one hand the double burden of gainful employment and care work reactivated traditional family role patterns, on the other hand, many felt that relationships became closer as families moved closer together.

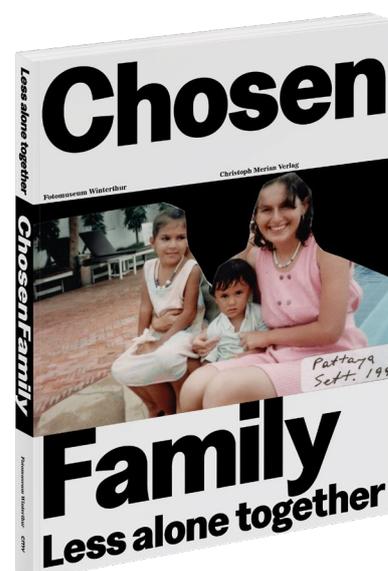
But what does family mean? What does it entail in terms of life plans, home and protection, but also impositions and alienation. How was family defined in the past? And today? The broad range of possibilities involved is reflected here in the works of the photographers. For example, the photographs taken by the British artist Richard Billingham provide an unflattering image of his own dysfunctional parental home in a council flat in Birmingham, whereas Leonard Suryajaya's series of portraits and compositions show family and friends in bizarre settings so as to cover a broad set of themes ranging from convictions about sexual taboos to culinary traditions in his Indonesian homeland.

Like the continuous development of photography from its beginnings in the Daguerreotype to today's digitization, views of family and roles within the family have changed radically. The texts in this book make essayistic and scientific links between both themes, thereby opening up whole new perspectives on modern family options. Another part of the creative artistic process was to review one's personal life story by looking at one's forebears.

The visually strong and very inspiring photographs and texts revolve around the highly differentiated concept of family, motivating us to reflect on past, current and possible future models of family life.

With works by Aarati Akkapeddi, Larry Clark, Seiichi Furuya, Nan Goldin, Pixy Liao, Anne Morgenstern, Lindokuhle Sobekwa, Annelies Štrba, Leonard Suryajaya, sowie Textbeiträge von Lucy Gallun, Stefan Länzlinger and Patricia Prieto-Blanco and others.

Exhibition at Fotomuseum Winterthur: 11th June to 16th October 2022



Fotomuseum Winterthur
Nadine Wietlisbach (ed.)

ChosenFamily
Less alone together

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Printable files of the book cover and other illustrations are to be found in the Media Release relating to this publication under: www.merianverlag.ch/presse

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We would like to thank you in advance for sending us a file copy of your review!