

Michaela Lucio A Small Good Thing

February 16 - March 26, 2022

Reception (ARTcrawl): Friday, March 25, 2022 at 6 pm

Curators: Phil Vanderwall, Michaela Lucio

Design: Donna Nolan

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List of works

The First Meeting, 2019. 17"x21": monotype

Mother Knows Best, 2021. 21 ½" x 24 ½": watercolour on frosted mylar

Chance Visit, 2019. 19 ¾"x24 ¼": watercolour on frosted mylar

Reunion, 2021-2022. 13 ½"x14 ¼": watercolour on frosted mylar with embroidery

Autumn's Bounty, 2022. 19 ¾"x21 ¼": watercolour on frosted mylar

Mottled Toile, 2019. 38 ¾"x39 ¾": watercolour on frosted mylar

You Are Like Me, 2022. 19 ½"x19 ½": watercolour on frosted mylar

Thanks, I Love It, 2022. 19 ¾"x21 ¼": watercolour on frosted mylar

Sunday's Best, 2020. 14"x16 ½": watercolour on frosted mylar

Forgotten Pothos, 2022. 19 ¾"x21 ¼": watercolour on frosted mylar



Thanks, I Love It, 2022. 19 ¾"x21 ¼": watercolour on frosted mylar



You Are Like Me, 2022. 19 ½"x19 ½": watercolour on frosted mylar

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A Small Good Thing

Fleeting moments and ghostly memories fade without mindful attention.

A Small Good Thing by Michaela Lucio opens the pages of family photo albums as the foundation of her work, exploring the residue of history they contain, whether real or imagined.

Childhood and photos are strangely symbiotic. As the years pass, many people turn to the family photo album, searching for the comfort, closeness, and the protection associated with an earlier phase of life. We search out the visual narratives and stories of family life, building personal mythologies as we look into our past. It can take years to realize that time is a living thing.

In this body of work, Lucio focuses on images collected from her mother's youth. While the relationship between mother and daughter is often complicated, Lucio opens that space to imaginative possibilities of shared childhood as she weaves colourful patterns suggestive of home, domestic space, and femininity in paint. Narrative possibilities thrive as this intergenerational relationship is infused with memory and imagination.



Mother Knows Best, 2021. 21 ½" x 24 ½": watercolour on frosted mylar

Lucio creates her dream-like paintings by layering watercolour paint over frosted mylar, a form of non-absorbent polyester resin. The paints pool and flow over the flat surface of the painting, and each layer must evaporate before adding another layer. Slowly the translucent pigments gain strength to create an image that absorbs and glows as it interacts with light. The fluttering surface of the paintings mirrors the experience of recalling nostalgic memories, imprecise and evocative.

Liberating these images from family albums as she grapples with the fragility of memory, Lucio's paintings serve to remind herself, her family, and onlookers to slow down and explore the complicated tenderness of family life.

Like a wisp of air, charged with emotion, it is all about the small good things.

Michaela Lucio lives in Chatham-Kent, Ontario. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Art from the University of Toronto Mississauga and is the Assistant Curator at the Thames Art Gallery. Her current practice explores the psychology of family dynamics, the language of amateur photography, and femininity through craft and ideas of the home.



Forgotten Pothos, 2022. 19 ¼"x21 ¼": watercolour on frosted mylar