

*Bury Me in the Garden* is an altered archive curated from hundreds of family snapshots taken in the late 1970's and early 1980's which I came across at an antique store in Knoxville, TN. It is unclear why these photographs depicting one couple's life ended up for sale. Seemingly abandoned and forgotten, it became my interest to revive them with embellishments of flowers and rhinestones. What began as a caring gesture, not unlike giving someone you love a bouquet, the alterations became a melancholic narrative reflecting our shared experiences with lingering human emotions including love, regret, guilt, loss, and joy. The floral shadows are visual metaphors of dark intervention and ominous foreshadowing; the rhinestones, a light-hearted and playful counterbalance of celebration and pathetic after-thought. The diverse combination of frames points out that these appropriated images now exist precariously between domestic and public realms.

Is the act of sifting through and augmenting these photos a symbolic reminder that the past should be left undisturbed? Clinging to the past and stirring up ghosts, even through the aid of strangers, can be a painful exorcism. However, as a result of bringing about such an exploration, perhaps a new sense of peace and resolution may arise.

Kelly Hider

A note about materials:

All work was made on inkjet prints with a combination of collage, India ink, acrylic, and glued rhinestones. There are three different kinds of frames: white gallery frames, found thrift store frames, and frames made with a wood base, various glued macaroni noodles and gold spray paint.