



## **Documenting the Family** (Summer Session 1: ARTVIS 290)

The impulse to take photographs is universal. Many of the first images we see are not of something considered to be “fine art” but rather an image of our family, whether it be a mundane moment or a celebration. While we are all isolated in our homes, we continue to be compelled to document the moment.

Documenting one’s own family comes with a unique set of moral dilemmas, emotional tension, and questions of truth. This course will engage with these complications as we continue to document the space we inhabit and those we share it with. We will engage with a range of artwork focusing on the themes of family and memory. We will discuss the major dilemmas of creating work about one’s own family and the reliability of memory. We will explore the history of family documentation from early tintype portraiture to contemporary photography and experimental film. Students will apply this knowledge to think and write critically about art and create an original documentary project using the medium of their choice.

A background in studio arts is not required. However, no class time will be dedicated to teaching technical skills so a knowledge of one’s chosen medium is beneficial. Our time together will be used for discussions and critiquing student work.

**Zoom meetings: Tue/Thur 2-4pm EST**