

2007

“Intimate/ Strange II”

“Intimate/ Strange II” comprises a series of fragmentary images of faces, features, and gestures found on the internet and manipulated and enlarged into anonymity.

In “Intimate/ Strange II” the images come mostly from posed portraits from the past century that have found their way to the internet. These images depict people I will never meet and no one will recognize. Yet our cultural obsession with connecting through the internet makes millions of these photos readily available to the curious. But who really cares? It is almost as if the identity of the person originally depicted disappears further as the image is more widely disseminated. The context is missing (the musty drawer the photo sat in for a generation or two), the familial proximity, the stories. Also, significant content of the image is missing as well, lost in translation from negative to digital file. Most of these photos were scanned cheaply from already compromised paper and optimized for fast download on the web. The very process of sharing an image destroys the possibility of learning more about it by peering deeper. Whereas Walker Evans negatives can be enlarged to reveal ever more detail, an inferior scan of an abused print of one of these negatives will show an abstraction, an estimation, not an elucidation of detail when enlarged. This loss, where the holes in information take us towards fiction, is the crux of this project. This photography is not about truth. It is about the erosion of tangible content in our interactions and our histories.

The images buried in epoxy and framed, box-like, are an ode to memory and the preservation of image as thing. We have come to realize the photographic image no longer means truth, but if it is made into an object of permanence, at least it is real.