

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

## MADÉLINE SWAINHART

I wonder what family could look like outside the binary, considering the question 'Can we all mother?' Madeline Swainhart is an American born (1997) visual artist and writer. Currently based in The Hague, Netherlands. Swainhart explores representations of queer families through self-portraiture, moving image, and installation. Their practice revolves around research and construction. They research the archetypes of the Mother, the Nuclear Family, and what nurturing looks like while constructing a queered image of those. Swainhart wonders what family could look like outside the binary, considering the question 'Can we all mother?' Swainhart's use of self-portraiture allows them to shift between fantasy and reality and emphasize the expectation of gender roles within domesticity while giving you your own playground of The Home. Their most recent publication Nuking the Nuclear Family can be found in bookstores throughout the Netherlands and New York City. Madeline's work utilizes the combination of text, image, sound, and textiles to examine the act of nurturing and its role within gender and the home. Their work is for their younger self and all the queer kids like them, an archive in the making. Giving you more options is the way I nurture. Family - Home - Mother - Motherhood - Parenthood - Queer - Domesticity - Care - Nurture - Masculinity

### WEBSITES

this website is under construction

[madelineswainhart.nl](http://madelineswainhart.nl)

this is my profile with the Spilt Milk Gallery that I am a member of.

[www.spiltmilkgallery.com/artist-members/2021/2/7/madeline-swainhart?rq=madeline](http://www.spiltmilkgallery.com/artist-members/2021/2/7/madeline-swainhart?rq=madeline)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

[www.instagram.com/made\\_line\\_lu/](http://www.instagram.com/made_line_lu/)

### MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

Studio Bel

### EDUCATION

- 2023 - Mentorship with Pablo Lerma Centre de la photographie Genève
- 2018 - Photography - Fiction department Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma
- 2016 - Photography Pratt Institute NY, USA
- 2017

### EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Bermuda Open The Grey Space in the Middle The Hague, Netherlands "Bermuda Open is a yearly open studio event that presents studios of artists with a contemporary practice in the city center of

### PROJECTS

- 2023 We at least deserve softness The Hague, Netherlands Focusing on representations of masculinity within the home and within domestic/ nurturing family portraits. With the use of a more environmental portrait

	The Hague (NL). <a href="#">bermudaopen.studio/Group</a>		technique. Bringing the viewer into the space of The Home. Reimagining families and who they are made up of. Self-portraiture allows me to explore my own gender identity. Helping me to imagine my future as a non-binary parent.
2023	Der Greif Guest Room: Bindi Vora Der Greif Guest Room: Bindi Vora Digital <a href="#">dergreif.org/guest-room/bindi-vora/Group</a>		
2023	"A State of Consciousness" with ProfiFoto Rencontres Arles Arles, France <a href="#">Group</a>	2021	Can they mother me, if I let them? The Hague, Netherlands <a href="#">madelineswainhart.nl/motherhood.html</a> Can they mother me, if I let them? Comfort comes in many forms. It is both simple and complex. Who gives and who takes? By breaking down the boundaries of where we get comfort and with whom we feel safe; I search for what closeness looks like. I wonder why it is so hard to be vulnerable enough to be cared for. This work is a choreography of intimacy based on dependency and trust. Would you let me hold you?
2023	Encontros da Imagem — Discovery Awards Encontros da Imagem Braga, Portugal <a href="#">Group</a>		
2023	Creating Homes Worm Rotterdam, Netherlands <a href="#">www.instagram.com/p/CtgwcjmlDFu/?img_index=1</a> <a href="#">Group</a>		
2022	"Whose Story Is It?" with Spilt Milk Gallery Gallery 1, St Margaret's House Edinburgh, United Kingdom My photographic work "Grammy's Praying For Me" as well as my video work "Mother, May I (ask you)" have been selected to be shown in an upcoming exhibition in March 2022. <a href="#">www.spiltmilkgallery.com/exhibitions/whose-story-is-it</a> <a href="#">Group</a>	2021	Grammy's Praying For Me The Hague, Netherlands Grammy's Praying For Me If a home is where we become. What happens when we don't fit? I am collecting, digging through the archive of my upbringing. An archive that holds memories I no longer know except in the way I move, in the way I am. With a family that represents something I could never become, I search for an image of what family can look like outside of the binary. With thorough research into the objects, photographs, writings, fabrics, and artworks that are left from my childhood I am drawing parallels between what is found and what is remembered in order to better understand my own relationship to gender and sexuality. I begin to understand what didn't fit right. By knowing what I was shown I can make sense of my inner child. A baby raised a girl, and never grew up to become a woman.
2022	Everything New Under the Sun The Grey Space in the Middle Den Haag, Netherlands <a href="#">Group</a>		
2021	Call for Graduates with Nest and 1646 Exhibition in Public Space The Hague, Netherlands <a href="#">Group</a>		
2021	"If Not Now, When?" with Spilt Milk Gallery Online Exhibition My work was selected from an Open Call to be shown in an online exhibition (due to covid). <a href="#">www.spiltmilkgallery.com/exhibitions/if-not-now-when</a> <a href="#">Group</a>	2021	Mother, May I (ask you) The Hague, Netherlands <a href="#">vimeo.com/600728571</a> <a href="#">password: MOTHER</a> Mother, May I (ask you) A video work directed towards my mother, asking her questions on my upbringing. Using a selection from my family home videos — I look closely at how my parents documented us, and how they raised us. Mom, these are the things I wish I could ask you.
2020	Noorderlicht Foto Festival "Generation Z" Museum Belvedere Heerenveen, Netherlands My work "Can they mother me, if I let them?" was selected from an Open Call to be shown at the Generation Z exhibition. <a href="https://www.noorderlicht.com/en/kunstenars/madeline-swainhart/">https://www.noorderlicht.com/en/kunstenars/madeline-swainhart/</a> <a href="#">www.noorderlicht.com/en/programma/noorderlicht-internationaal-fotofestival-2020-generation-z/museum-belvedere-heerenveen/can-the-mother-me-if-i-let-</a>		

## COMMISSIONS

- 2021 Where is my confirmation? with BGSQD LGBTQ book store New York City, United States BGSQD is a queer bookstore located in NYC at the LGBT Community Center. I did a commission work for them -- creating a series of bookmarks which told collected stories on queer childhoods and includes images from many family archives. There are 15 bookmarks and they were Riso- printed in an edition of 500 — The documentation of the bookmarks can be seen on my instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CWVfo8to1f/> / [bgsqd.com/](https://www.bgsqd.com/) finished

## SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

- 2021 Queering The Family LVMK Gallery The Hague, Nederland My framed image "Queering the Family" was sold to gallery Creative Director Miranda Lanink. Another edition of the framed work will continue to be shown at the gallery.

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Divide Magazine Catalog Divide Magazine London, United Kingdom [www.dividemagazine.com/](http://www.dividemagazine.com/) My photograph was featured on the cover of Divide Magazine
- 2023 Braids Journal Book Ire The Hague, Netherlands [linktr.ee/braids\\_journal](http://linktr.ee/braids_journal) A few of my works were printed in the first edition of Braids journal
- 2022 "Let us overthrow, in short, the 'family.'" Catalog Witte Rook Madeline Swainhart The Hague, Netherlands [witterook.nu/artikelen/madeleine/](http://witterook.nu/artikelen/madeleine/) I have written an article for the Vrouwenmantel Art Research Group. I will do a series of articles speaking about many topics such as: the role of the mother within the home, queering the family, my work and process of making, and the importance of the archive. Each month the article is posted on Witte Rook.
- 2021 Nuking the Nuclear Family Book Self Published Madeline Swainhart The Hague, Netherlands [www.instagram.com/p/CRoQg34lsii/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CRoQg34lsii/) My BA thesis "Nuking the Nuclear Family" has been self published and printed in two editions of 20 copies.

## REVIEWS

- 2020 De Limburger Newspaper Rob Cobben Limburg, Netherlands [www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1250968281915092&set=pcb.125097144524](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1250968281915092&set=pcb.125097144524) + <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1250968311915089&set=pcb.125097144524> De Limburger made a review about the Noorderlicht fotofestival 2020 and featured my work on the cover and spread.

The book can be found for sale in the BGSQD bookstore in NYC, and more bookstores to come.

2020 Noorderlicht International Photo Festival 2020 Catalogue by Buro van Baar and Robert Jan Verhagen Catalog robert jan verhagen Noorderlicht International Photo Festival Netherlands [www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4\\_ockAeMLI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4_ockAeMLI) a catalog containing the works shown at the Noorderlicht fotofestival 2020.

## REPRESENTATION

-- LVMK Gallery The Hague, Netherlands <https://www.lvmk.eu/>



We at least deserve softness, 2022



Grammy's Praying For Me- Installation at Grad Show, 2021  
Archived images, custom made passpartout, framed



Nuking the Nuclear Family, 2021  
Academic and Personal Writing



Where is my confirmation?, 2021  
RISO printed -- archive material



Where is my confirmation?, 2021  
RISO printed -- archive material



Nuking the Nuclear Family, 2021  
Academic and Personal Writing



Rejoice from "Letters From the Archive", 2021



On Weddings from "Letters From the Archive", 2021



On Eating from "Letters From the Archive", 2021



On Domesticity from "Letters From the Archive", 2021