

HAVE YOU?

Ilona Skladzien – Artist and Mother

Have you? Is an exhibition that is investigating the varied and wide-ranging experience of parenthood through a mother's lens, and the endless, seemingly open question of 'Have you done... yet'. In this body of work Ilona explores familial relationships and open-ended parental roles that we have to perform, their imperfections and challenges, including social pressures, gender myths and our own expectations.

Using conventional motherhood and fatherhood narratives represented in art historical painting Ilona reimagines roles in the family unit. Images of these traditional characteristics are interrupted and tested by algorithmically generated snippets of images from her social media feed. Here Ilona is looking at the transformations that roles set out by things like gender undergo within a contemporary family structure, and the role that digital technology plays in this process.

You can see in her use of domestic materials to build and draw these fragile images. Ilona talks of the delicateness the role of parental protagonists has, and in her use of repeated workings, being occupied with drawing only a handful of recurrent visuals, she is testing the mundanity and repetition of everyday family life. These can be seen as informing, influencing and reshaping our societal perceptions and expectations.