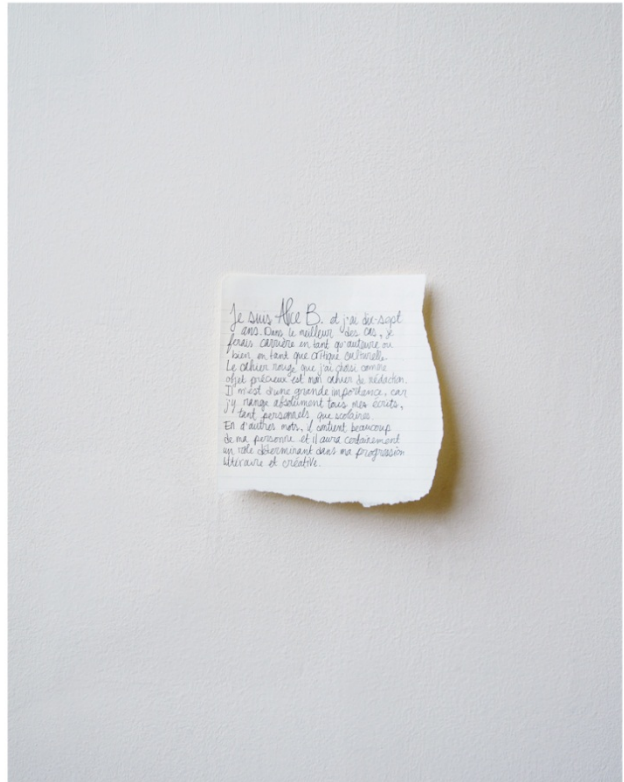


AFFIRMING IDENTITY

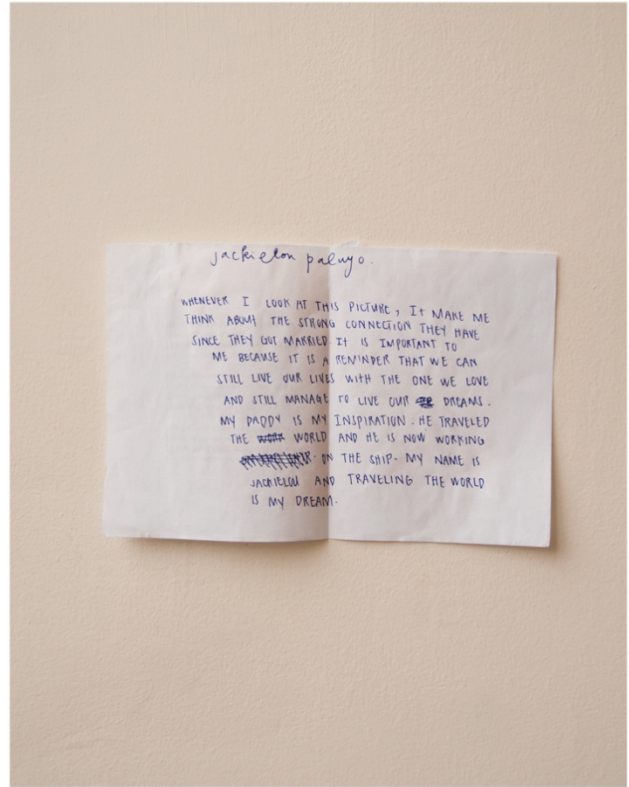
Damien Fortin



Alice, 2011

Myriam Gaumont

© Myriam Gaumont



Jackie, 2011
Myriam Gaumond
© Myriam Gaumond

Myriam Gaumont studies photography since 2004. Her works have been featured in several exhibitions and publications including a solo exhibition at the Visual Voice Art Gallery in Montreal. She currently works as a unit still photographer on movie sets of young Quebec directors while completing a major in photography at Concordia University.

At an age when they are still constructing their identity, Myriam Gaumont photographs teenage girls of the “generation W,” as she refers to them, with an object they cherish. Through the object and its correlation to the sitter, Gaumont explores how these teenagers associate themselves to nostalgic events, accomplishments, or to something that defines them at this point in their life. Each portrait is of a young girl holding the object they chose and a small handwritten text explaining the significance of their choice.

Alice holds her red notebook in which she writes her ideas for stories. The text on the right explains how one day she would like to be a writer and therefore her notebook is the link between her aspiration and how she defines herself. For Jackie, it’s a picture of her parent’s wedding that holds significance. Her text explains how her parents are an inspiration to her and how she admires her dad for having travelled all over the world. She concludes by saying that her dream is to travel all around the world as well. Presented in the form of diptychs, the portraits and their accompanying text are both affirmative of these young women’s identity and exemplary of their fragility; all are trying to ground their past and present in these objects to build a sense of who they are and who they are going to become.