

# Virginia Mitford

## Artist statement:

My work is about a new way of remembering within my own life. It also seeks to question universal ideas; for instance our collective dependence on photography to create a sense of permanence in life and the inability of a camera to actually provide that sense of security. I use printmaking, photography, drawing and video to examine and ultimately to cope with the weight of personal history and the inevitable uncertainty of the past, present and future. I often use the very tactile process of printmaking as a tool to orient myself within an overwhelming store of memory, experience and emotion left over from the past while looking to the present as a renewed source of meaning. By frequently working with personal documents such as home videos, I often look at how memory is largely dictated by and inseparable from the means we use to record our surroundings. While photography is the way we attempt to create an element of timelessness in our lives, it also robs us of our ability to be in the present and ultimately changes the way we remember. I find the time-consuming and physically demanding process of lithography and other print processes to be an important part of developing each printed image since the laborious nature of production turns intangible experience into something concrete. The result is a change from document to art object and ultimately a shift in focus from past to present. The image undergoes a transformation that in part reflects and guides my own.