



Petra Malá Miller. Untitled from the series *The Voice Reached Us Through the Floor, But the Words Themselves Were Lost*, 2009-10.

## THE VOICE REACHED US THROUGH THE FLOOR, BUT THE WORDS THEMSELVES WERE LOST

Petra Malá Miller

Curated by Patrick Macaulay

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"Memory believes before knowing remembers."

William Faulkner's quote describes the magnitude of memory. It is not just what we know, but who we believe ourselves to be and what we believe comprises the world around us. To Faulkner, memory is poetically essential in how we realize the world and ourselves.

The photographs of Petra Malá Miller explore the power of memory. She remembers and recreates her childhood through photographs taken in the present. The images in this exhibition are built on an earlier series in which she traveled to her childhood home to document accessible material from her past. She photographed the house of her parents and grandparents, objects, and the landscape in an attempt to trace the formation of her memories. The photographs are assembled into constructed memories. We see things as Malá Miller saw them. The viewer creates memory from the re-imagined remembrances of a child.

This series was started after Malá Miller moved to Lethbridge, Alberta from the Czech Republic. Her physical past was very far away and the memory, rather than being equally distanced, became more immediate, more imperative. She has built this series around two images from earlier work and then constructed a narrative from images of her new home and new surroundings. Her work suggests that the past grounds us in the present and the present mediates the memory. Newness, change and transformation are only truly explicable through memory. Petra Malá Miller's analysis of personal recollection emphasizes the critical link between memory and current belief.

– Patrick Macaulay

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