

2nd Art Exhibit Award**Young Boy (2021)****Deborah Orloff**

University of Toledo, USA



16 x 10.5 inch (h x w)

USD

Photography

Using abandoned family pictures as subject matter, *Elusive Memory* deals with the complicated relationship between photography and memory. Recently I've been thinking about what happens when we lose family photos and the stories associated with them. Are these histories irretrievably lost? My newest pieces are intimate, small-scale photographs made with shallow depth of field to deny the viewer most of the visual information photos normally reveal. These images allude to lost stories, identities, and cultures - especially in situations of forced migration (as was the case for my ancestors who fled Ukraine during the Russian pogroms) - and the universal experience of struggling to recall details of a past for which no records exist. In their final presentation, banal objects become simulacra for lost family histories and speak to the ephemeral nature of memory.

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