

How do we use lines in visual and performance art to trace our personal histories, our present and our future?

Introduction

Throughout this research I intend to unpick how different forms of lines are used and explored in visual and performance art. I am intrigued by how lines can depict 'traces' of our personal histories, our present and our future; and so, will investigate how lines can exist as physical and metaphorical entities. I want to discover how these 'traces' exist alongside lines, and how they complement each other; with an ultimate enquiry of how themes of memory, absence and presence play a key role in my research.

Within this dissertation, I will refer to my practice-led-research *Family Lines*, a practical investigation into how lines exist through collaborating with my family members. It will explore the predominant genealogical line through an archive of visual and performance work. I will also present a case study of an interview I conducted with Nicky Bird, an artist who explores traces and memory of family throughout her work. In addition to this, I will make reference to *Hand Me Down*, a show by Glas(s) Performance that explores the themes of lines through family.