



FOTOFESTIWAL 9. International Festival of Photography in Lodz, Poland,
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ALL MY LOVIN'

text: Peggy Sue Amison, Sirius Art Center, Cork, Ireland

Love has, of course, been the central theme for visual artists over the centuries, revealing through a plethora of media its endless facets. From romantic and sexual love, through relationships within our families, to faded and remembered love. Using their chosen tools, artists explore the beauty and pain of this intense emotion. In exposing these challenging relationships, we as the audience encounter with the artists the tenuous threads that bind us to others, which is sometimes effortless and, at other times, the hardest work of our lives.

Yes, love is work – because it's ever changing. We must bend and grow within our relationships, or they break and end. We accept love, or fight it, run from it, or fall helplessly into it. It can be unattainable, momentous or unspeakable. Love is so vital to our lives that it has transformed into a major marketing tool for selling everything from pop songs to toothpaste.

In curating the exhibition, we knew it would be impossible to say all there is to say about love and relationships. But thanks to the works of extraordinary artists from around the world, we've been able to cover some of what 'All My Lovin' means to us, and yet, it only scratches the surface

In *All My Lovin'* artists/photographers struggle to make sense of this essential element within all of us. Some speak about the difficulty in expressing love, illustrating the tensions that arise when people love and live together over time. Other works reveal relationships which are often not validated in their cultures, but shine stronger because of their power, changing and expanding the definitions of family. There are photographs within photographs, revealing the disappeared, or the belongings of those who have died. Voices of family members, entwined again, with the help of editing, create a resolution existing only for the artist. And, of course, there is also joy and intimacy abounding unabashedly, counterbalanced with subtle gestures that communicate softly and silently an exchange of fond affection.

The hope is that within these works you will recognise aspects of your own loving and perhaps learn from others about corners of this vast emotion that may surprise you. We hope you will enjoy this year's main event of the Łódź Fotofestival 2010!

Peggy Sue Amison

Peggy Sue Amison is currently the artistic director/curator of The Sirius Arts Centre in Cobh County Cork Ireland, and has served as the executive director/curator for seven years. The Sirius Arts Centre is a not-for profit organization established in 1988. A multidisciplinary arts centre located in East Cork the Centre not only runs visual arts exhibitions but also a music programme and International Artist in Residency programme. Each year Sirius produces approximately eight to ten exhibitions in varied art forms but with a specific interest in photography. Ms. Amison offers the potential for group and/or solo exhibitions at the Sirius and also potential to discuss with candidates for the Artist in Resident Programme. Ms. Amison has also written for a number of photographic journals in the US and Europe. She is interested in viewing works which are (or nearly) complete and which possess new, innovative or interdisciplinary approaches to the medium. She does not wish to see traditional nudes, landscapes, flowers or architecture. Sirius Arts Centre has a specific interest in works that look at issues of Identity and Culture.