

Artist Statement:

Like many people today, I have been uprooted since I was a 20-year-old and consequently have moved around all my life. As fascinating as it can be to discover and live with different cultures, making new friends, it is also very hard. Leaving people behind, especially loved ones is very challenging and one grieves each time. Trying to forget the old life to better fit the new one is emotionally tough.

I am experiencing a time in my life when it is important to go back to my roots and my work demonstrates this. I believe that one step to growing roots is to create a “Home” (called “Le Foyer” in French). Home is the place of familiar exchanges and love. Throughout my life I have taken pictures of the houses which were important to me and my family. I manipulate the images of those houses by growing roots for them on the computer. Next, I print the new images onto Plexiglas using a polyester plate for a lithographic technique. This piece of plastic is the first layer of my work. On the second plate I create a collagraph on paper representing the layers of soil in which my roots need to grow, develop and anchor. When everything is done, the work is framed leaving $\frac{3}{4}$ inch between the lithograph print and the collagraph. This makes my foreground reflect its shadow onto the background creating a 3D aspect to the work. The roots seem alive.

In a time of economic uncertainty, world conflicts and other difficult circumstances, I believe this work will resonate with many viewers. The losses, the grieving, but also the dedication to survival, is essential to experiencing life to its fullest.