

Artist Statement – Tal Boniel

My work begins with collections of images drawn from diverse sources: family albums, press archives, image applications, and museum collections. Through acts of reorganization and recomposition, I explore the relationship between questions emerging from the theory and philosophy of photography and the personal narratives embedded within images and within their arrangement.

I am interested in how autobiographical and intimate stories intersect with broader questions of presence and absence, representation and its failure, history and archive, testimony and memory. Images excavated from these collections serve as raw material: they are digitally processed, printed, cut, enlarged, and reassembled.

The act of cutting and blowing up images allows me to enter them—breaking them apart and rebuilding them as collages that seek to activate latent or hidden layers. Material and form play a central role in my practice, particularly paper, books, and printed matter. At times, video works and archival objects also become part of the projects.

My works take shape as visual collages that respond to the exhibition space in which they are presented. By assembling images into composite structures, I create networks of historical, public, and local references, evoking cultural archetypes and art-historical echoes while maintaining an open dialogue with the viewer. Like the archive itself, these works do not offer a fixed reading of the past, but invite renewed interpretation through the present.