Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.
Picturing home:
Home as represented in vernacular image making
Christina Oldfield

Written Component presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for
the degree of Master of Fine Arts at Massey University, Wellington
2009/2010
Abstract

This project grew out of an interest in notions of ‘home’, what ‘home’ is and its relationship to the ‘house’ as a physical place of dwelling. Specifically, this project explores how the home is represented in vernacular image-making, such as the photographs in the family album and craft methods such as cross-stitch. This lead to an investigation into vernacular photography, collections and archives, and contemporary craft methods. An archive of photographs collected follows the text, as well as drawings and embroideries made during the project. The final work consists of a large-scale projection of a cross-stitch and the photograph it originated from.
Acknowledgements

I wish to thank to thank all the Massey University SoFA staff and my fellow Masters students, especially Val Diggle and my supervisors Ann Shelton, John Di Stefano and Wayne Barrar.

A huge thankyou to my incredible cross-stitchers, Katie Moore, Jay Lane and Mum; and to everyone who lent me a photograph (or ten) for my archive – very very much appreciated.

Lastly, to my amazing friends and family, for putting up with a crazy person for a year.

This thesis is dedicated to my grandparents, Ted and Pat Watt, my eternal cheerleaders and the world’s most thorough research assistants; I would never have begun this journey without your support and encouragement.
Contents

Title page
Abstract
Acknowledgments
Contents
Introduction
House or Home?
Vernacular photography
Collection or archive?
Craft
Projections
The last word
Images of Final Installation
Illustration list
Reference list
Appendix A - The Archive
Appendix B - Documentation of developmental work
Bibliography