

Natasha Rudenko Artist Statement

“As an artist I investigate personhood and identity constructs through photographic self-portraiture, performance, installations and video. I use photography to interpret my personal experience as a human being, it is for me a way of self-reflection.

In my recent series Be/longing I'm exploring the experience of longing and its meaning. Defined as a “yearning desire” it leaves out both the nature of the object of that desire and the reasons behind it. The object of longing seems irrelevant and the yearning - directionless. We say: longing for home, for love, for acceptance, for recognition, for friendship. The concepts that through their platitude deceive you into familiarity but that in fact persist in their ambiguity.

For an immigrant, and I, myself, am one, defining home becomes a task of a lifetime. But for me, the longing for home started long before I left what now official documents call a “country of origin”. My being originated there, but what does it really mean? What non-severable ties did that event create in the process? Has it so happened that I am destined to long for home or rather for that sense of belonging with the unquenchable thirst of a traveler stranded on a raft in the middle of the shoreless ocean? How is the relationship with a place created to form a bond that would make one say “I belong here”?”

Natasha Rudenko was born in Moscow, graduated from the Higher School of Economics with a BA in International Business and started photographing shortly after that.

Rudenko studied photography at the British School of Art and Design in Moscow and then continued her studies in the US, where she graduated with an MFA in Photography from the New York Film Academy in Los Angeles in 2016. Natasha Rudenko currently lives and works in Los Angeles. In addition to being an artist she is also an educator currently teaching degree and certificate programs.

Natasha Rudenko has exhibited her work in the US and internationally, in New York, Los Angeles, Athens, Tempe and Budapest among others.