

Vocabulary of Loss

The project examines the issue of how we transfer our lives from one place to another in physical and emotional terms, focusing on the loss of material objects as a metaphor for everything we leave behind, the people, the environment, the lifestyle. There is pain involved in the process of separation from everything we have previously been connected to, and the matrix of relationships we have built up.

I chose a very basic chair form to represent this loss, because we would commonly use such an object every day without even taking much note of it, but it is not necessarily an item we would take with us, because of its size and ordinariness. If we have to choose, we would most likely take precious things with us, and leave commonplace things behind.

Forgotten things retain a trace presence in our minds even if only as an imprint, however faded. This is why I chose the wire frame form, an outline without detail. This is also the reason for the diminishing scale of the chair, symbolic of memories reducing as time passes. There is a gradual decay and distortion of memory. It cannot be trusted to be accurate.

The binding of the frames is based on the notion from Asian folklore of the continuity of life being bound with a red thread. Generally, this idea is used to indicate romantic connections. However, to my way of thinking, all important points along the timeline of a life are connected with the red thread. The red thread is also a metaphor for blood, arteries and veins, representing the pain of separation from the life we have relinquished. The threads are like trails, they tail off but are never completely severed.