

Tamara Zibners
“Mimi's Diary”

August 13 – September 18, 2011
Kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga

From August 13 to September 18 at *kim?* an exhibition by an American artist Tamara Zibners “Mimi’s Diary” is on view. The exposition shows series of photographs and collages that have been created from 2006 to 2011 and reflect the story of Tamara’s grandparents, Latvian immigrants in the USA, their memories and lost Latvian identity. The theme of the exhibition is underlined by fragments of Tamara’s grandmother’s diary she were writing from 1943 to 1971.

Tamara Zibners says: ‘On October 4, in 1944, when communists were approaching, my grandparents, Mimi and Pipi, together with a newborn son, my father, left their home in Saldus, Latvia. As refugees they spent five years in Germany, ruined during the war, until they finally moved to the USA. My grandparent’s story is about exile and immigration.’

Making a research of her family’s history, Zibners touches a theme that is important for many Latvian families that left their land during World War II. Also in today’s context, when economical migration is topical for Latvia, it provides a good background for a dialogue. In her work the artist is setting questions on social and political aspects of immigration rather than answering them.

“Mimi’s Diary” is a complex photographic material, that is made from various layers of images and texts. Archive documents and photographs taken by the artist during her journeys in Latvia are in extraordinary harmony between the past and the present. This project was chosen for a photo album (issued by *Thames & Hudson*) and for an exhibition *reGeneration 2: Tomorrow's Photographers Today*, being listed as one of eight best series. The exhibition was first shown in Switzerland, on July 2010. After that it has travelled to galleries in different cities of China, to Miami in the USA, New York and other places. Nevertheless the exhibition at *kim?* is the first time, when the series are shown fully.

Visitors also are invited to take part in the exhibition. There is a special box, where everyone can leave a photo from the family archive or share a story, heard or experienced, about moving away from Latvia and life outside homeland.

Tamara Lynne Zibners (1982) was born in Sacramento, California. Her main field of interest is photography, but the artist also works with drawing, video art and music. Zibners has graduated from The University of California gaining a bachelor degree in arts. At present she studies in MA program in the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. The artist has been participating in exhibitions since 2004. In 2007 she set up an exhibition “Portrait of Andrejsala” in Riga, Latvia.