

About the series: *101 ways to long for a home*

Emma Willemse

In my work I am asking questions about pre-conceived and super-imposed ideas dealing with trauma and place. I am imagining possibilities and posing fluid alternatives which cannot be packaged in neat labelled boxes. It is my believe that the link between human consciousness and place have not yet been defined and can only be explored through a kind of alternative knowledge.

The ironically titled series *101 ways to long for a home*, specifically, is an investigation into the way displacement has been dealt with as a knowledge field and the failure of existing theoretical models to explain why resettlement is often not successful. My contention is that there is a lack of awareness of the traumatic effects of the loss of a home and how this impacts on the field of knowledge of displacement. The title suggests an ironic play on the quick-fix nature of self-help books and a subversion of some of the notions in the displacement field, for instance the idea that victims of displacement should be able to resettle more successfully if they receive a higher compensation for the lost home(s) from authorities – brutally stated: throw money at them to keep them quiet.

Using devices such as distortion, blurring and fragmentation a story of complex fragility and fluidity is revealed, suggesting the intrinsic qualities of the volatile personalised experience by the displaced.

The series is part of a long-term project in which an imaginary manual consisting of 101 artworks in various techniques will be created, all derived from a collage constructed from fragments of images depicting building structures. The 101 artworks will eventually be compiled into an artist's book format.