Heather Lewis uses the Welsh word "hiraeth," meaning the yearning for lost places of her past, to describe her practice of photographing herself in settings that evoke reminders of the past and emotional connections of her own family history. Like works by Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Ken Rosenthal, and Nancy Rexroth, Lewis’s photographs, which often are displayed in an album form, give the false impression of her insertion in a specific family memory.

Interested in re-creation of dreams and stories, Lewis conveys a sense of longing and nostalgia of her past and people long gone. Growing up without the majority of her paternal family members, Lewis found articulating fleeting memories of them out of the realm of her vocabulary. Looking towards negatives of these long gone relatives, Lewis found the images resonated in the identity she was trying to find. She could visualize herself in this family, in their family album. Instead of limiting her memory, she created a new narrative, one where she is an integral part of her paternal family.

This exhibit and events are open to the public.