

THE FAMILY IMPRINT

LOVE AND STRENGTH IN THE FACE OF MORTALITY – ONE FAMILY’S BATTLE WITH CANCER

Nancy Borowick’s parents underwent simultaneous cancer treatment for their respective stage-four diagnoses. For two years their daughter accompanied the couple, who were beaten, but not broken, by the illness, with her camera. The so developed photo book *The Family Imprint* is now an intimate legacy, full of strength and compassion—a document of love, life and lessons while facing death.

Berlin, February 14, 2017 – “As a child, I simply couldn’t imagine life without my parents,” says Nancy Borowick (*1985). “I assumed that they would be there for every important milestone in my life, and that they would grow old together. I never thought that I would lose them both by the time I was twenty-nine.”

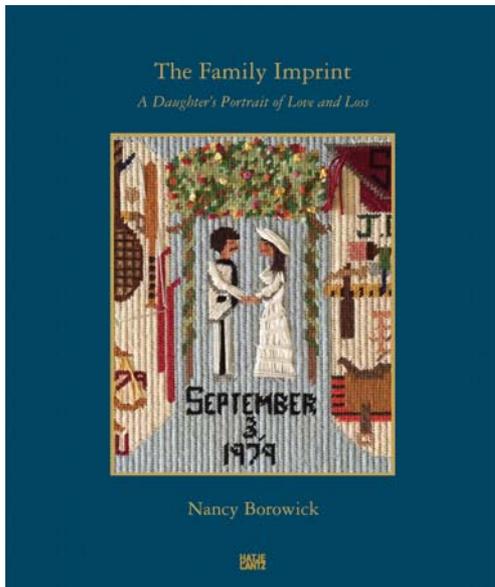
The impressive pictures in Borowick’s book, *The Family Imprint*, are of her parents and their changing relationship after the cancer diagnoses. Borowick—who always has a camera slung over her shoulder—first began taking photos of her parents as a way to spend more time with them during their treatment. For hours she watched them, as they were hooked up to beeping machines that pumped the poisonous chemotherapy through their veins. With the help of her camera, Borowick conquered a space for herself, where, although she was present, she could also protect herself from harsh reality. The camera allowed her a context, and a familiar lens through which she could be there with her parents, but also keep a safe distance.

Quickly, the artist realized that the story she was documenting was not just a documentary of the illness. Rather, it was about family, her family, and living life in this new reality. Her parents were always more than their illnesses, and strongly refused to be defined solely by them. Love and their shared suffering bore them up to the end. *The Family Imprint* testifies to this with beautiful, yet painful intensity—just as Howie Borowick’s assessed his life: “My philosophy on life is that it’s a gift, and any amount of years is a gift. Nobody promised me longevity. Nobody promised me success. Nobody promised me love and good friends. Nobody promised me a career. And yet, I’ve had all of those. So, I’m way ahead in the balloting and accounting. I have no regrets because without any guarantees, I’ve been able to achieve those things and I’ve been blessed with them for a long, long time.”

Borowick also knew that time was short. She carried on long conversations with her parents, and learned a great deal: “My parents set an example for me. They were always strong and positive.” For the artist, the many pictures she took—in color, actually—comprise a valuable archive of memories, which she defined for herself in black and white. “Color tells you something about time and place, and I didn’t want the people who saw my pictures to have any point of orientation because I didn’t have that awareness while going through it. My world was colorless, and time and place had no meaning. The whole thing could have happened at any time—just recently, or years ago.”

Borowick has received much attention for her photographic work on the *The Family Imprint*, which she financed through a successful Kickstarter campaign with about 750 supporters from dozens of countries. Her photographs have been shown at renowned festivals around the world, as well as in more than one hundred exhibitions as part of the World Press Photo

Awards. In 2017, there will be shows in the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy and France.



NANCY BOROWICK
**THE FAMILY IMPRINT: A DAUGHTER'S
PORTRAIT OF LOVE AND LOSS**

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Especially in the digital age, Hatje Cantz regards itself an element linking museums, artists, galleries, collectors, and art lovers. Conveying knowledge - in terms of both content and visuals - as well as an enthusiasm for art is always at the heart of our engagement.

In keeping with our ambition to make it possible to experience art beyond the medium of the book, Hatje Cantz has launched the EDITION GERD HATJE as we continue to expand our portfolio of strictly limited, signed editions featuring works on paper, photographic works of art, and art objects.

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