

# Aldona Kmiec: Hills Hoist

Between the lines of laundry: on memory, migration and the Australian backyard



City Library Gallery 253 Flinders Ln, Melbourne VIC 12 November - 7 December 2025

All works © Aldona Kmiec 2025

In a quiet backyard in regional East Gippsland, the wind turns a Hills Hoist. Sunlight flashes through cotton sheets, and the sound of the line creaking becomes almost musical. It's here that I began Hills Hoist, a series that transforms one of Australia's most ordinary suburban icons into a meditation on love, memory, and belonging.

The Hoist was always there. It appears in so many photographs, always in the background—rarely the subject. When I arrived in Australia, it struck me as both strange and deeply familiar. It's a machine of repetition: clothes go up, come down, and life goes on. In my lens, the Hills Hoist becomes more than a relic of mid-century suburbia. It's a silent witness to domestic histories—both private and collective. The Hoist might be invisible to those who grew up with it, but for me it became a kind of cultural anchor—a structure that represents both familiarity and strangeness.

Through a combination of digital and medium-format analogue photography, my images document my family's daily life on their farm in Poland, under increasing economic and existential pressures. I didn't want to romanticise what a working farm looks like.

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There's melancholy in their stillness, but also endurance. Photographing it became a way to witness the persistence of ordinary life, in a place where life can have an overwhelming intensity.

Two years in the making, the project also includes cyanotypes made on found textiles, created in collaboration with my sister during my recent visit to Poland. These fabric works using family archives extend the photographic image into touch and material memory—European sunlight imprinted directly onto the cloths that once hung on our family line.

While the Hoist might look quintessentially Australian, I'm looking at it as an outsider observing a national symbol. My broader body of work has often engaged with displacement and cultural adaptation; here, that inquiry takes a domestic turn. For someone who's migrated, even the smallest objects become loaded with memories.

Although the Hoist has long been celebrated as an emblem of Australian ingenuity and postwar optimism, my work subtly reframes it. It was part of the dream of progress—the suburban block, the nuclear family, the white picket fence. But that dream didn't include everyone. Photographing the Hoist in multicultural and rural contexts makes that history visible again. The politics are in the landscape itself. There's poetry in persistence.

LIST OF AVAILABLE WORKS



*Family Tree* 2025 diptych  
hand printed cyanotype  
photogram on found vintage  
canvas  
50 x 100 cm  
\$1500

*Hills Hoist* 2025  
Artist test print #3  
Cyanotype on Arches paper  
hand printed photograph  
84.1 x 59.4 cm unframed  
POA



*Family archives series* 2025  
hand printed cyanotype photograms  
on found Polish cotton, unique  
various sizes approx 29.7 x 42 cm \$95 ea



*Mini Concertina Artist Book* 2025 ed 3 + 1 AP  
36 two-sided, unique, coated with cold wax UV varnish  
11cm x 156cm 140gsm \$195



*Concertina Artist Book* 2025 ed 3 + 1 AP  
16 two-sided pages, unique, cold wax UV varnish  
15cm x 93cm 350gsm watercolour paper \$295



*There Is Still Time for Dreaming* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
Fujichrome Provia 120 film  
39.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$650 unframed  
\$800 framed

*Olek* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
59.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$750 unframed  
\$900 framed

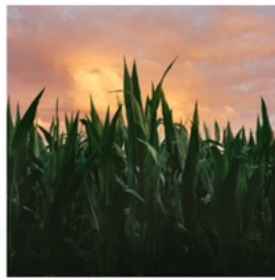


*Tafik* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
59.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$750 unframed  
\$900 framed

*My Bloody Kneephew* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
39.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$650 unframed  
\$800 framed



*Karolina II* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
59.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$750 unframed  
\$900 framed



*Kukurydza* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
Fujichrome Provia 120 film  
39.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$650 unframed  
\$800 framed



*Hide and Seek I* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
39.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$650 unframed  
\$800 framed



*Stodoła* 2011 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
39.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$650 unframed  
\$800 framed



*Orchard* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
Fujichrome Provia 120 film  
39.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$650 unframed  
\$800 framed



*Crocheted pieces* 2025  
Handmade cyanotype photograms on linen,  
various sizes \$75 - \$125



*Emilka and Filip* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
59.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$750 unframed  
\$900 framed



*Cousins* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
59.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$750 unframed  
\$900 framed



*Chata* 2015 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
59.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$750 unframed  
\$900 framed



*Jeziórko* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
59.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$750 unframed  
\$900 framed

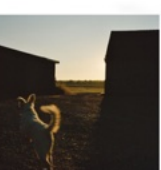
*Rain* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
59.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$750 unframed  
\$900 framed



*The summer of 2025* ed 3  
archival pigment print  
39.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$650 unframed  
\$800 framed



*As Morning Breaks* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
Fujichrome Provia 120 film  
39.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$650 unframed  
\$800 framed



*Filip and I* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
39.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$650 unframed  
\$800 framed



*Twins* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
Fujichrome Provia 120 film  
39.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$650 unframed  
\$800 framed



*Kury* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
59.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$750 unframed  
\$900 framed



*Marta* 2011 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
59.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$750 unframed  
\$900 framed



*Hide and Seek II* ed 3  
archival pigment print  
59.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$750 unframed  
\$900 framed



*Kacper* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
59.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$750 unframed  
\$900 framed



*Poppies* 2025 ed 3  
archival pigment print  
39.5 x 39.5 x 4 cm  
\$650 unframed  
\$800 framed



Editions of 3 + AP

Contact

Printed on Canson Platine Fibre Rag 310gsm  
Hand-finished bespoke frames by ARTEN  
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