

Childhood and youth are marked by imitation. The presentation/representation of one's own person/personality, gender and affiliation through clothes and behaviour is motivated by parents and friends as well as by social surroundings. The band Tocotronic has phrased this in their lyrics: "There are imitations of you in me. The imitations ally with me. They touch me and accompany me, they say that there is no true me." The feeling of uncertainty is a central issue during childhood and youth. The pressure of having to fulfil certain roles in very different situations can be unsettling and strengthening at the same time. Lyrics like "I am a neuter with meaning but no part of me is real" or "I want to be anything for you" (also by Tocotronic) illustrate this process. The mentioned ambivalences are the tension field and the main subject of my work. "Duplicates" is about representation.

Duplicates, 2017,
Cassette with 7 C-prints, 300 g/m²,
each 45 cm x 30 cm



In the process, I worked using photographs of my own photography fund. Photographs of my grandfather are blending with pictures of my own childhood. The work is completed by newer as well as recently taken photos. "Duplicates" contains two categories of photographs: In some of the photos, children and teenagers are consciously assuming roles and in others they have been obliged by their surroundings to do so. By arranging the photos and putting them into chronological order, a collection in the style of a private photo album is created. The imaginary process of a childhood is being reconstructed by repeating the same focus in the photographs and thereby indicating the topic of representation and imitation. The arrangement as a photo album provides an authentic framework for the collection.



