

# Samantha George

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## Empty Nest Artist Statement

This recent piece of work, *Empty Nest*, is an exploration of the ideas surrounding memories, the spaces we call home, and the way the people in our lives form our idea of home.

Some years ago I lived in Mexico and stayed for a period of time with a Mexican family. They were very good to me and eventually accepted me as an extended member of their family, which is an unusual privilege for a foreigner.

In Mexico, the most important person in the house is the madre or *mamá*, who is the revered centre of the family. In my "family's" house the *mamá*, Ophelia, has been living along with her two daughters since the passing of her husband five years ago. One daughter has got married this year and the second has just become engaged. If the children and their relationship to their family is an essential social structure in Mexico, I wonder what will happen to Ophelia's home as her children leave her with an empty nest.

To trigger these questions in the mind of the viewer, I have transferred images of my host family's house onto pieces of broken glass. These images are snippets of my memories related to the house, with a special Mexican emphasis on food and the kitchen. I have placed Ophelia's daughters towards the centre and show *Ophelia* looking on from a few locations. The glass, arranged in a slightly circular structure, hints at the immanent fate of the house, becoming a broken nest.

The majority of the pieces of glass have been secured with glue in order to maintain the overall shape and structure. Four pieces of terracotta coloured floor tile have also been provided for the base. The piece can either be placed on two or four tiles, depending on the curator's wishes. There are also plain glass shards that should be scattered along the bottom of the structure, on the tiles.

Thank you.