

# Samantha George

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## Artist Statement

This recent body of work, SOLD, is an exploration of the ideas surrounding memories, the spaces we call home, and the sale of both to a large corporation.

My parent's house at 1185 Devonshire Avenue, in Woodstock Ontario, is approximately one hundred and fifty years old. Its inhabitants have witnessed the unification of Canada, two World Wars, NAFTA, and the Internet. It's the only home I have ever lived in, after being adopted in 1986 at the age of seven. However, the house and my connection to it will be severed soon- it has been sold to a development company who plan on demolishing it and turning it into a Rexall Drug Store.

People say that a house is a home because of the people who live in it. However, I'm sad to see the end of this great structure for the "progression" of society. The process of watching the house get sold has made me question a number of things. What makes a house a home? How do we stage a façade for guests, and how do we actually occupy a space? What places in a house hold our memories and how are those captured with a camera? What happens to our memories when the structure they are tied to is destroyed? How do we move on after "selling out" to a corporation?

To trigger these questions in the mind of the viewer, I have transferred images of 1185 Devonshire onto brick. These images are snippets of my memories related to the house, memories which I believe viewers can identify with. The bricks, while not broken, are not intact as they should be to create a wall, hinting at the immanent fate of the house. Finally, the title SOLD can be interpreted in many ways, but refers most directly to the house itself.

In Western society, everything has a price, including history and memories. This series of photographs, by focusing on issues of representation, history, memory, space, and ambiguity, challenges the viewer to think about their relation to their own home and the possible severance of that bond.