



↪ Adoption ↪
WORD ← art → IMAGE
↪ body ↪

The Shape of the Word

This introduction focused on the concrete perception of the adoptee's *body image* to elude social marginalization and demystify cultural representation.

What can a body tell of a body?

Every adoptee is removed by definition away from the body itself. Through adoption, a physical body becomes the first tangible sign of a counterhistory: a living mouthpiece of the historical and cultural traces drawn from the place of origin. This story of displacement imposes a perceptual matrix that precedes and narrates the body without its explicit permission. With the evolution of the sanitary emergency, isolation has pushed people towards a virtual interface and limited the space for in-person encounters; in Italy, this has allowed adoptees to boost their presence in the social discourse and over mass and social media. Still, there are barely words and images to describe the corporeality of the adoptee experience.

This presentation, led and produced by adult adoptees, will explore the concepts of the “adopted body” throughout the evolution of its representation while looking at the works of art by national and international adoptee artists.

A. Petrolito and D. Vettori

BIOs



Alessia Petrolito - Born in the U.S.A., adopted and raised in Turin. While gaining her MA in Visual and Critical Studies, she presented her artistic research at the 5th ICAR - International Conference on Adoption Research in New Zealand. She currently lives in Italy, where she is working for a no-profit organization while writing on her blog about adoption and other visual metaphors. <https://arpadoptic.com/>

Devi Vettori - Born in India, adopted and raised in Florence. After her B.A. in Literature, she merged her interests in anthropology and adoptive themes by becoming a lead-trainer for groups and workshops on adoption and narration. She is the co-founder of "Legami Adottivi" (Adoptive Ties), a working group established by adopted people who put their professionalism in service to promote exchange and cooperation between adoptees, adoptive parents, families and adoption workers. <https://devivettori.com/>

