

Celebrating Women in Photography Today

INVISIBLE MOTHER

Libby Nightingale

I became a mother 30 years ago and quickly began to fulfil the roles and assume the identity society expected of me. As my family grew so did the public mask. It consumed and smothered me.

I was a young mother, a divorced mother, a single mother, a remarried mother, a working mother, and a mother of eight.

Society had lots of labels for me... but I only wanted to be a 'good mother'.

Every minute was spent fulfilling the mother role. The invisible roles. Doing things that 'just happen'. The things that are only noticed if they don't happen or are judged 'below standard' and you suddenly become a 'bad mother'.

As my children grow older and begin to live their own lives, my assumed identity begins to erode. Like a lizard shedding its skin, the roles began to peel away.

What will be left behind? A butterfly about to fly or the dried husk of a spent fruit?

Libby Nightingale is a Fine Art Photographer & Lecturer based in the North West of England.

She is a mother of eight, and much of her personal work explores themes of childhood, motherhood and identity. She uses a variety of digital and traditional photographic methods in her projects.

Libby was awarded a first class honours degree in Photography from Lancaster University, an MA in photography at Falmouth University and is an Associate Member of the Royal Photographic Society.

She has exhibited in Blackpool, London, Manchester, Liverpool and Bulgaria and has featured in national and local press including The Times, The Guardian, The Metro and on BBC and local radio and on BBC and ITV television.

MORE INFO

Website: www.libbynightingale.com
Twitter: twitter.com/libby_chromasia
Instagram: [instagram.com/l_nightingale](https://www.instagram.com/l_nightingale)
Facebook: [facebook.com/LibbyNightingalePhotography](https://www.facebook.com/LibbyNightingalePhotography)
Email: Libby@chromasia.com