

HOGAR

Aydinaneth Ortiz

Aydinaneth Ortiz received her BA in art at UCLA and MFA in photography at CalArts. Her work focuses on intersections between familial relationships, mental illness, drug addiction, and immigration. Ortiz's work is in the permanent collections of the Pomona College Museum of Art and the Museum of Latin American Art.

Through photography and installation, I investigate personal relationships in order to open up larger conversations around vulnerability, mental illness, immigration, belonging, and drug addiction. Due to our current political climate and as a Chicana artist, my work is designed to reach a broader audience, break down communication barriers, and build new meanings.

HOGAR is an installation that includes three series of photographs: *Ingredients*, *California State Mental Hospitals*, and *Hija de tu madre*. A series of walls requires the audience to move through the space while encouraging them to make deeper connections with their own private lives. After a tragic event in my family, I spent a lot of time reflecting and questioning, leading to my ongoing study of the California mental health system. I concluded that the lack of mental health support for my brother was not an isolated incident but a part of a much broader systemic issue. Due to a lack of funding, state-run institutions cannot meet the needs of those who need assistance, and statistics show that there are more people with mental illness in prisons than in state-run psychiatric institutions. Through my work, I hope to draw attention to the devastating lack of mental health support and other common failures within the system.



Aydinaneth Ortiz, detail from *HOGAR*, 2018.
Installation, dimensions variable.