

Author: Caroline Dawson, carolineajd@gmail.com

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Tania Franco Klein, *Toaster (Self-Portrait)*

The second photograph that I will describe is landscape in format ... wider than it is tall. It was taken in 2016 and is part of Franco Klein's series *Our Life in The Shadows*. The photograph is titled *Toaster ... followed by Self-portrait* in brackets. It is an archival pigment print, which measures 160.02cm in width by 106.68cm in height. If a standard sized internal door was doubled in width and shortened by 1/5th of its height ... then turned on its side ... this is around the same size as the photograph.

At the centre of the photograph is a toaster on a polished, wooden worksurface. In the foreground, a woman rests her head on the surface. Her face is reflected in the toaster. Our viewpoint is as if we were standing just behind the left shoulder of the woman. We are looking down from standing height onto the scene. I will come back to the woman at the end of this description. But first I will describe the rest of the scene.

On the left ... a green curtain hangs vertically. If the image was spilt into vertical quarters from top to bottom ... the curtain makes up the left vertical quarter of the composition. It appears thick, smooth and has a slight sheen to it. Looking more closely, light is coming through the curtain from behind it, and the fabric is quite thin.

The way the fabric hangs creates three curves or folds. The section of each of these folds that is closest to the left side of the image is lime green, like the insides of a kiwifruit. Closer into the centre of the image the lime green fades into a greeny-yellow, the colour of an unripe banana.

On the right side of the composition there is a dark wood wall panel, which is a mixture of different browns. A very dark brown ... the colour of mud, is

visible in the grain against lighter, honey coloured, warmer toned brown. The section of panel on the very right side of the composition is well lit. Further into the centre of the image the lighting becomes darker ... making it difficult to decipher what this panel is, or where it ends.

The background between the green curtain and the panel of wood is dark. There appears to be a wall which is adjacent to the wooden panel at a 90-degree angle. It seems as if this is a corner of a room. At the very top of this background section ... just to the right of the centre of the composition ... a white thick material ... like builders putty ... has been applied to the presumed wall, and a black cable falls out from its centre.

There is a tabletop, or work surface in the composition ... it could be attached to the background wall and the wooden panel, or it could be free standing. The surface is predominately on the lower right side of the image. It juts into the lower left side of the image at a diagonal from the bottom of the image ... over to just in front of the green curtains. The surface is either made of a light, bright wood, or its covered with a lino that looks like a light bright wood. In either case, the grain of the wood follows the diagonal of the positioning of the surface ... from the bottom right to the back wall.

In the corner of the wooden panel and background wall, there is a short plant with thick rubber-like leaves. The leaves are a mixture of dark evergreen green, and bright new-shoot green.

A small six-sided perspex photo cube sits between the wooden panel and the plant. Black and white square portrait photographs are in each of the three visible sides. The clearest side faces the camera. In this side of the cube there is a faded, black and white photo of a very young boy with pale skin, and short light-coloured hair. He clutches his small hands just below his chin and wears a white cardigan or jumper. His face is turned to the centre of the composition, and his expression is one of wonder. His eyes are wide and look upwards to his right. With the cube being positioned next to the toaster ... it looks as if the boy is looking at what is reflected in it.

The rectangular, box-shaped toaster is central to the whole image. It is positioned on the surface of the table or counter ... with one of its longest

sides facing towards the bottom right corner of the composition. The toaster is chrome and the metal reflects everything around it. It is a two-slice toaster, with a black ribbed plastic trim around the bottom, and a black switch on the side which faces the green curtains. Its cable ... covered in black and yellow fabric hangs off the edge of the surface top. It looks as if it is from another era.

Evenly spaced out letters spelling out the word PROCTOR are etched in capital letters into the metal across the centre of the longest visible side. This is the side in which the woman's head is reflected. The woman's face rests on the surface.

A section of the woman's head is in the very bottom right corner ... and rises almost 2/5's of the way up the right side of the composition. Her head is flat on the work surface where the toaster also sits... and we are looking really closely at it. We see her short brown hair tuck under the yellow framed glasses. Her left cheek under the hair extends down to the bottom of the photograph, to just above where her chin is. Her nose is small, and we are looking up her left nostril. We see the left corner of her red lips.

In the reflection I see her face is on its side. The top of her head is closest to the right side of the image, and her chin is on the side of the green curtains. Her face is distorted by the shape of the toaster's curved metal side. Her brown fringe covers her forehead and pieces of longer hair fall around her yellow perspex framed glasses. The glasses have large oval shaped lenses. Her eyes are closed, and she wears black mascara and eyeliner which extends to the edge of her eye socket. Her lips are painted a bright red, with an orange tinge. Her face is dotted with freckles. It appears relaxed, expressionless, as if she is asleep or daydreaming.

The lighting in this photograph looks natural. It is very golden in its tone despite the silver of the toaster. A bright white slit of light reflects off the corner of the chrome toaster, onto the table or surface top at the centre of the image. On the surface above the woman's nose and underneath the photo cube, there is a larger square of bright white light, as if the sun is streaming into this scene on a winter's day.