

Eating Together

Curatorial text

A taste can bring back a person, a place, or a moment before we have found the words to describe it. In *Eating Together*, Ane Alfeirán treats food as a way of gathering memories that live in bodies and relationships. Participants bring foods connected to personal experiences, tell their stories, take Polaroids, and eat together. The meal becomes both the occasion for remembering and a record of how memories change when they are shared.

Among the works in the series are 142 polvorones, one for each direct descendant of Alfeirán's grandmother Pila. Each sweet stands for a person in a family that has grown across generations. The number gives the work its form, but the polvorones are also edible and temporary. Their eventual disappearance makes the family portrait dependent on an act of taking, tasting, and passing something on. What remains is not the arrangement alone, but the relationships and stories it brings into view.

Other parts of *Eating Together* introduce images and memories created with artificial intelligence. Set beside personal accounts and instant photographs, these generated materials are not immediately distinguishable by appearance. The work asks what gives a memory credibility: an image, a convincing detail, the person who tells it, or the people who remember it together? A Polaroid can attest that a gathering took place, but it cannot contain everything that was felt or said there.

Alfeirán's interest in fabricated memory does not diminish the intimacy of the shared meal. Instead, it sharpens the difference between possessing a record and having lived an experience. The polvorones hold a family history that can be counted but never fully captured by a list of names. The participants' foods open similarly partial accounts, shaped by retelling as much as by what first happened.

Eating Together places these forms of memory at the same table. As food is consumed and stories circulate, the work becomes an evolving archive whose evidence is sensory, social, and sometimes uncertain. It asks how future generations might recognize what was lived, imagined, or reconstructed - and whether remembering together can offer a way to hold that uncertainty without erasing it.