

Sara Blokland (1969)

**Reproduction of Family Part 4: Mother's History – A Library of
Language**

2014

In the fourth part of her *Reproduction of Family* series Sara Blokland explores the history of her mother Rosa Wins' Jewish family from Amsterdam. Blokland interviewed Rosa about her identity, ideals and recollections of her post-war childhood.

In the film Blokland combines her mother's reflections with the pre-war ideas of Gerrit Mannoury (1857 – 1953), the philosopher, mathematician and communist – who was also Rosa's grandfather – who in his study of the Significa researched how language and images influence people. He described, for example, an image which everyone could imagine in the same way having had it described to them – a white dot on a dark background. To Mannoury this symbolised the almost impossible narrative of suffering.

Mother's History is a mother's testimony to her daughter, which also demonstrates Rosa's struggle: who is her story intended for, who understands it, who identifies with it?

In *Reproduction of Family*, Sara Blokland explores her Dutch-Surinamese roots. Earlier parts of the series focused mainly on post-colonial histories and visual representations. In *Mother's History*, by contrast, the focus is on an artistic exploration of identity and the difficulties of representing post-war trauma in image and language.