

Ghost Guessed

By Tom Griggs and Paul Kwiatkowski

Ghost Guessed is a photobook and autobiographically inspired novella set in the years between the disappearance of my cousin in a plane over central Minnesota in 2009 and the subsequent vanishing of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 five years later. These events bookend a period of personal disorientation that played out across larger forces: the Great Recession, the ongoing digitalization of our lives, and the dramatic darkening of cultural currents in the United States.

These forces often leave us with a sense of being adrift or with a desire to escape our lives. At its core, *Ghost Guessed* investigates these sensations of contemporary life and explores how they affect our sense of identity. The book's photographs deepen this reflection by exploring how questions of identity are echoed in how we think about, respond to, and are dominated by the image.

Ghost Guessed developed over late night Skype calls between two photographers who barely knew each other when we began the project. The spark of our conversations about photography and the overlaps we discovered in our personal experiences during the years covered in the book set us off on a collaborative work that represents the intersection of our life narratives.