

**Family:  
Barbara Baier  
& Lin Quenzer**

**Artist:  
Kristen  
Martincic**



In my artwork, I explore the themes of vulnerability and loss. Using both domestic objects and the human form, I emphasize intimacy, emotion, and private space. It is from this artistic perspective that I approached the telling of Barbara Baier, Lin Quenzer, and their son Robbie's story.

This piece is made up of three main components: the feet, box, and house structure. Each of these carries multiple meanings and correlate with one another.

The three pairs of ceramic feet are realistic renderings of each family member's feet. I was interested in the details and small nuances that make one's feet their own. In addition, feet are universal: they are what we stand on, what grounds us, what allows us to move through this world; they are a record of who we are and where we have been. These feet are genderless and simply portray a family of two adults and one child.

The box serves as a way to elevate and display the family grouping. It references the home, looking similar to a couch or ottoman in its scale and bold decorative motif, and reinforces the home's sense of intimacy and private space.

The house structure provides a place of rest and alludes to both protection and exposure. As we all have, the Baier Quenzer family has two sides: their public and private selves. Their public side shows a resolute, politically active lesbian couple, while privately they are very caring, vulnerable parents to their son Robbie.

As the old adage says, "you can't really know someone until you have walked a mile in their shoes". I am fortunate to have had the honor and pleasure of getting to know the Baier Quenzer family.

Kristen Martincic

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The Baier-Quenzer family is headed by a lesbian couple who have had a committed relationship for 17 years. Their six-year-old son, Robbie, is in kindergarten. The couple is sharing their story because they want to see prejudicial treatment and negative stereotypes dispelled. Ms. Baier and Ms. Quenzer say many gay people live in fear of being fired, forced out of their faith communities and rebuffed by their families if they come out, but they see people's views change when they know average gay families.

Both women work for the City of Lincoln - Ms. Baier, as a grant writer, and Ms. Quenzer, as the ombudsman. Ms. Baier was recently elected to the Lincoln Board of Education.

*Photo: Barb Baier, Robbie Quenzer Baier, & Lin Quenzer*

*Photo Credit: Chad Petska*

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