



Larry Miller

Mom-Me (1973)

Installation of components from event realized under hypnosis, two panels with family snapshots, photographs by the artist, and video stills with ink and china marker text of the video transcript, mounted on board; life-size portraits, ink on paper, post hypnotic ink drawings on paper and video documentary, 53 minutes, 23 seconds.

Collection of the artist

Miller created *Mom-Me* as a durational event that involved six sessions with a hypnotherapist. *Mom-Me* begins with Miller's voiceover explaining: "I wanted to know what it would feel like to become my mother, to lose consciousness of my own identity through hypnosis and to believe for a while that I was Mom." Hypnotized, Miller-as-Mom answered questions about herself and drew a portrait of Mom and of Larry. Inspired by his readings of Asian texts, which stressed the importance of overcoming or transcending the ego through acts of extreme physical and mental endurance, Miller explained, "*Mom-Me* is about origins and invisible energies ... part of my philosophical quest.

Video documentary:

1. Hypnosis Induction: MOM
2. Pictures of MOM
3. Drawing MOM
4. Trance Disturbance
5. Pictures of ME
6. Picturing MOM-ME
7. Drawing ME
8. Trance Awakening
9. Postscript Portraits





"I THINK I ALWAYS FELT A LITTLE...OH...JUST KIND OF RESTLESS OR SOMETHING...A LITTLE BIT...HE MIGHT HAVE A LITTLE OF THAT. OF COURSE THAT WOULD BE HIS DAD TOO...I WAS GOING TO SAY SOMETHING...I FORGOT."

MOM-ME

I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT IT WOULD FEEL LIKE TO BE MY MOTHER, TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS OF MY OWN IDENTITY AND BELIEVE FOR A WHILE THAT I WAS "MOM". IN 6 WEEKLY SESSIONS WITH A HYPNOTIST, I ENTERED SUCCESSIVELY DEEPER HYPNOTIC STATES. DURING THE LAST SESSION, I BECAME "MOM". "SHE" COMMENTED ON PHOTOGRAPHS, KNEW PORTRAITS AND CONSIDERED THE TWO OF US.

SESSIONS 1-5: ANDREW REICHERT, SESSION 6: NEDD GARDNER

HYPNOTIST: GUY COHMAN

L.V. Miller 1973-81



"I WANT YOU TO OPEN YOUR EYES AND...I WANT YOU TO WATCH THE WATCH AND HOLD MY HAND AT THE SAME TIME."



"WELL YOU'LL ALL USION OF YOURSELF AND BE COMPLETELY HYPNOTIC WITH YOUR MINDS...I CAN'T SEE THE DOTS...FEEL AS SHE DOES AND KNOW AS SHE DOES."



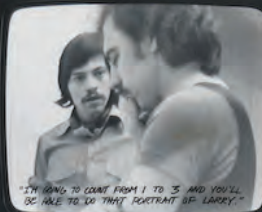
"WE SEE THIS OLD DECADES...NO AND HERE...WE HAD A LOT OF FUN LONG YEARS."



"WE I BY ANY OTHER NAME...I WANT TO KNOW...ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PICK YOUR MINDS...THAT ANY NEEDS...NOTHING YOU HAVE TO KNOW...IF YOU DON'T WANT TO."



"SHE WOULD BE REMEMBERING ME...I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT FEELS?"



"I'M GOING TO COUNT FROM 1 TO 3 AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO THAT PORTRAIT OF LARRY."



"THE REMAINS OF BETTY GANSBLE...LOOK LIKE 'SHE'BODY OWNED ON IT...ONE OF THE KIDS..."



"...DON'T REMEMBER THIS ONE...DON'T CARE SO MUCH FOR IT..."



"THAT'S UP AT 'WILLIAMS'...YEAH I WAS THERE FOR QUITE A WHILE...ROBERTS TOOK THAT... (K. WAS HE FURTHER?) "OH NO..."

MOM-ME

L.V. Miller 1973-81



"CLYDE SAID 'I' WAS THERE FROM 'MOM'...THERE'S INTEREST...ONE OF 'DAN'...SHE HAS THE DOLL OF THE FAMILY 'I'M TOLD OF THAT PICTURE."



"I THINK I WAS ABOUT 14...THIS DRESS WAS PINK...YEAH...IT'S REAL PRETTY...GOT IT?"



"HE WAS ABOUT 30... 'DADDY' AT 'SCHOOL'...WHEN HE GOT THE TRUCK...FROM 'SCHOOL'...THAT WAS A 'BIG-TIME' 'MOMMY'...JUST 'MOMMY'."



"THEY WERE THE PICTURES OF 'LARRY' WAS A 'DADDY'...THE 'MOMMY' IN 'DADDY'...HE WAS 'BORN' 'DADDY'...LARRY WAS ENJOYING...WITH 'PAPA' ON THE TABLE HE MET HIS 'DADDY'... (AND 'DADDY' HE CAREY)"

"(I DID SOMETHING OTHER YOU ASKED TRICE...SHE 'WAS' 'LARRY' 'DADDY'?) "OH...NO... (I'M WANT TO YOU THINK OF THEM?) "NOT TOO MUCH... (I WANT TO THEY SAID YOU?) "WELL THEY DON'T LOOK MUCH LIKE 'MOM'...HE THAT WIFE...HE AND 'MOMMY'...WAS HE USED TO 'MOM' ALL THE TIME WHEN HE WAS LITTLE...SHE WOULD 'MOM'."



"(I DO YOU THINK HE'S 'DADDY' HIS CHILD?) "OH...MAYBE...I DON'T KNOW...I REALLY DON'T LIKE ANY OF THEM...HE 'MOM'...I SUPPOSE THAT ONE 'DADDY' MUST HAVE BEEN 'DADDY'... (I WANT TO YOU THINK 'MOM' 'MOM' TAKE THEM?) "OH...WELL...I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA."



ROBERTS 1962