



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 COULD 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: VIDEO DOCUMENT | HYPNOTIST: GUY COHMAN | *L.V. Miller 1973-81*




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

"I'VE GOT TO SEE YOUR EYES...AND BE COMPLETELY HONEST...WITH YOUR NUMBER...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 MIST...THAT ANY NEEDS...NOTHING YOU HAVE TO KNOW...IF YOU DON'T WANT TO."




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





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

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

MOM-ME

L.V. Miller 1973-81

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




"CLAYE SAID 'I' THOSE SHIRTS FROM PHOENIX... THERE'S INTEREST... ONE IS '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 30... WHEN HE GOT THE TRUCK... FROM 30... LEAF... THAT WAS A BIG TIME... KENNY... JUST KENNY..."




"THEY WERE THE PICTURES OF 'LARRY' WAS A DRUMMER... THE DRUMMER IN 'DAN'... HE WAS BEING SHOWN... LARRY WAS ENCOURAGED... WITH PAPER ON THE TABLE HE MET HIS DRUMS... (AND DRUMMER HE CAREY)"





"(I DID SOMETHING OTHER YOU ASKED TRICE... YOU THINK OF THEM?) "NOT TOO MUCH... (OR WHAT DO THEY SAID YOU?) "WELL THEY DON'T LOOK MUCH LIKE HARRY... HE THAT WIFE... HE AND HARRY... BUT HE USED TO BEAR... ALL THE TIME WHEN HE WAS LITTLE... 'SOMEONE THAT'."

"(I DO YOU THINK HE'S BEARING HIS CHILD?) "OH... MAYBE... I DON'T KNOW... I REALLY DON'T LIKE ANY OF THEM... BE MACH... I SUPPOSE THAT ONE LOOKS MOST LIKE HARRY... BUT IT'S DARK... (OR WHAT DO YOU THINK MADE HIM TAKE THEM?) "OH... WELL... I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA."



REICHERT, 1982