



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 WATCH AND WATCH MY EYES AT THE SAME TIME."

"I'VE GOT TO ASK YOU... ARE YOU COMPLETELY HONEST WITH YOUR ANSWERS... I WANT YOU TO FEEL AS SHE DOES AND THINK AS SHE DOES."

"WE I BY ANY MEANS... I WANT TO KNOW... ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FOCUS YOUR MINDS... THAT ANY FEELS... NOTHING YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT 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."

"...DONT REMEMBER THIS ONE... DONT 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 TWILLINGS... YEAH I WAS THERE FOR QUITE A WHILE... ROBERTS TOOK THAT... (K WAS HE FURTHER?)" "OH NO..."

"HE WAS ABOUT 3 OR 4... 'DADDY' AT SCHOOL... WHEN HE GOT THE TRUCK... FROM BOB... LEAF... THAT WAS A BIG TIME... KENNY, JUST KENNY..."

"GUYE GAVE ME THESE SHIRTS FROM PHOENIX... THERE'S INTEREST ONE IS 'DAD'... SHE HAS THIS DOLL OF THE FAMILY 'I'M TONED UP THAT PICTURE'"

"I THINK I WAS ABOUT 14... THIS DRESS WAS PINK... YEAH... ITS REAL PRETTY... GOT IT..."

"THEY WNT THE PICTURES OF 'LARRY' WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT... THE ENDING UP TO ME... HE WAS BEING SHOWN... LARRY WAS ENCOURAGED... WITH PAPER ON THE TABLE HE MET HIS DREAMS... AND DRIVING ME CAREY..."

"(I DID SOMETHING OTHER YOU ASKED TRICE... YOU WANTED LARRY TOOK?) "OH... NO... (I'M WANT TO YOU THINK OF THEM?) "NOT TOO MUCH... (I WANT TO THEY SAID YOU?) "WELL THEY DONT LOOK MUCH LIKE HARRY'S... THAT WIFE... HE HAD WHITERS... BUT HE USED TO MARRY ALL THE TIME WHEN HE WAS LITTLE... 'SOMEWHERE THAT'"

"(I DO YOU THINK HE'S BEHAVING HIS CHILDHOOD?) "OH... MAYBE... I DONT KNOW... I REALLY DONT LIKE ANY OF THEM... BE MACH... I SUPPOSE THAT ONE LOOKS MOST LIKE HIM... BUT ITS SHAME... (I WANT TO YOU THINK MADE HIM TAKE THEM?) "OH... WELL... I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA..."

REICHERT, 1982