

Mes Fils

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Six c-type photographs, mounted on aluminium and matt laminated 800mm diameter. (In *Loving at Home*, Edsvik konst och kultur, Sweden, May-July 2000).

A continuing series of photographs, each shows the same woman embracing or being embraced by a different man. Closer inspection will show that the woman is much older than her partner, old enough in fact, to be his mother. The work engages with the Oedipus complex and its resolution in prohibition, when the child renounces his desire for his mother. In the view of the psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan, each subject always desires his mother, and his father is always the rival. The way in which each subject navigates his passage through the Oedipal relation will determine both his assumption of a sexual position and his choice of a sexual object. For Lacan, it is a passage to the symbolic, one that passes through a complex sexual dialectic. Here no father intervenes, however, to impose his law and to separate mother from child. The scandal is evident, all the more so as the young men are all former students of mine. As the work continues, the woman – myself – gets older while the men remain the same age. They are however dispensable; one can easily replace another.