

THE **M** WORD

Real Mothers in Contemporary Art

EDITED BY
MYREL CHERNICK AND JENNIE KLEIN



DEMETER PRESS
TORONTO, CANADA

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Demeter Press
c/o Motherhood Initiative for Research and
Community Involvement (MIRCI)
140 Holland St. West, P.O. 13022
Bradford, ON, L3Z 2Y5
Telephone: 905.775.5215
Email: info@motherhoodinitiative.org
Website: www.demeterpress.org

Demeter Press logo based on the sculpture *Demeter* by Maria-Luise
Bodirsky <www.keramik-atelier.bodirsky.de>

Cover Art: Myrel Chernick, *Mommy Mommy*, 1994. Video still.

Printed and Bound in Canada

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

The M word : real mothers in contemporary art / edited by
Myrel Chernick and Jennie Klein.

Includes bibliographical references.
ISBN 978-0-9866671-2-1

1. Motherhood and the arts. 2. Motherhood in art.
3. Women artists—Interviews. I. Chernick, Myrel, 1952–
II. Klein, Jennie, 1964–

NX180.M68M86 2011

700.852

C2011-900432-1

To our mothers:

Sue Klein

and

Anne Chernick
(1918–2006)

IN MEMORIAM

Valérie Roy
(1965–2010)



Black Children's Shoes, 2008. Acrylic and pastel on Kraft paper, 53 × 43 inches.

Artist, Mother, Friend



Sailor Jacket Size 4, 2009. Acrylic and pastel on Kraft paper, 43 × 53 inches.

Acknowledgements

A LIFE CHANGE (MOTHERHOOD) GENERATED an exhibit and catalog—*Maternal Metaphors*—and a second exhibit, *Maternal Metaphors II*—that expanded into *The M Word: Real Mothers in Contemporary Art*. During its years of development and execution, the children have grown older and some have become adults. We begin by acknowledging the dedication of Elizabeth McDade and Sarah Webb at the Rochester Contemporary, and Petra Kralickova at Ohio University, whose invitations to present, and whose persistence and hard work produced two stunning exhibits. We are extremely grateful to be able to see this project through to its publication by Demeter Press. We thank all of the artists and writers for their contributions. We appreciate the effort that went into preparing and submitting their work, much of it for tight deadlines. We are indebted to the editing skills of Nina Lewallen Hufford and Tanya Llewellyn. We thank the reviewers for their close readings and perceptive comments. A faculty development grant from Pratt Institute contributed in the early stages to the acquisition and preparation of materials, and we are extremely grateful for the generous financial support of the Morgan Phoa Family Foundation. We thank Perry Bard for coining the M Word, our spouses for their aesthetic and practical assistance, and last but not least, our children, without whose existence this project could not have been possible.

Mary Kelly's excerpts from *Post-Partum Document* were originally printed in *Post-Partum Document* (London: Routledge, 1983).

"My Mother's Silver Pin" by Susan Rubin Suleiman was originally printed as "The Silver Pin," in *Evocative Objects*, ed. Sherry Turkle (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007).

An earlier version of "The Body in Question: Rethinking Motherhood, Alterity and Desire" by Andrea Liss appeared in *New Feminist Criticism: Art, Identity, Action*, eds. Joanna Frueh, Cassandra L. Langer and Arlene Raven (New York: HarperCollins, 1994).

A previous version of Nancy Gerber's "We Don't Talk About Mothers Here: Seeking the Maternal in Holocaust Memoir and Art" was published in the *Journal of the Association for Research on Mothering* 12.1 (Spring/Summer 2010).

Mignon Nixon's "Epilogue" was first published as the final chapter of her book *Fantastic Reality: Louise Bourgeois and a Story of Modern Art* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2005).

Maria Assumpta Bassas Vila's essay "S.O.S.: Searching for the Mother in the Family Album" was first published in *n.paradoxa* 16 (July 2005).

An earlier version of Michelle Moravec's "Make Room for Mommy: Feminist Artists and My Maternal Musings" was published as "Mother Art: Feminism, Art, Activism," in the *Journal of the Association for Research on Mothering: Mothering, Popular Culture, and the Arts* 5.1 (Spring/Summer 2003).

"Observations of a Mother" by Jane Gallop and Dick Blau was originally published in *The Familial Gaze*, ed. Marianne Hirsch (Hanover: University Press of New England, 1999).

An earlier version of "Art Between Us" by Ellen McMahon was published in *The Oldest We've Ever Been: Seven True Stories of Midlife Transitions*, ed. Maud Lavin (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2008).

"BabyLove" by Christen Clifford was originally published online at nerve.com.

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