

## **Kim Waldron: *The Dad Tapes / The Mom Photographs***

This video installation deals with the relation between the “observed subject” and the “subject observing” within the space of photography. It is a project in which the viewer is drawn into a self-reflexive process that centres on the memories occasioned by images. For more than 30 years Kim’s folks have simultaneously documented important events in their lives, especially those that revolve around their children—birthdays, summer vacations, graduation ceremonies, etc. What is special about Kim’s experience is that her mother documented these moments by taking photographs while her father recorded the events using home-video. Kim’s response to her parents’ obsessive preoccupation with marking time offers much more than a critical analysis of the power relations within the family. By situating her personal history within the context of art she sets the stage for a process of recollection that extends beyond the boundaries of autobiography. The artist’s somewhat neutral approach to editing the material creates a critical distance shared by the viewer. This work reminds us that we are born into an “already existing web of human relationships, with its innumerable, conflicting wills and intentions” (Hannah Arendt). With *The Dad Tapes/The Mom Photographs* there are numerous moments when we identify with what is taking place—we feel embarrassed, ashamed, proud, etc. We are also made aware of the part played by chance in this life: I am who I am due to forces beyond my control; I could be her, I could be you; my values, my life, might be entirely other if I had been born a fraction of a second earlier or to someone else.

Jack Stanley

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