Lena Simic - feminist mother performer

What it is that the maternal and the (feminist) performance can give/take from one another?

What happens to the maternal when it is represented/re-enacted in performance (as opposed to non-live art medium)?

What is specific about motherhood being ‘represented’ through live art/performance?
MARY KELLY
BOBBY BAKER

Post-Partum Document
(1973 - 1979)

Drawing on a Mother’s Experience (1988)
THE PIONEERS

Mary Kelly
Mierle Laderman Ukeles
Lea Lublin
Laura Mulvey
Susan Hiller
Mother Art Collective
Magdalena Project network
Bobby Baker
OUR CONTEMPORARIES

Women Performance Makers
Clare Qualmann (Perambulator)
Emily Underwood-Lee (Patience)
Helen Seargent (The Egg, the Womb, the Head and the Moon)
Helena Walsh (MOM - Marks Of Motherlands)
Jennifer Verson (Your Grandmother's Middle Name was Rose)
Laura Mugridge (Wild)
Lizzie Philps (Maternity Leaves)
Leentje van de Cruys (Knitting to Worry About)
Oriana Fox (Mothership Pilgrimage)
Tracy Evans (Rehearsals for a Birth Story)
Amy Golding (Preggers)

Emily Orley & Katja Hilevaara (Maintain, manu tenere: hold in the hand)

‘Parenting Collectives’
A Place Of Their Own
Townley and Bradby
Search Party (My Son & Heir)
Institute for the Art and Practice of Dissent at Home

Theatre companies working around ‘maternal matters’
Tangled Feet (Kicking and Screaming)
Third Angel (Partus)
Vincent Dance Theatre (Look at me now, Mummy and Motherland)
Zoo Indigo (Under the Covers)

A short term collective and participatory project Mums and Babies Ensemble
A strange responsibility it is: to take responsibility for the other in the other, for a world in the world, for the cosmos in the cosmos, and to embrace the virtual matrixiality accessed to you.

Bracha Ettinger 2005
PERFORMANCE AND THE MATERNAL - RESEARCH PROJECT

Collaboration with Emily Underwood-Lee (University of South Wales)

‘Motherhood and Live Art’ gathering in collaboration with LADA Study Room in Exile at the Institute for the Art and Practice of Dissent at Home, 29 January 2016

‘Performance and the Maternal’ all day workshop at Edge Hill University, 30 January 2016

‘Title TBC’, all day workshop regarding applied performance and the maternal at the University of South Wales, March/April 2016
FEMINISM / MOTHERHOOD

difficult relationship

Simone de Beauvoir
Judith Butler
Julia Kristeva
Judy Chicago
Tracey Emin
Women’s Building
Natality is the fundamental condition of every living-together and thus of every politics; Mortality is the fundamental condition of thought, in so far as thought refers itself to something that is as it is and is for itself.

Arendt in Cavarero, 2000: 28
What is it like to stay alongside a child?’ What is it like to be exposed to incessant crying, incessant demands, incessant questioning, incessant interruption? What is it like to love a child? What is it like to bear witness to a child in the grip of a tantrum? What is it like to be physically burdened by a child and their ‘stuff, to negotiate the child-plus-buggy-plus-changing mat-plus-nappies-plus-bag-plus-juice bottle around the urban cityscape? What do these experiences feel like and do to us? (2009: 9)

overlooked moments of maternal experience that appear to trip us up, or throw us ‘off the subject’
impossible to find images of the PSi MIS/Performance opening ceremony
GOOD!
My Son and Heir (2013)
Search Party
Under the Covers (2010)
Zoo Indigo

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CoZR58mjQ
TO CONCLUDE...

“It's funny because when we are performing, whatever mishaps occur, instead of feeling 'undone', I have a sense of completeness - being 'done up'. I am fully aware of being a mother, a performer, a friend etc and as these are all integral to our performance work they feel like one can't survive without the other. That is not to say that I feel 'in control' of any of these, I rarely feel in control of any of them, but in terms of the performance aspect, I like this combination of identities. In a way the collisions of these layers of positioning present me with a feeling of self worth.

... And it's the 'undoing' or mismatches/struggles/balancing act that forms my identity.”

Rosie Garton - email correspondence
Hannah Arendt *The Human Condition* (1958)
Bracha Ettinger *The Matrixial Borderspace* (2006)
Jozefina Komporaly *Staging Motherhood: British Women playwrights, 1956 to the present* (2007)
Andrea Liss *Feminist Art and the Maternal* (2009)
Baraitser, Lisa ‘mothers who make things public’ 


Chicago, Judy *Beyond the Flower* (New York: Penguin Group, 1996), 90.

Studies in the Maternal e-journal since 2009
Maternal Aesthetics: Surprise of the Real (curated by Andrea Liss, 2013)
MaMSIE (Mapping Maternal Subjectivities Identities Ethics) network
Artful Care network (Facebook)
Mums and Babies Ensemble (Facebook)
M/Other Voices website
Birth Rites collection
The Egg, the Womb, the Head and the Moon blog (2013/2014)

Mothers of Invention workshop/symposium, Magdalena Project (1995)
Motherhood and Creative Practice: Maternal Structures in Creative Work
conference at London South Bank University (2015)

Home Truths: Photography, Motherhood and Identity exhibition (2013)