

LABOUR OF LOVE

Installation of 650 works

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LABOUR OF LOVE

Sarah Maple, 2023

In 2021 I found out I was pregnant. After years spent dodging the 'when are you going to have a baby?' question, my decision to become a mother was a complex one. Life as an artist can be difficult enough without another life to consider – especially for women artists. I always remember something Tracey Emin said (but later retracted): 'There are good artists that have children. Of course there are. They are called men.'

I was determined being a mother would not get in the way of being an artist. But at the same time, I had no idea how it would affect my life, work and relationships. I've always been fascinated by gender roles and touched on this in much of my work. After my baby was born, I inevitably felt myself starting to slip... constantly second guessing what my role as mother 'should' be. I began to think about the hours of domestic chores my own mother had put in to keep her children washed, clothed and fed. And her mother before her. With this on my mind, my partner and I decided to log every time our baby was fed and the duration of that feed. Looking back on the data, I am astounded at the amount of work put into being a parent. Not to mention all the things I hadn't logged; the length of my pregnancy, all the doctors' appointments, the burping, the holding, the worrying etc, the list goes on...

My 2022 installation *Labour of Love* is a visual depiction of this data over a three month period. In total our baby





Art Rotterdam installation courtesy KochxBos Gallery



The Ned London courtesy Kate Bryan / KochxBos Gallery

“The installation packs a real personal, a self-portrait and a genders, ages and parental status us all either indirectly or directly. something of a taboo area in the silent about how impossible the creative and commercially viable is. been women-led and unafraid to

punch, being both statistical and universal one. It will speak to all because the issue here affects Sarah has taken her practice into artworld – artist mothers are usually task of raising a child and staying The Ned Art Collection has always have these kind of conversations.”

- Kate Bryan

Kate Bryan is an arts broadcaster, writer, mentor and Global Director of art for the Soho House Group and The Ned. She curated The Ned London art collection in 2017 highlighting the gender imbalance in the artworld by using the FTSE 100 CEO Gender Ratio. Inverting the numbers she acquired the work of 93 women and 7 men, including a special area devoted to the work of Sarah Maple within the club's member spaces.



The Ned London - interview with Sara Terzi, Senior Art Collections Manager at Soho House & Co



Art Rotterdam

Maple's work is powerful, playful and urgent. She displays an intense, intelligent approach and courageously questions modern taboos. Her installation *Labour of Love* is a poignant reflection of the sacrality of motherhood. She discusses an uncomfortable topic: the reality that being a mom is a tough job and not always naturally fulfilling.

Maple questions the tenacious myth of the post-birth 'pink cloud' that has endured for centuries in both society and art. Never before have I seen motherhood questioned in such a bold, honest and touching way. As a professional and a mother, I am both fascinated and deeply moved.'

- Sarah Meuleman

Sarah Meuleman is a Belgian author and journalist and co-creator and host of the VPRO television show *Sarah's Savages*.

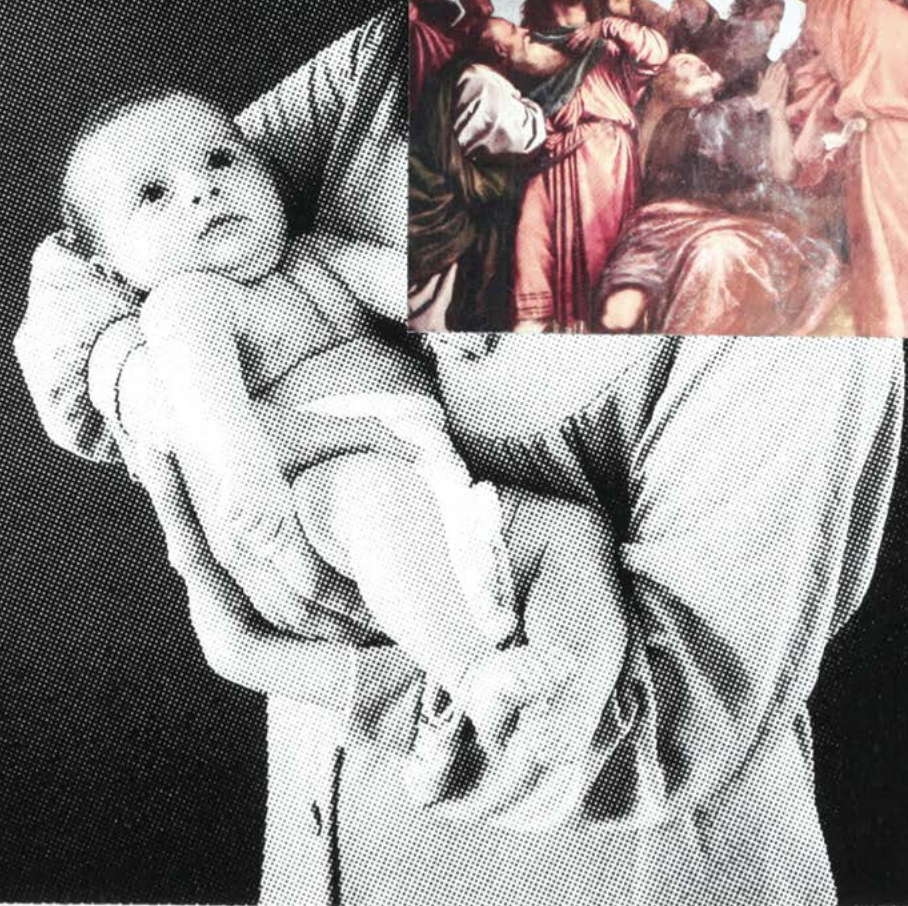




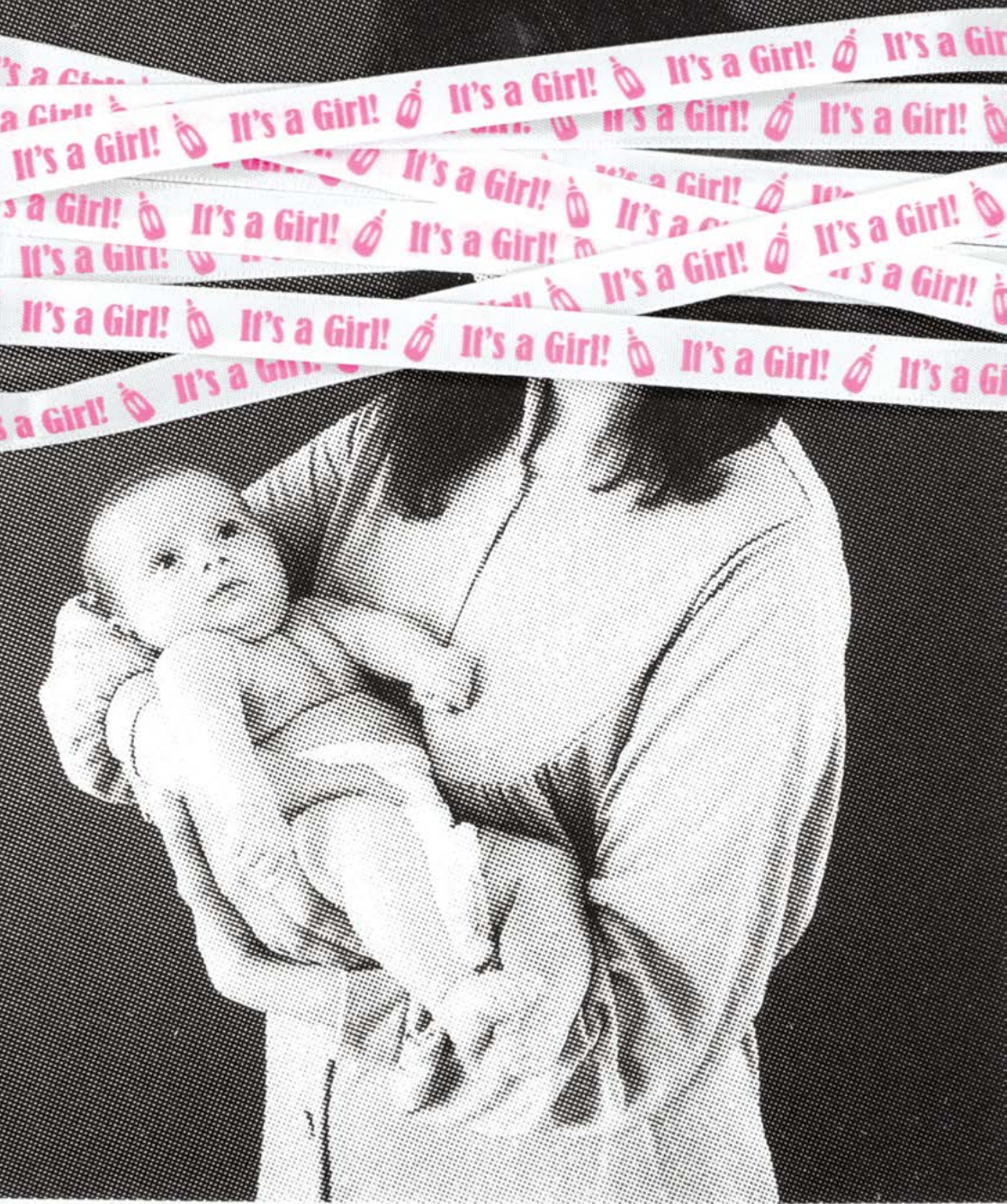
Labour of Love

650 feeds

In the beginning



Food No. 1



Feed No. 2



Feed No. 3



Feed No. 4



Feed No. 5

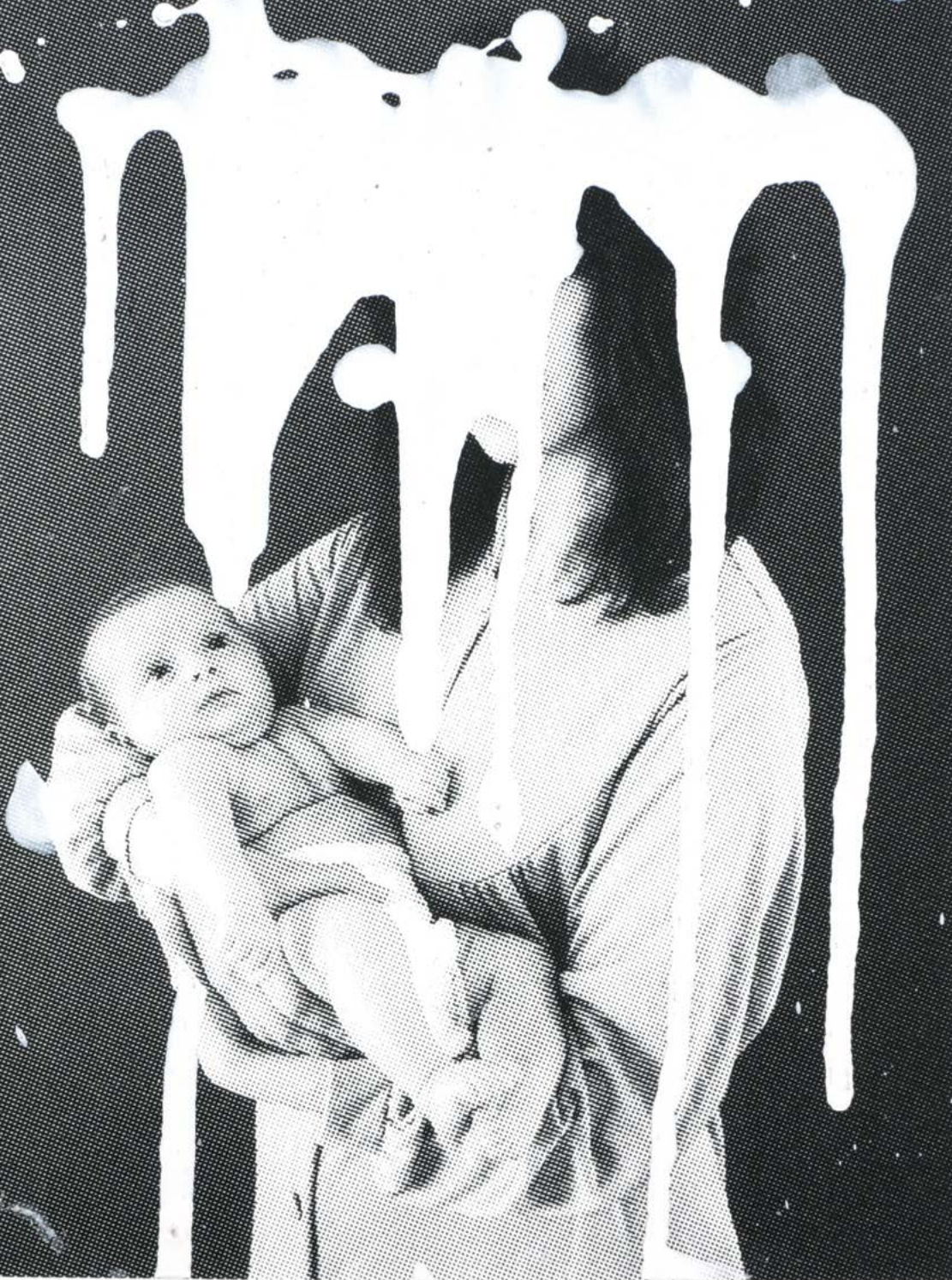


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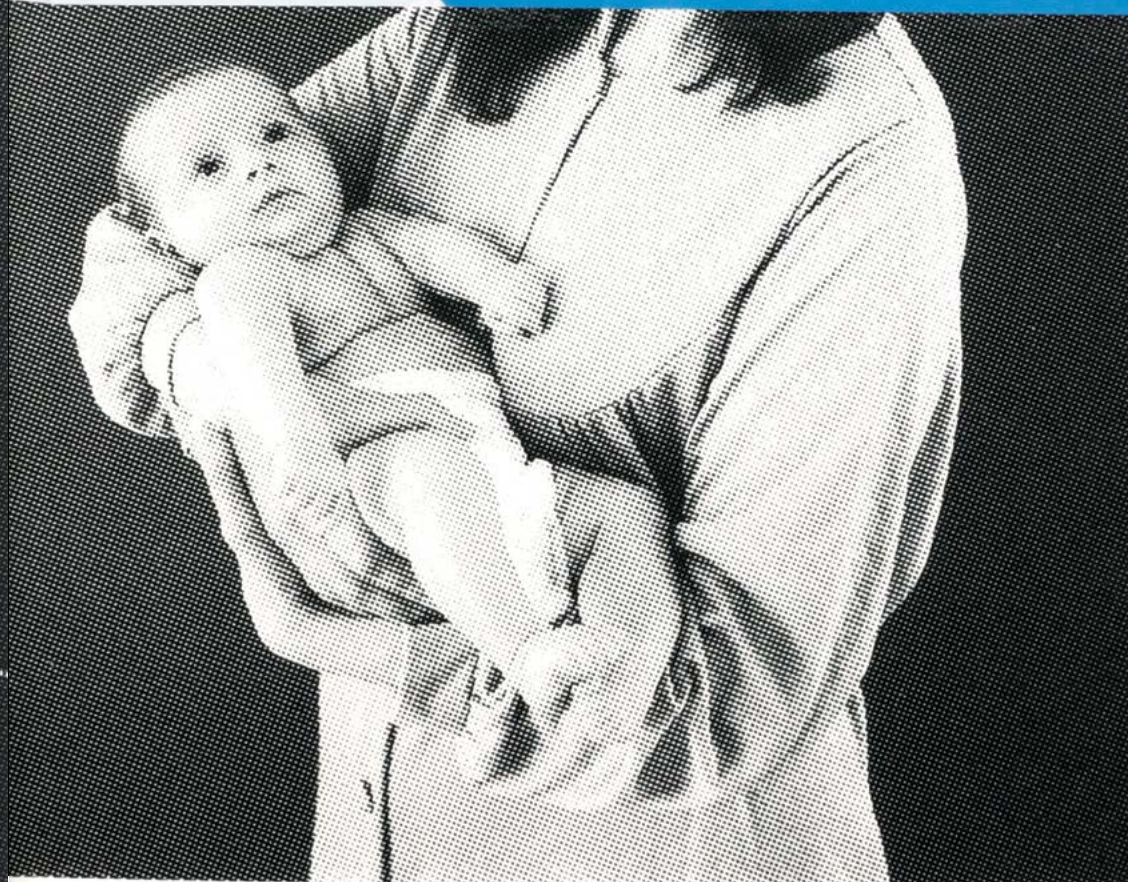
What or who is the greatest love of your life?



Feed No. 7



Feed No. 8



Feed No. 9