

MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

ARTSY

From Sally Mann to Carrie Mae Weems, These Photographers Captured What It Means to Be a Mother

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Justine Kurland, *Sea Stack*, 2006



Justine Kurland, *Sea Stack*, 2006. © Justine Kurland. Courtesy of the artist and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, NY.

Kurland's "Of Woman Born" series (2005–06) takes its name from a 1978 text by feminist poet Adrienne Rich, which argues that women should oppose the restrictive maternal roles prescribed by patriarchal

society. Influenced by 19th-century Pictorialist and landscape photography, as well as Pre-Raphaelite paintings, the images see communes of nude pregnant women and mothers who are far removed from these restraints, sauntering with their children through ethereal beaches, forests, and meadows. Kurland shot the series while road-tripping across the U.S. with her one-year-old son, Casper. “You want even more with a child because you’re responsible for someone,” she told the *New York Times*. “I’m picturing the world I want to be.”