

BIO

Sonya Mantere (b.1987,FI) is a visual artist based in Helsinki.

In her photographic practice Mantere examines the character of her great paragon, her mother through reconstructing her as a person. The tension felt between her and her mother is essential in her work.

Mantere has studied her mother for years, creating the narrative while incorporating their complex relationship.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

'She wanted to be named Rebecca' is a series about my great paragon, my mother. For years now we have been sharing intimate moments together which has shaped our complex relationship into an intense exploration.

The inspection of power and interpersonal dynamics in the ongoing series might not be visible, but they are essential nonetheless. She is a familiar material, frequently made strange by my process.

My real mother and the mother in my images — there is very little resemblance. The importance of who she is might be apparent, but the aspect of who she isn't is equally significant. Even someone you think you are familiar with, like your mother, is actually an adventure for looking at the world in a new way.

