

"what was the right answer."  
(photographs and text)  
Silvia Kolbowski  
1979/80 (February)  
Artist's Space

"what was the right answer." is a piece which focuses primarily on questions: it questions the references in the world outside of the medium (what we see) while attempting to show that questions with regard to the structure and the function of the medium (how we see) are inextricably related. In questioning one specific activity - the contradictions inherent in the social production of "woman" - it focuses on a basic conflict in that production: what happens when the "girl" must reject the "mother" (relinquish her as original love object) in order to take her place in culture? And, consequently, what happens to the place of the "mother" in culture? By implication the "idea" of incest takes on meaning different from that ascribed to it by culture. And the differences between incest taboos between mother and son ( a commonly popularized version) and mother and daughter become evident.