

# The Mirror Stage

Dick Blau

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*It was 1968. We were living in Buffalo. She was standing in the small bathroom, looking at herself in the mirror. I was leaning on the frame of the door. Then Heide turned to me with a look so riveting that I simply had to make a photograph. The image pulsed in front and inside of me.*

*These pictures are spontaneous transcriptions of my experience, an ethnography of family life, a phenomenology of domestic emotion. Sometimes I think of them as stills from a long-running chamber play, where real feelings are acted out in real time for one another and for the camera. By selecting a moment, then stilling and framing it, I try to retain some feeling of the event itself. At the same time, I use the abstract nature of the picture-making process to clear a space for reflection. These photographs are my part of a discourse. Notes to the people I live with and love.*

*"The Mirror Stage" is drawn from a book I am just finishing. Thicker Than Water: My Family in Photographs looks at two families, both mine, and spans 40 years. For another take on the project—another transcription, if you will—see Living With His Camera by Jane Gallop, my longtime collaborator in life and art, who is featured in this selection of pictures with our son Max.*



*Max Jane Dick (1986)*  
Hotel, Tel Aviv



*Max* (2004)  
Hotel, Chicago



*Jane Dick* (2004)  
Hotel, Chicago

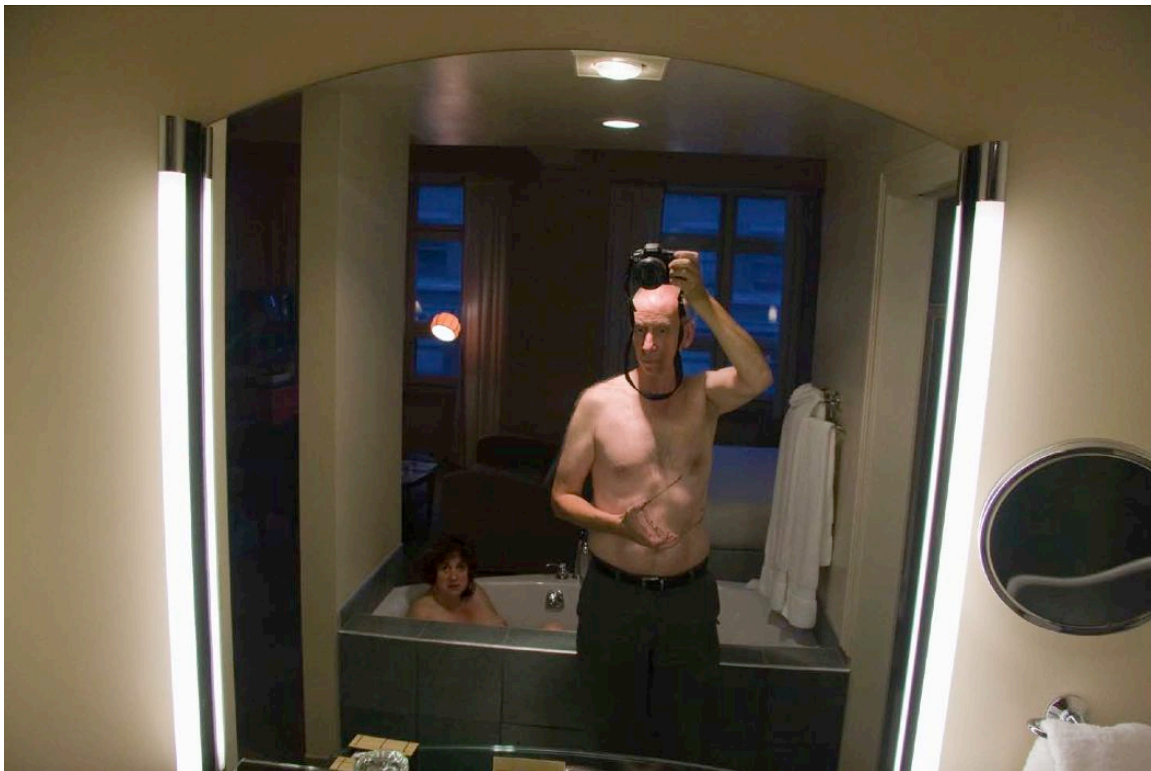


*Max Dick* (2005)  
Men's Wearhouse





*Jane* (2003)  
Hotel, Milwaukee



*Dick Jane* (2006)  
Hotel, Milwaukee