



THE PHOTO ISSUE

# LESBIAN BEDROOMS

Photographer Kyle Lasky's intimate exploration of lesbian identity

INTERVIEW ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN NO MORE POTLUCKS MAGAZINE

**You have said that your *Lesbian Bedrooms II* series, which examines the instability of lesbian identity, was inspired by your own shifting identity. What inspired the first series, *Lesbian Bedrooms I*?**

I think my interest behind *Lesbian Bedrooms I* was fairly uncomplicated. At that time, I was mostly concerned with exposing the "lesbian

bedroom" as nothing more than a bedroom of a lesbian. I wanted to normalize the intimacy that passed between lesbians, as well as look at the completeness of that life. After I transitioned away from a visibly lesbian appearance, I felt compelled to revisit the series. My experiences of living as male, while still identifying very much as a butch lesbian, have been so strange and conflicting, and in *Lesbian Bedrooms II*, I wanted to address some of them.

I also wanted to look beyond my own trans-masculine perspective at some of the other lesbian-identified people who might feel overlooked. A traditional notion of lesbian identity is so rooted in this idea of "women-born, women-loving women," and for me that is a problem. For so many of us, that is a problem. My own lesbian identity is very much about a history of feminism and a history of celebrating and identifying with women. My lesbian identity is not so much

a sexual orientation, but a political orientation. With *Lesbian Bedrooms II*, I wanted to discuss this instability and confront viewers with images of people who may not be immediately recognized as lesbians but are defined as such by the body of work.

**Who are the subjects in your photos? How did you reach and select them?**

The subjects of my photos are mostly my friends, though I did put out an open call for

*Lesbian Bedrooms II*. I am fortunate enough to be part of a really inspiring queer and art scene, and most of the people I approached about the project understood it immediately.

**The theme of this issue is Record. How important do you think it is to capture lesbian subjects in personal/intimate spaces, such as the bedroom? Why a bedroom series in particular?**

I am very into the recording and archiving

of lesbian life. It's a major interest of mine. I think the bedroom is sort of like a keystone in queer documentation, but I'm interested, also, in the more mundane aspects of a queer experience. I think it is very important to document our experiences as we engage with different layers of identity in contemporary queer culture, so our stories can be carried on into the future.

For more information, go to [kylelasky.com](http://kylelasky.com).