

Other Intimacies by Anna Sampson

The book reimagining erotic photography for the 21st century

Other Intimacies is a new independently published book by London-based artist Anna Sampson, which explores the boundaries of erotica as a genre, reclaiming it from the oppressive heritage of the male gaze prevalent in the 20th century. It also shines a spotlight on the themes which largely remain in the shadows in contemporary society: queer desire and intimacy, subversive exploration of gender, the politics of sexual autonomy, sex work and the unapologetic, embodied exploration of self.

Published in the limited edition of 300 and printed using lithography, *Other Intimacies* is the reflection of Sampson's life within the queer and sex workers' communities, as well as the development of her artistic practice over the last 8 years. The book reflects her lasting commitment to portraiture, darkroom processes and platforming radical, and frequently othered, beauty.

Sampson's key intention is to create imagery that makes people feel seen and represented. She works collaboratively with her models, fully involving them in the process of creating the book. She is also open about her stance on the precarious economy of creating art today, taking extra care that her models and contributors are always paid fairly to dismantle the stereotype that erotic art is inherently exploitative. She creates an inclusive and celebratory space of desire.

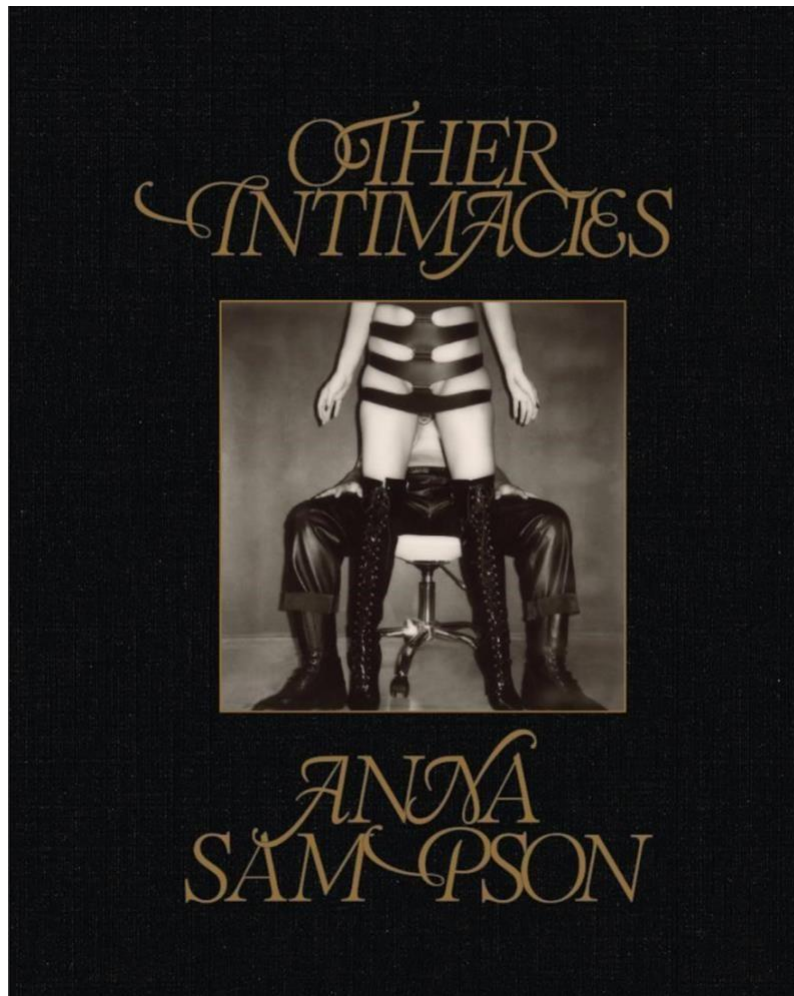
The book opens with Sampson's *Manifesto*, an earnest and well-researched piece of writing which details her own experiences in sex work as well as the cultural lineage of *Other Intimacies* in the present climate of sex negativity and censorship. "Photography has long been used to document acts of resistance, for its emotional reach can transcend borders, enabling viewers to access the world from alternative perspectives. Given that we are living through times of agitated racist and anti-trans violence, the visibility of marginalised and stigmatised sexualities is ever more important; without these perspectives, we would have no (queer) history, and no future," she writes. "It is my hope that this book will serve as an anthology of voices from within the community. This book is much more than a collection of titillating and playful imagery – it's a form of power and resistance – which is essential for long-lasting social and political change."

The book is divided into three parts: *Performance*, *Intimacy* and *Resistance*, with written contributions from porn performer and founder of Four Chambers Vex Ashley, porn director Max Disgrace, writer and curator Anastasiia Fedorova, and an *Epilogue* by performer Jay They Stallion. The book also features Ajamu X, a

British artist, curator, archivist and activist who is known for his iconic fine art photography exploring Black queer desire and lives of Black LGBTQI+ people in the UK, who has given advanced praise for the project.

This book will be launched in collaboration with *The Hayward Gallery*, London on 4th July 2024, 6 – 8 PM.

Please RSVP: info@raw.net



Artbook spec: *Other Intimacies*, published by RAW, 2024

Printed using lithography, gloss spot varnish on the images.

Hardbound in cloth, and thread-sewn.

Gold foiling on front cover and throughout; tip-on image onto the front cover.

204 pages, 101 images.

Limited edition run of 300 copies.

Signed and numbered by the artist.

Artist bio:

Anna Sampson is a London-based photographic artist who shoots and prints on film. A graduate in Fine Art from *Chelsea College of Arts* (2015) and *UCL* (2022), her work has been showcased at *The Photographer's Gallery* and *Christie's* in London; *Turner Contemporary* in Margate; *Galerie Joseph Le Palais* in Paris and *The Untitled Space* in New York. Her work has also been featured in acclaimed cult publications, such as *DAZED*, *i-D*, *AnOther*, *Purple Fashion* and *The Face*.

Anna employs a queer erotic gaze in her practice, and her work is borne out of a lifelong fascination with the erotic potential of the body whilst exploring the interplay of performance, fetish, queerness and resistance. Her work is motivated by life experience, and heavily informed by intersectional feminism - specifically the intersection of gender and sexuality with race, class and the politics of the personal – and is further supported by academic inquiry. In this instance, she hopes that her recent postgraduate study of Gender & Sexuality at *UCL* will continue to inspire and inform her art (and vice versa) with the ultimate goal of working towards social justice for those who are marginalised and oppressed by the patriarchy.

Her full archive is with the UK Leather & Fetish Archive at Bishopgate Institute.

www.anna-sampson.com