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Rachel Papo
It's Been Pouring
The Dark Secret of the First Year of Motherhood

Text by Rachel Papo
 Interviews with affected women
 Designed by Hans Gremmen
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Sensitively narrated photo project about postpartum depression

*it's been pouring
 we've been soaked
 there's been thunder
 red eyes
 and thorns.
 still
 in rare green parentheses
 we've held each other close
 and felt
 for a little while
 things
 might be
 alright.*
 – Carolina

Postpartum depression is in many ways no longer taboo; it is an affliction on the lips of most pregnant women as something they fear, and which they have been told counseling and medications can help. And yet – when Rachel Papo experienced it herself after the birth of both her children, and when she interviewed other women in the midst of their suffering – she realized that there is something we are still not seeing, or are only willing to look at askance.

With *It's Been Pouring*, Papo sets out to capture the voices of mothers in their darkest moments, while interweaving them with her own. This collection of photographs and interviews shines a direct light on their experiences, exposing the unbearable tension that exists between the miracle of birth and the horror that follows, leading the viewer through a narrative of despair.

Leshia: I hated her. Everyone, as soon as they saw her, said, "Oh, I love her, don't you love her? Isn't she just perfect?" And the only thing I could think was, "I wish I had never had her." I just associated her with pain.

Kristin: I just remember not wanting to be in any of the photos with her; you know, when she was little.

Miriam: There is one outfit that my family sent my daughter; it's such a cute little thing. And I remember looking at her in that dress and thinking, "I really don't like you." You know, this feeling, like, "I want to get away from you."

Rachel Papo (born 1970) is an award winning photographer based in Brooklyn, New York, whose works have been published and exhibited worldwide. She earned a BFA in Fine Arts from Ohio State University (1991–96), and an MFA in Photography from the School of Visual Arts in New York City (2002–05).

Rachel has published two monographs, *Serial No. 3817131* (2008) and *Homeschooled* (Kehrer Verlag, 2016). She was selected a finalist for the Santa Fe Prize for Photography, was awarded a NYFA Fellowship, and won a Lucie Award for Deeper Perspective Photographer of the Year. Rachel's works are in the collections of The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, The Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, and The Griffin Museum of Photography in Boston, among others. She is represented by ClampArt Gallery in New York City.

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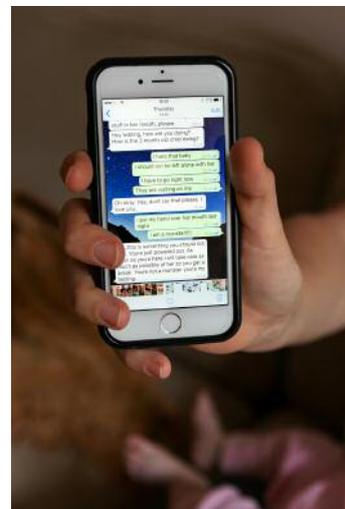
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