Representing People

The fact that there aren't people in my photographs is probably… it goes right back to the idea of documenting, you know, representing people and how, you know, what photography has to answer for in relation to the representation of people. I think people… I have stand-ins for people, I have bugs for people, I have… you know sort of objects, I construct things, that then represent the way in which people organize the world, and the way in which meaning has been made in the world. But to actually attribute that to any one particular person, or to suggest that somehow there might be a person out there, other than myself, who represents these ideas, by their person, is probably… unfair and unsupportable. So I do, and particularly in the work like *The Home* and *The Family in the Context of Childrearing*… and… and actually in *On Living at Home*, I frequently put words in people's mouths. I cite expert people who have published works, who have ideas that are valuable to me, because they're not ideas I would have come up with myself, had these people not helped me along, helped me to figure it out…

But when I actually, you know… representation of people, you, as a photographer, choose how they look, and how they are represented in the context, and you say something about them that is your interpretation… And having the right to do that is something that photographers are still really struggling with.