



Catherine Opie

Raven (gun), 1989



Photograph

Catherine Opie began shooting photographs of the LGBT+ community and BDSM scene in the height of the AIDS crisis. Her work often depicting her own friends and community members explored themes of gender, sexuality, and liberation. Speaking on her work later on in life she's said, "...the early work that I was making in the '90s with my friends. So many of them dying from AIDS, so the portraits became a family album as well." What would it feel like to go through a family album of those no longer with us? What would it be like to live in a world that didn't want those photos to exist?