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IN FOCUS

FAMILY AFFAIR

"POLAND IS a very Catholic country, but my father believed in the beauty of the body," says **Aneta Bartos**, discussing a recent series of photographs featuring the artist posing alongside her proudly buff dad in the village near where she grew up. "It was very natural for him to walk around the house in nothing but a Speedo, and for me in just underwear. I didn't think of it as subversive, or taboo, or unnerving at all." The artist's lack of hang-ups is our gain: These images, suffused with a hazy glow, are both discomfiting and titillating. It's familiar territory for Bartos, who has previously captured young men masturbating in hotel rooms, as well as nude women, their limbs contorted and interwoven, photographed in dramatic landscapes.

The first time Bartos shot her father, it was his idea. "When my dad was 68, he asked me to take a few portraits of him, in a Speedo, before he turned 70," she recalls. "He'd been involved in competitive bodybuilding since I was a little girl, and he wanted to be immortalized in a beautiful, artistic way before his body ran its course." That project spawned a second, with the patriarch joined by Bartos—often sparsely clothed, sometimes chasing chickens. The scenes resemble dreams of a Fellini-esque sort. "In the newer work, he no longer plays a hero-like father," Bartos says. "Instead of idealizing him, I'm channeling different levels of our relationship, peeling back some layers—through humor, irrational juxtaposition, and symbolism—to grasp our complex dynamic." —SCOTT INDRISEK



Aneta Bartos
From the series "Family
Portrait," 2015. C-print
from Polaroid, 24½ x 24 in.