

Meet 'The Woman Who Married the Eiffel Tower': Erika La Tour Eiffel, an 'objectum sexual'

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[Erika La Tour Eiffel](#)'s madly in love. Her partner resides in [Paris](#) and is the tall, strong and silent type. Yet since they married in a ceremony with friends in the City of Love, the logistics of an intimate relationship have been more than a little challenging. Her spouse, after all, is the [Eiffel Tower](#).

Erika is one of a handful of people around the world called "objectum sexuals" - people who fall in love with inanimate objects. Profiled in a documentary entitled "The Woman Who Married the Eiffel Tower," she is shown hugging her "husband" and professing love for him, or it.

An ex [U.S. Army](#) soldier, she was reportedly sexually abused while growing up and was diagnosed with a chronic post-traumatic stress disorder. Upon "marrying" the iconic structure, Erika actually changed her surname to LaTour Eiffel. In the documentary, she discusses her relationship with the Parisian landmark, and claims to be very much in love.

Yet the Tower isn't her first love. Previously she was in love with Lance, which was a bow, and during that relationship, she became a world champion in archery.

The term "objectum sexual" was coined by a Swedish woman named Eija-Riitta Berliner-Mauer, who married the [Berlin Wall](#) in the 1970s, according to the documentary.

Objectum sexuals are putting up a barrier between themselves and other people, says [Debbie Mandel](#), author of "Addicted to Stress."

"Marriage is about intimacy and being vulnerable," she explains. "These women are not going to be vulnerable, and they have picked these powerful symbols to show, I don't need a man. It can be in my brain. It's brain sex."

The images that objectum sexuals choose to focus their romantic notions on are often very sexual, Mandel says. The Eiffel Tower's shape has a very visual sexual connotation, she points out, while the Berlin Wall is significant because it's a wall. "The woman who married it is saying, I am going to fortify myself and no one is going to penetrate me unless I permit it. There is an anger there."

Objectum sexuals can have tremendous difficulty forming a relationship with another person, says psychologist [Dorothea Hover-Kramer](#), which may be why they turn to objects.

"People get carried away and it can get a little excessive," she says. "Normally we form attachments to other people and to pets. But sometimes people can get very attached to their jewelry or to their home. So it's out there. The attachment to inanimate objects is definitely a distortion of more normal bonding."