



an unabashed exploration of the plain, ordinary, mysterious matter of vaginas

artist statement, September 2007

One day, out of the blue, a friend of mine asked me if I liked the way my vagina looked. Apropos nothing. Did I like the way my vagina looked? As I answered, I realized that I had never really taken a good look at my vagina, and that, other than a bit of porn, I hadn't actually seen any other women's vaginas.

While I was pretty sure that they were all different, I had no evidence to point to when talking with my friend, who clearly thought there was something wrong with how hers looked.

I began asking around and found that most women had not seen other women's vaginas—or necessarily their own. The conversations, which often began awkwardly, revealed how little we knew about our vaginas. Our gynecologists and lovers were on intimate terms with them, but not us.

Why and how did it come to be that the vagina, the gateway to life, would hold this lowly place in our collective consciousness?

That's when the vagina vérité™ project began.

The v-portraits are close-up, there are no stylists, no details about the model to set the mood for fantasy—just the elusive faces of the vagina in plain view. Each beautiful and strikingly unique.

The women who participate in this project may or may not be comfortable with their bodies. They range in age and lifestyle, and relationship with their vaginas. The one thing they have in common is trusting me with their v-portraits.

My vision is that vagina vérité™ will act as a collective mirror, to spark conversation about self-image, intimacy, sexuality and identity—to bring into focus the value of our individual experiences and expression.

I look forward to publishing the book. So we can see ourselves for ourselves. — Alexandra Jacoby

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