

HEDONISM

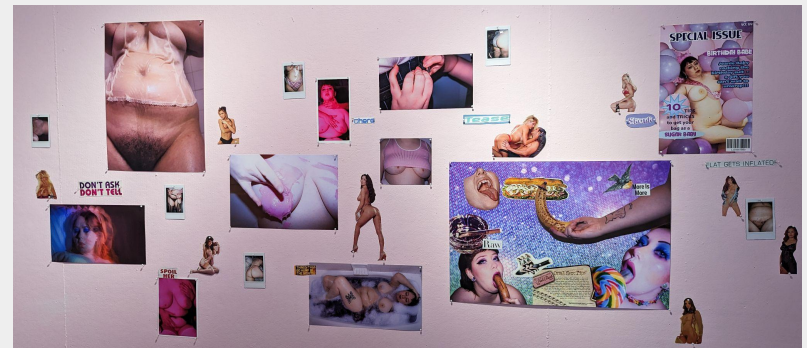
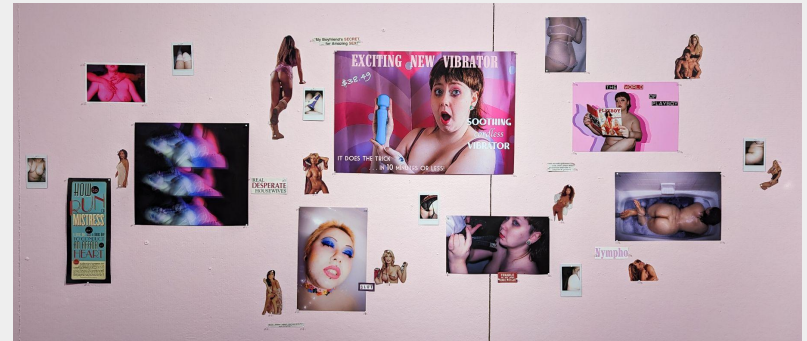


HEDONISM

Jean Nardone

Artist Statement

I'm using collage and photography to blur the lines between porn and art while examining the censorship and double standards surrounding sex, particularly for the female body. My goal is to empower people to take control of their sexuality by normalizing it through a collection of sexually explicit photographs and collages. In appropriating content from porn, I expose the language of this industry, which is dominated by the male gaze, to challenge viewers to examine their own relationship with sex and sexual determination. HEDONISM, aims to promote a pro-sex view and encourage viewers to pursue sexual pleasure with a healthy mindset. By questioning the boundaries between art and pornography, I hope to create a space for open dialogue about sexuality and inspire viewers to think critically about their own attitudes toward sex.



photos of exhibition



DOES SIZE REALLY MATTER TO YOUR LOVER?
MORE THAN YOU CAN POSSIBLY IMAGINE!



Hussy



Do you want to Play
Next Time
to 24624
1-800-644-4FUN
800-241-7111



BITCHY



THINK
YOU
CAN
HANDLE
THIS
HOT
HOT
HOT



TRY SOMETHING
NEW THAT DOESN'T
INVOLVE HANDCUFFS.

Left wall

HEDONISM



...My Boyfriend's SECRET...
...for Amazing SEX!



EXCITING NEW VIBRATOR
\$38.49

SOOTHING wireless VIBRATOR

IT DOES THE TRICK
... IN 10 MINUTES OR LESS!



THE WORLD OF PLAYBOY

PLAYBOY



REAL DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES



FRAGILE PUBLIC FIGURE



HOW TO RUN A MISTRESS

A BOOK THAT WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO CONDUCT AN AFFAIR

HEART



SEX



FRAGILE PUBLIC FIGURE

Nympho



Center wall



where



Tease



Stretch



FLAT GETS INFLATED



DON'T ASK
DON'T TELL



SPOIL
HER



WIND UP
BE NEAR
THE WIN



Right wall

EXCITING NEW VIBRATOR

\$38.49



SOOTHING
cordless
VIBRATOR

IT DOES THE TRICK
... IN 10 MINUTES OR LESS!

These two images were created as parodies. The image on the left is a parody of a vintage vibrator ad - they were usually advertised as muscle massagers. The image to the right is meant to resemble the cover of a porn magazine with a gaudy design aesthetic.



NO. 69

SPECIAL ISSUE

BIRTHDAY BABE

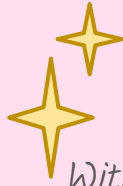
Jeanie Baby
rocking the
birthday suit -
a gift you
can't wait to
unwrap!!!

10 TIPS
and TRICKS
to get your
bag as a

SUGAR BABY

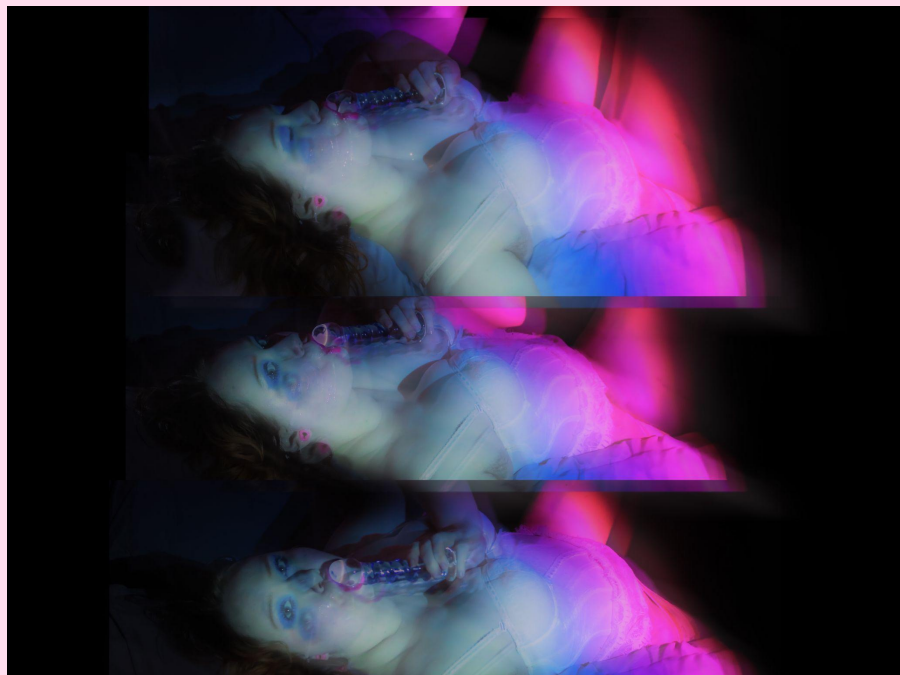
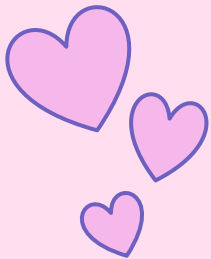


1234567890



With these images I was playing with the idea of the “wet t-shirt” contest however, I wanted to take it out of the usual setting and just explore the visuals of wet fabric clinging to the skin.





In these images I was looking at how to portray an orgasm, pleasure, or arousal in a still image. To capture movement and create specific energy, I layered similar images on top of each other in a faux double exposure way.

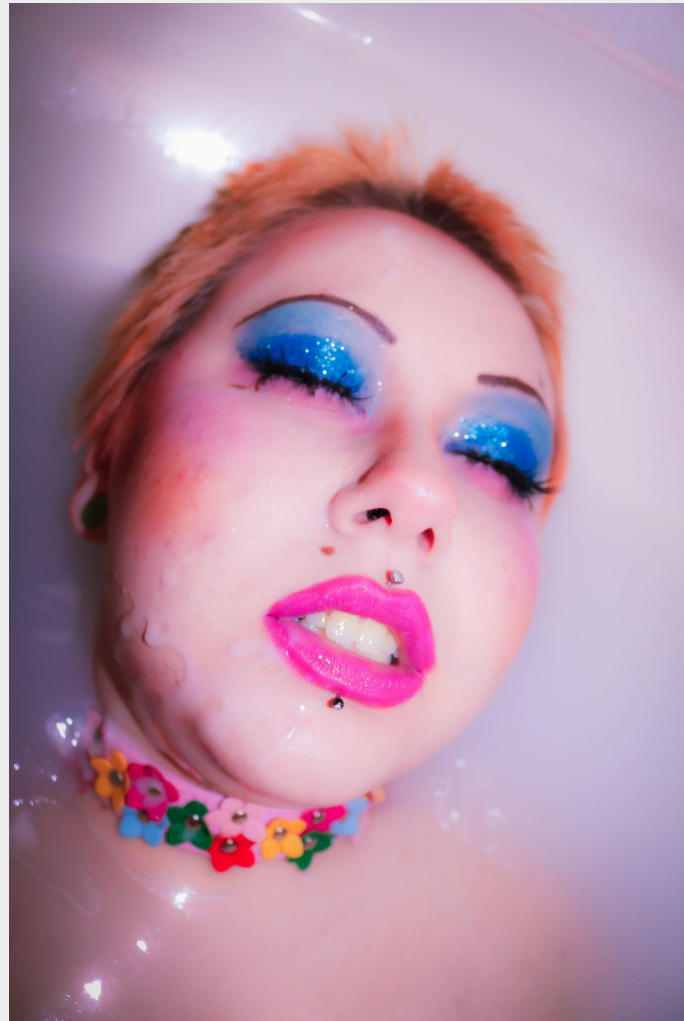


Other Works

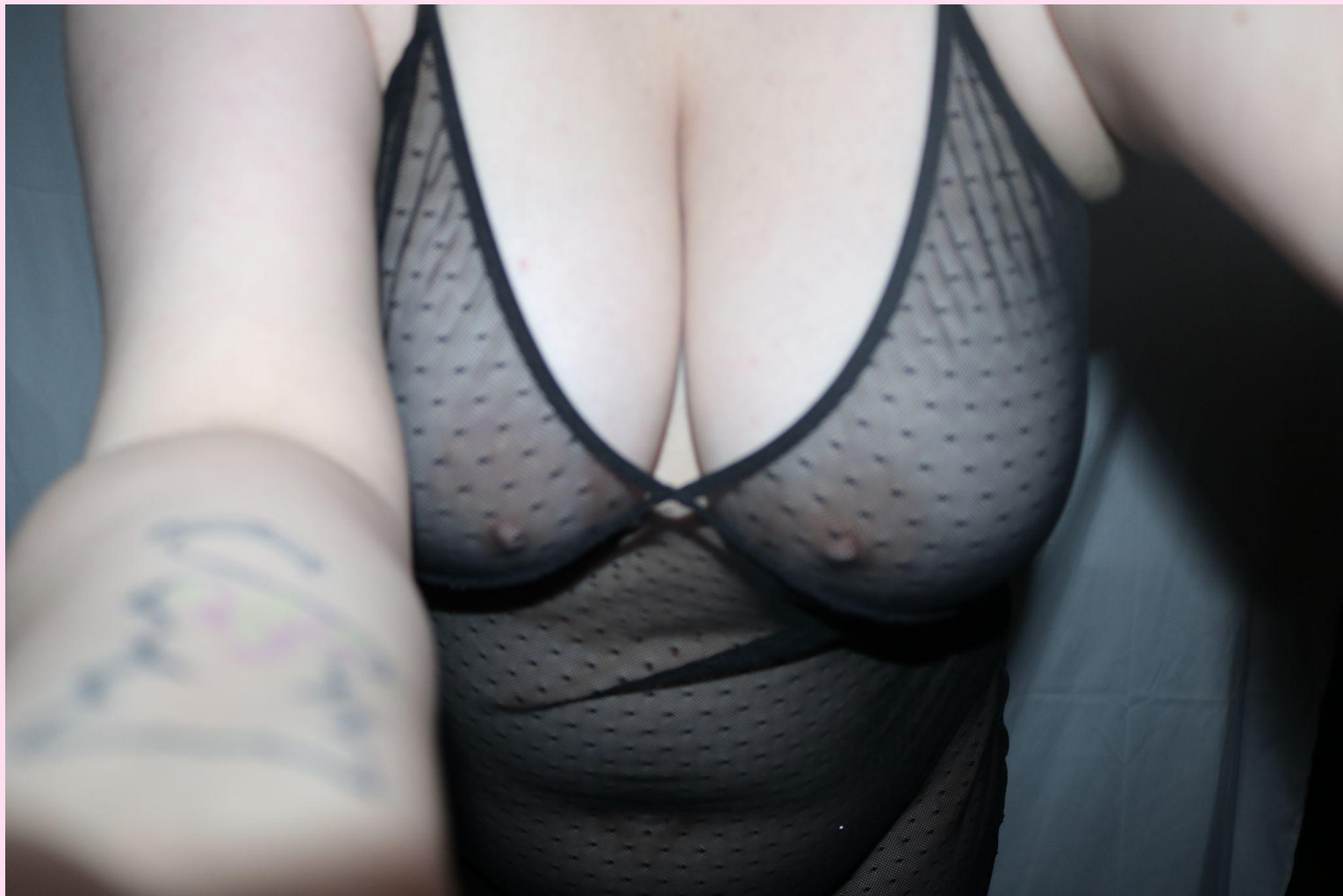




















Context * * *

Vasilisa Forbes' **Waxchick** project comprises a series of portraits and a short film that employ hyper-sexualized imagery inspired by contemporary pop art and advertisements. The aim of the project is to initiate a discourse on the representation of women in mainstream art and media. Through her **Wax** series, Vasilisa delves into the dichotomy between female sexuality and male dominance, questioning the objectification and commodification of the female body in capitalism and how it influences portrayals of women. The project also explores the notion of women objectifying themselves and the distinction between such self-objectification and external objectification. Moreover, **Wax** touches upon the issue of power dynamics in women's roles. Vasilisa's **Waxchick** portraits are vibrant, sexually charged, and attention-grabbing. She showcases them as billboard street art to critique the sexualization of the female form in advertising. Some portraits depict her holding a selfie stick and taking pictures up her skirt, while others show her bound and barely dressed or in a dominant and aggressive sexual posture. In her short film, Vasilisa refers to **Wax** as "provocatively powerful."

Waxchick



Vasilisa Forbes

Vasilisa's portraits are a source of inspiration for me, as they offer a unique perspective on the issues of sexualization and objectification in art. I am drawn to her vivid color palette and her eloquent commentary in her short films.

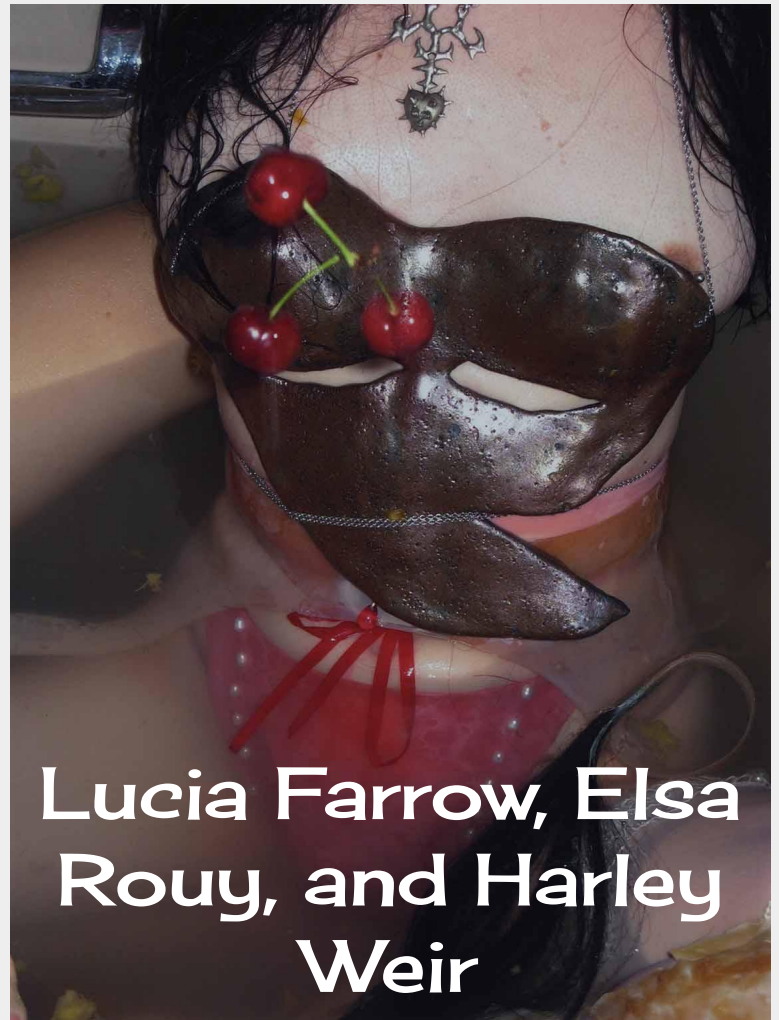
Waxchick has provided me with a clearer understanding of how I can approach my own IP project. I am particularly intrigued by Vasilisa's stylization techniques, which enable her to explore and challenge the topics she addresses more directly. Through her work, she raises questions about the empowerment of women and the exploitation of sexuality, which are also relevant to my own project. In particular, I am interested in exploring the difference between self-sexualization and objectification, and Vasilisa's **Wax/Waxchick** series provides a valuable perspective on this topic.

cont.



salt and mud

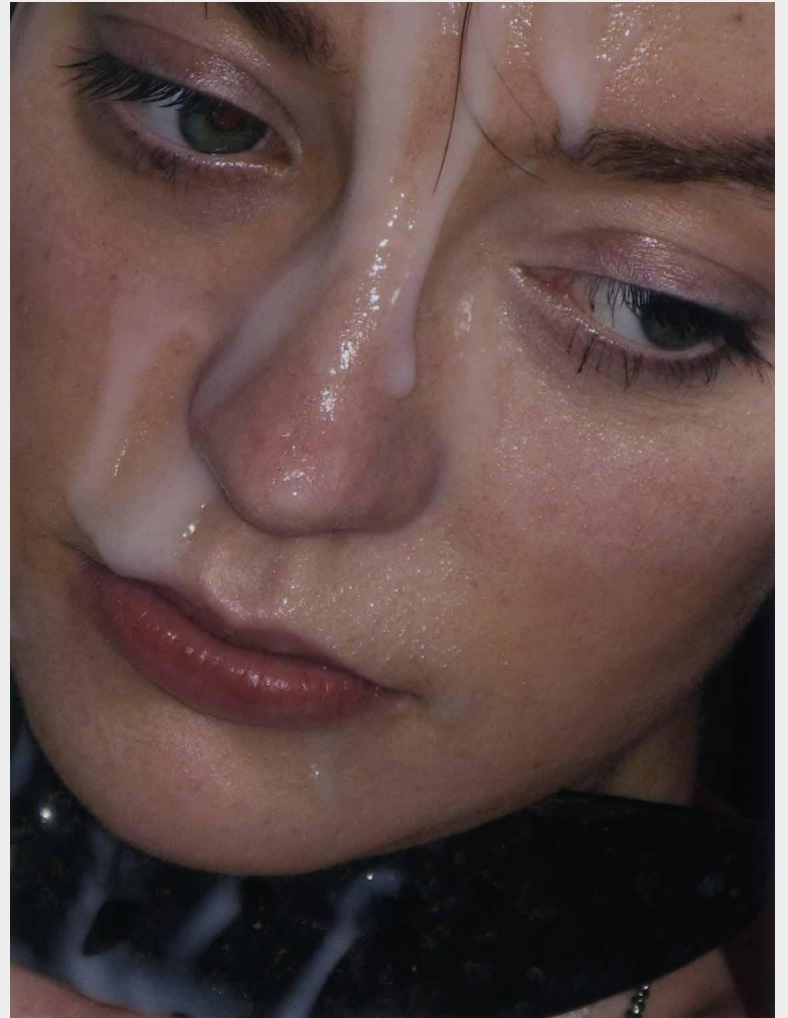
The collaborative exhibition *Salt and Mud* by Lucia Farrow and Elsa Rouy, photographed by Harley Weir, takes its title from Anne Carson's poem, *The Beauty of the Husband*. The artists' joint work delves into the complexities of girlhood, describing it as encompassing various contradictions such as cuteness, disgust, hardness, softness, cleanliness, and dirtiness. The exhibition explores the juxtaposition of these seemingly opposing elements and the transgression of bodily boundaries. Farrow and Rouy incorporate mud, dirt, water, wet hair, latex, ceramics, and artificial bodily fluids to offer their unique perspective on girlhood. In the photographs, the use of blush tones and flesh contrasting with materials is a way for the artists to evoke the tensions they aim to convey. Their work is created through the lens of the female gaze, reflecting their experiences as women.



Lucia Farrow, Elsa
Rouy, and Harley
Weir

cont.

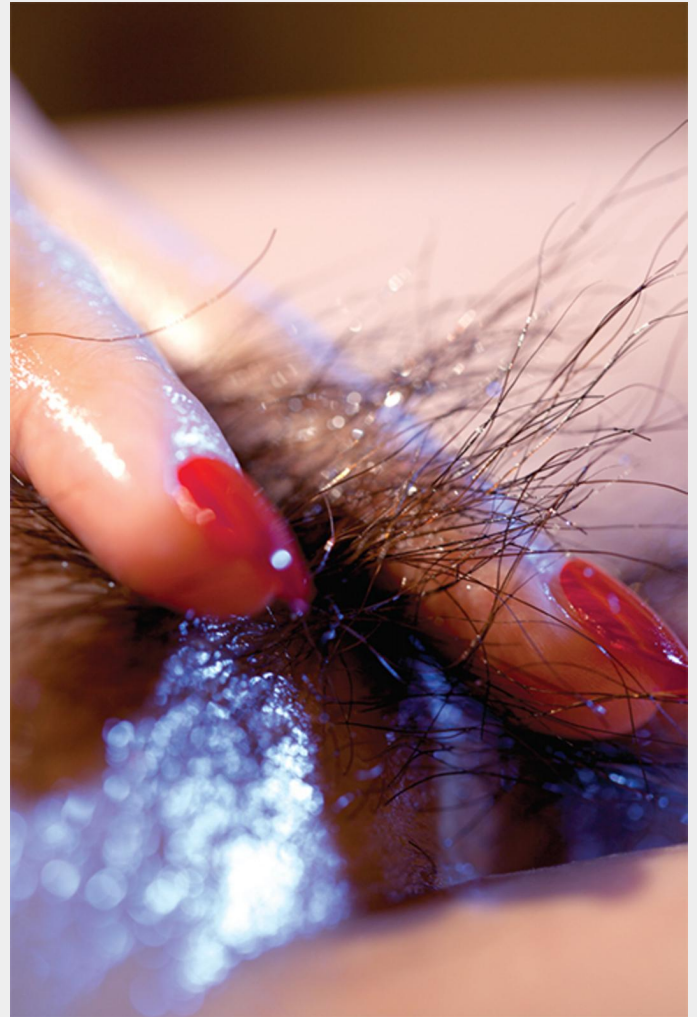
*Initially, I had intended to incorporate gross, sticky, and dirty imagery into my project. However, due to aesthetic considerations, I did not pursue this direction. Nevertheless, I find the powerful imagery in the **Salt and Mud** exhibition to be very compelling. The frequent references to sexualization and nudity in their work are particularly relevant to my own project. However, their tone and mood are distinctly different, which provides a valuable perspective. While I appreciate the loose and blurred aesthetic achieved in their photographs, I intend to create a different tone or mood for my own work. Rather than an eerie or unsettling feeling, I aimed to convey a more positive and uplifting vibe.*



Marilyn Minter

Marilyn Minter is an artist from New York who explores the interplay between beauty and gritty reality in her work. With a particular focus on the female body and its relationship to cultural attitudes toward sexuality, Minter's art presents a raw and unfiltered feminist perspective. Her work draws attention to the subtle nuances of glamour, exposing its vulnerabilities and flaws. Through her art, Minter encourages people to be true to themselves and embrace their individuality, rather than conforming to socially acceptable norms dictated by mainstream culture.

Minter's bold and provocative imagery challenges conventional notions of femininity and beauty. Her work is marked by a sense of rebelliousness, an attitude that embraces the idea of being unapologetically oneself. Her approach to art-making is deeply feminist, and she uses her platform to raise awareness of issues that affect women, such as body image and the societal pressure to conform to idealized beauty standards.



cont.

Marilyn Minter's work is a great source of inspiration to me, as she boldly brings attention to the taboo and unsettling aspects of our society, which are often overlooked due to the male gaze. She blurs the lines between fine art, fashion, and pornography, making us question the boundaries that define them. I admire Minter's courage to challenge the conventional norms and bring forth the raw, unfiltered reality of our existence. Her work has encouraged me to explore the intersections between art and pornography. After all, isn't porn an art form in its own right? Photography and videography are both considered art, so what distinguishes porn from other forms of art? Perhaps it's society's tendency to label it as a private and shameful act. However, I believe that questioning these norms and pushing the boundaries of what is considered acceptable is crucial for personal and societal growth.



Self-Sexualization: Sexual Empowerment or Sexual Objectification - Caroline Pukall

The main purpose of "Self-Sexualization: Sexual Empowerment or Sexual Objectification?" is to ask what sexual empowerment, sexual objectification, and self-objectification are and question who's allowed to decide what's empowerment vs objectification. The author, Caroline Pukall, references multiple psychological sources and has a psychology degree herself. The article starts by stating that sexual expression is fundamental to sexuality and that women are taking control of their sexuality to feel empowered. The article describes self-sexualization being used as sexual empowerment and how people have mixed views on that. Some people argue that the control leads to an empowered woman while others say it's women subconsciously recreating this history of being sexualized as porn objects. However, the latter opinion is inherently misogynist by assuming that self-sexualizing women are doing that for men and not themselves. The article also asks "who are we to say that this is a wrong form of empowerment?" Pukall discusses the differences between self sexualization being empowerment or objectification by relating it to the differences in the sexualization in Miley Cyrus's "Wrecking Ball" music video and Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines." The difference is why/for who and consent. If you're self sexualizing for yourself, its empowerment, if it's for someone else it leans more towards objectification.

This reading is relevant to my work because of how it defines the different terms (self-sexualization, sexual empowerment, sexual objectification). The terms can easily be mixed up and change the connotations of something depending on which words I use. It also gives a really clear helpful example of what the visual differences can be between empowerment and objectification. Staying specific with what terms I use will be most helpful with my project to keep it as strong and convincing as possible. The source is also, hopefully, helping keep me from portraying a negative form of sexual objectification by keeping me focused on sexualizing the self for the self to be sexually confident and empowered.

The Resurgence of Bimbo Culture Empowers Hyperfemininity - Avery Greig

This article discusses the resurgence of bimbo culture, characterized by conventionally attractive, sexualized, naive, and unintelligent women. The new wave of bimbos differs from the early 2000s version, emphasizing femme empowerment and financial success through hard-earned money, including sex work. This new bimbo also exploits the male gaze out of spite. This new bimbofication challenges the traditional hyperfeminine stereotype by transforming it into a self-empowering tool.

Intersectionality is also emphasized, and the movement is all about self-love, self-pleasure, and breaking away from traditional educational and capitalist values. The article concludes that the new generation of bimbos is entirely self-actualized and self-reliant, making a formerly negative feminine quality positive and powerful. A big thing to remember is that being a bimbo isn't just an aesthetic, it's a mindset that isn't tied down to gender.

The resurgence of bimbo culture is highly relevant to my project and other work I've done, as it involves flipping the male gaze on its head and using it to your advantage. While the bimbo aesthetic is easily recognizable and something I've incorporated into my own work, there's more to it than just appearing ditzy. The underlying message of the culture is inclusive and empowering, encouraging individuals to take control of their own sexuality and self-expression while reclaiming the elements that the male gaze has used to demean and objectify us. By embracing bimbofication, we can turn traditional notions of femininity into something powerful and self-reliant.

Personal Experience

Growing up as a girl, I know firsthand how it feels to be constantly bombarded with the sexualization of the female body. It starts at such a young age, with people shaming young girls for showing too much skin, while little boys are encouraged and praised for being interested in girls. As we grow up, we can feel the weight of the male gaze on us, constantly staring and prodding at our bodies. What's worse is the double standards that come with it. We're told not to show too much skin, or we're "asking for it," but at the same time, we're shamed for being pruders. If we sleep with multiple partners, we're slut-shamed, but if a man does the same, he's celebrated as a playboy. It's a lose-lose situation, and it's not fair. To make matters worse, the commodification of the female body in media and advertisements only reinforces these harmful stereotypes. The female body is sexualized to sell everything from cars to booze to motorcycles, and it's exhausting. But when we try to break out of this cycle and embrace our own sexuality, we find that the porn industry is rooted in the male gaze. It's not made with a female viewer in mind, and it only perpetuates harmful stereotypes about women. It's time for a change. We need to turn the male gaze on its head and reclaim our own sexuality. We need to empower ourselves and take control of our bodies and our lives. It's not easy, but it's worth it.

I would also like to add that this isn't just the experience of the woman. I myself identify as nonbinary and I believe that this is an experience that applies to anyone who was raised as a girl.

Creative Process



Magazine ads

The next few images are advertisements for alcohol I found in magazines while looking for content to collage with. All of these are examples of how women are commodified to sell products.

This Evan Williams ad on the right, for example, depicts a half naked, most likely photoshopped woman next to an image of her when she was much younger. It's pretty gross to see them sexualizing a man next to someone who looks like they're supposed to be in high school.

The longer you wait

PHOTO TEST #2
MAR 22, 98

AGED 7 YEARS

Evan Williams
SINCE 1789
Kentucky
Straight
Bourbon
Whiskey

...the better it gets.

Evan Williams.
Aged longer to taste smoother.

Please not your age and drink responsibly. Evan Williams Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. Bottled by The Evan Williams Distillery, Bardonia, NY 40064 40% Alc./Vol. © 2004

The advertisement features a corkboard background. On the left, a photograph of a young woman is pinned to the board with a white paper that reads "PHOTO TEST #2 MAR 22, 98". To the right, a full-body photograph of the same woman, now older and wearing a bright green tube top, is shown against a blue background. In the foreground, a bottle of Evan Williams Aged 7 Years Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey is displayed. The bottle label includes the text "Evan Williams SINCE 1789 Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey". At the bottom of the ad, the slogan "...the better it gets." is written in white, and the brand name and tagline "Evan Williams. Aged longer to taste smoother." are printed in black. A circular logo with "AGED 7 YEARS" is also visible near the bottle.

"Can I buy you a drink?" is just one way to start a conversation.



when you know

you know that.)

100% Grain Neutral Spirits. 40% Alc/Vol (80 proof). © 2005 Chivas Regal Import Co., New York, NY. www.chivas.com



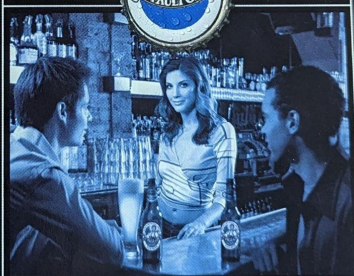
71 "LA FEMME" - Once we cooled and froze filtered for exceptional clarity and taste. www.skyy.com. SKYY Vodka® 40% Alc/Vol (80 proof). © 2005 SKYY Spirits, LLC, San Francisco, CA.



stpauligirl.com

The girl
you are looking for
is behind the bar.

And she's not
the bartender.



You never forget your first girl.®

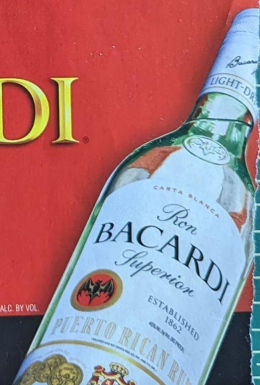
Enjoy St. Pauli Girl responsibly.

© Imported by Barton Beers, Ltd., Chicago, IL.



I love a woman
who can handle the Bat.

BACARDI
ESTD 1862



THIRSTY FOR LIFE? DRINK RESPONSIBLY.
BACARDI AND THE BAT DEVICE ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF BACARDI & COMPANY LIMITED. © 2001 BACARDI U.S.A., INC., MIAMI, FL. 40% ALC. BY VOL.

Porn Magazine Clippings

These are some clippings I didn't end up using for my final exhibition. It's pretty weird to read these snippets, two of them are written by men and the other two are written by women. The two written by men are both supposed to be tips on how to get lucky. One of the ones written by a woman is a somewhat concerning reading about a 19 yr old dating a 32 yr old who does not attempt to reciprocate sexually or even take her on dates.



THE BENEFITS OF ALL-NIGHT SEX
The best date I ever had lasted a week. On our last night together we stayed up the entire evening making love. I went from being with my girlfriend to taking a shower to getting into a car and heading to a photo shoot at Playboy. I was smiling and glowing. The photographer couldn't believe how happy and healthy I looked. He thought I'd gotten 12 hours of sleep. I guess sometimes you don't need sleep; you just need a hot, sexy night with someone. I really enjoy making love all night long. Too often one partner will have an orgasm and think the sex is over. It's better to rest a little after having an orgasm and then start all over. If you fall asleep, that's okay. But then you should wake up in the middle of the night and go at it again.

Something one Does that make me a bit of a freak? I don't think so.—T.J., Atlanta, Georgia
Your day will come.

I think I'm a terrific girlfriend. I'm 19, adventurous and low maintenance and I love giving blow jobs to my 32-year-old man. However, I get so little back. He rarely compliments me or gives me gifts. I don't ask for much—even a flower now and then would be fine. He doesn't take me out, either. He doesn't even enjoy the idea of dancing with me or going to the beach. I have given up on dropping hints and told him I need more romance and creativity and mushiness. He says he can't help being the way he is. But why isn't he willing to try?—V.L., Los Angeles, California

Because he's dating you for the blow jobs, and he's not interested in more than that. If you are, more on.

WHY GIRLS SAY YES—REASON #48
Because we were in public. "I met this nameless blue-eyed man at a club and we talked for half an hour. For whatever reason, that night I was intrigued by the anonymity of a one-night stand. I didn't want to know his name, but for the sake of the story let's call him Marco. I had a few cocktails and was feeling good, so I asked Marco to take me for a walk to get some air. There were people coming and going and the valet was close by. We ducked into a marble stairwell in the middle of Century City and began groping each other. My top came off and I was slammed against the wall. My first thought was, Oh no, someone is coming! My worries ceased when Marco stuck two fingers inside my wet pussy. My knees buckled and I pulled him closer. The club was closing in five minutes and people were starting to pass us by. We had sex frantically and I came almost immediately, people watching in awe." —K.M., Los Angeles



Preparing FOR SAFE SEX
Why the gag? Because doing it in such a hot way is "safe."
Abstinence until marriage is the only 100% protection.
abstinence.net
©2008 American Abstinence Coalition



VALENTINE'S DAY DOS AND DON'TS TIPS FOR GETTING ACTION ON HER FAVORITE HOLIDAY

It's your first Valentine's Day with a woman you have yet to bed—proceed cautiously. Slip up on this make-or-break night and you'll be humping nothing but your pillow. The study of women is my life's work; here are my keys to Valentine's Day success.

DO: Buy an embarrassing card with a cute animal on it. It's revolting to us, but the sight of a baby duck saying "I wuv you" gives a girl a warm, fuzzy feeling—equivalent to the joy we feel when she tells us she likes to swallow.

DON'T: Cut out your own card as you did when you were 12. A crayon drawing of her naked with the caption **YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO PEE** may seem romantic to you—but it will leave you and your penis lonely and free to do arts and crafts all night.

DO: Listen to her at dinner. Work on your interested look, and at the right time be sure to drop in the obligatory

DON'T: Play devil's advocate. You're not there to have a real conversation. Provocative food for thought, such as "Maybe you *did* get the job because you dress slutty," will set up a night of licking your own wounds later.

DO: Buy a decent gift. If you're serious about wanting to get to the promised land, diamond earrings will do the trick. Historians tell us that mixing expensive jewelry with a bottle of wine is how anal sex was invented.

DON'T: Leave the Wal-Mart receipt lying around. When her carboles turn green a year later, you'll have issues, but by then I'll have my "Dos and Don'ts of Being Dumped" piece ready for print.

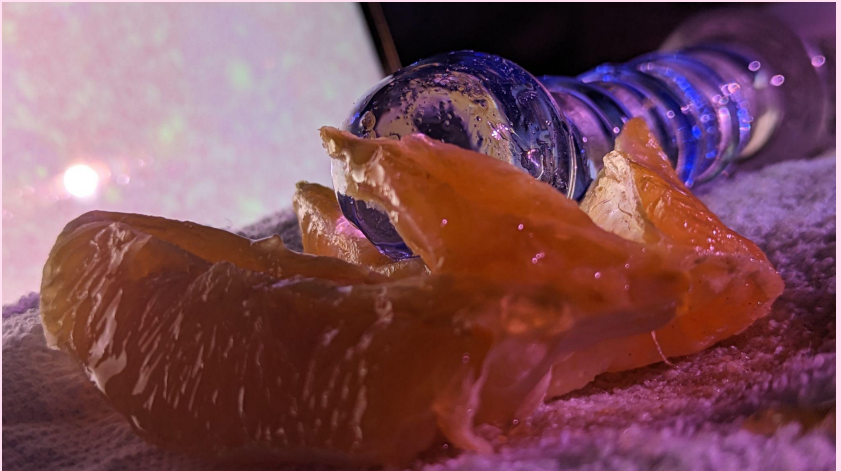
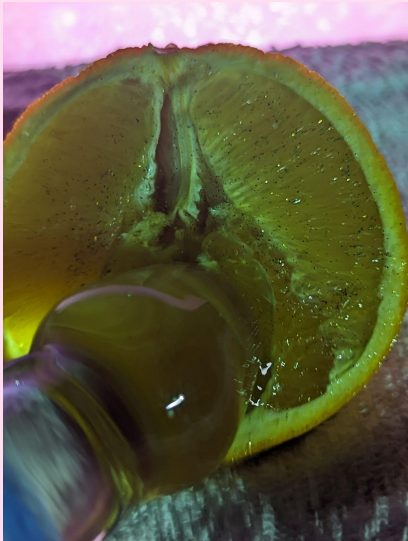
Comedian Mitch Fretel's debut CD, *Mini-skirts and Muffins*, is available at [mitch](#)

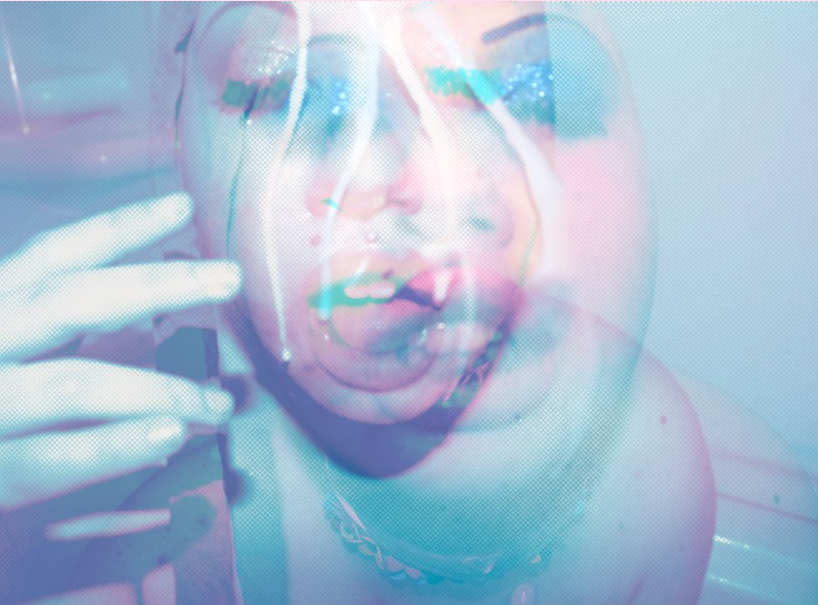


Unused Images * * *

I took a lot of photos, and some of them just didn't turn out and others I just felt were out of place next to everything else. I haven't included every single one of them here because there's a lot, but here are a few.







* Conclusion *

Working on a single project for a whole year has been quite an experience for me. Although I had many ideas for the project, there were ups and downs, and at times I found it overwhelming to try and explain everything. Being an eclectic person, I wanted to include various art forms such as paintings, digital drawings, collage, and photography. However, I was advised to pick one thing to focus on, and I decided to concentrate on photography, which led me to get bored at some point. To re-inspire myself, I experimented with collaging with porn magazines.

I faced difficulties with researching the bimbo movement and self-sexualization for my project, as academic writings on these topics are scarce. While most of the information I found explained self-sexualization as a result of misogyny, I disagree with this and believe it only reinforces the notion that women are only meant to be sexual for men.

My passion lies in creating art that blurs the lines between art and pornography, promoting confidence and comfort with sexuality while fighting censorship. I am pleased with what I have accomplished so far, but I wish I had more resources to create more elaborate sets for my photographs. Moving forward, I plan to continue working on these ideas and branching out into different art mediums.