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Fruit of the Womb

Emma Ginson
Chapman University

Caroline Metz
Chapman University

Hannah Francis
Chapman University

Madi Lohmann
Chapman University

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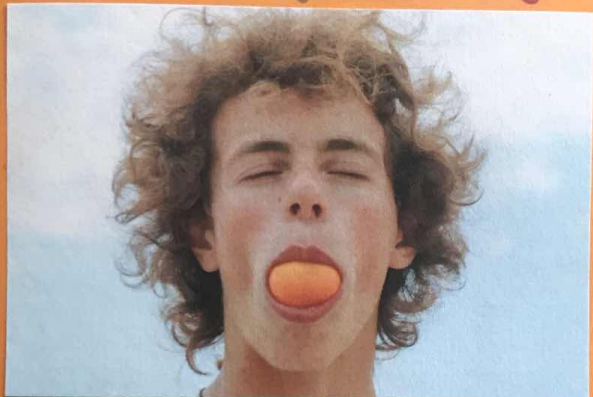
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FRUIT OF THE WOMB



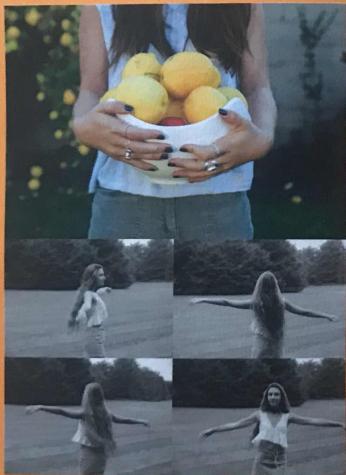
a ZINE by
Emma Ginson
Caroline Metz
Hannah Francis
↳
Madi Lohmann

INTRODUCTION

It's no secret that history's portrayal of female anatomy and sexuality is a disempowering, degrading, patriarchy-fueled dealio that treats women as a subhuman species. However, more so now than ever, women everywhere (with the help of fellow humans of all genders) are waking up to the incredible injustices occurring against women of the world every day and reclaiming femininity in a way that embraces our bodies, our sexuality, and ourselves as one.

As we follow the path of reclamation, it's important to ask ourselves: what are some ideas circulating through society that consistently degrade women? A huge one that often comes up in conversation is how vaginas are frowned upon. They are seen as disgusting, unworthy of praise or love, and something to be ashamed of. The fact is, many girls and women internalize these ideas and see their own vaginas this way, when, in reality, vaginas are remarkable specimens, capable of pleasure, telling time, and, of course, birthing new life. The latter is perhaps one of the most powerful facts about that organ between our legs. To illustrate the idea that the seed of life enters the world through vaginas, we have conducted a photographic series comparing fruits to vaginas, in environments that attempt might overshadow or complicate their beauty. The photos aim to personify and empower vaginas through Mother Nature, turning something that society thinks is ugly into something beautiful.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride..



Tell me about/describe your vagina.

"I don't know, vaginas just kinda freak me out in general. It's just a lot of skin down there. I wax it cause I hate all the hair, it's all itchy and uncomfortable. Maybe I'm just not comfortable in my own skin..."

-Franny Sakoulas

"It looks like a vagina."

-Dana Berkowitz

"It's there. I like it, I think it's beautiful. Yeah, I mean, I look at it a lot, I look at it in the mirror. There's a huge mirror built into the wall behind my bed, and when we moved into this house I specifically chose this room so I could watch myself have sex. I think that watching myself have sex isn't a bad thing. I feel like a lot of people, when they have sex, are very self conscious about how they look, but having the ability to watch myself have sex has made me like the way I look having sex more, and like my vagina more. But it's not like I'm constantly looking at myself, ya know. My vagina doesn't really bother me, the way it looks, like it looks pretty, I like it. And I don't really care if it looks different from other people's. Mine is mine, yours is yours."

-Taylor May

"looks like a luscious delectable hot dog bun"

-Jackie Domi

What do you call that thing between your legs?

V-word
Poonani
Pookaikai Woodle Venus Nunnie
Vajay
Vajayjay
Fly
Vagina
Hu-ha
Trap
Pussy
Vagine

Do you view your vagina as sacred?

"Yes I do. I believe it to be the most sacred part of a woman's body! Because it births the future children of the world and adds to our womanhood! And being a woman is the best."

-Sammi-Jack

"My vagina is my friend. My best friend
She allows me to feel pleasure. She may allow me to have a child. In technical terms she makes me a woman which I am proud of. Sacred is not the word because I associate that with holiness. My vagina is mine."

-Becca Cavallari

"I have grown to respect myself over the years, which in turn has made me respect my vagina. However, it wasn't always like that. I lost my virginity when I was 14. Although I do not regret my decision, I think if I had treated my body more as a temple I would have waited. Your vagina should be sacred. But often times we do not treat it that way. Sometimes, we let someone into our bodies that does not deserve to be there. We let someone in we met only hours before. We let someone in who only calls when he's horny, or we let someone in to get over the last person we let in. We even let someone in who has ripped our heart out, but for some reason we think it's okay. We need to nurture our vaginas. We need to heal our vaginas. We need to love our vaginas. But mostly, we need to respect our vaginas."

-Maile

"Yes, cause I guess we were taught from a young age that it is. I went to a Christian school where we had church every morning and stuff like that. Our sex ed was just one day a year, and the woman who taught us was a Christian nurse, and her whole view was that doing certain things with guys was kind of disrespecting yourself. And like both she and our moms taught us not to just go around giving it out to whoever, which is fine. But i've grown into the mindset to always remember that whatever we did was our own choice, so learning one way and making my own decisions based off of that combined with my own experiences makes my vagina sacred in that way. It makes a lot of decisions for you mentally and physically. And guys think their dicks have a mind of their own and I guess it's the same for girls, but for me it's in a different and more intelligent and empathetic way, so if you respect it, it'll kind of tell you what to do and what's right for you."

-Kennedi Whittingham

"I guess, yes. I mean, it's a part of my body, and my whole body is sacred to me, as I need it to live and what not. And it creates life. It puts up with a lot on a monthly basis. If you could see the inside, that would be a whole lot. It goes through so much, but then every month it just does it again. And it cleans itself, which is pretty cool. It's like its own living ecosystem. But it is a little scary, I mean, it handles a lot."

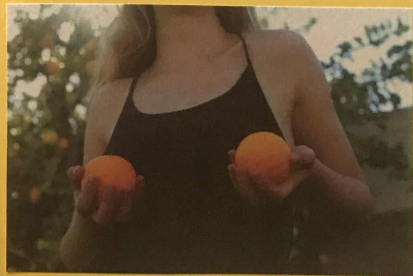
-Kat Satter

"I definitely do view my vagina as somewhat sacred for many different reasons. The vagina is such an incredible part of a woman's body for bearing children and for sexual pleasure. I believe that taking care of it should be of a high priority. I think the vagina is a part of a woman's body that can either make a woman feel extremely vulnerable or powerful. I think that where I'm at in my life I definitely feel more vulnerable in regards to it because I'm very particular with who I expose mine too."

-Katie Holden

"i treat it just as another organ of my body but in the realm of sexual encounters I do try to treat it sacredly."

-Jacki Domi



Sweet Sixteen :

I was sixteen years young and my older boyfriend Sam just took my virginity. My parents were out to dinner and would be home at any minute. Blood stained my tight white fitted sheet and the smell of sex contaminated the sweet innocent air. I sat on the toilet wiping myself of blood as Sam paced nervously back and forth. he kept saying under his breath, "What is your Mom going to say?" I wasn't worried. If anything I was excited for my Mother to return back from her swanky steak dinner and brag to her about my new sexual experience. Sam was too scared to be in the presence of the couple who conceived me after we did the deed. He scurried on home five minutes later I could hear the garage door creek open. When my Mother came into my room to tell me goodnight, her face turned red the second she saw the red. I sat on my bed smiling, waiting for a comment or a gold medal. She was terrified. Instead of seeing love she saw murder. I was the murderer of my own innocence. We debated and yelled. It wasn't easy and it wasn't the way I had planned it but in the end she hugged me. Then she told me about when she lost her virginity. From that moment on we have never kept a secret from each other. She always make fun of me for doing it the way I did. Sweet and innocent and that taught me that I always would have an open space when it comes to sexuality. Everyone should have that.

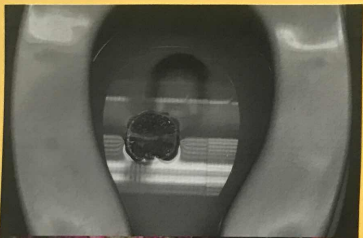
-Caroline Metz

Let's talk about sex.

My mom never talked to me about sex when I was growing up. She still doesn't talk to me about it, and I lost my virginity five years ago. She was raised in a very Catholic home in the Midwest, oldest of five. My grandparents are great but they are fucking critical, especially my Mimi. My mom rebelled during high school as most teenagers do, went to parties and smoked some pot. But she always got straight A's, swam on the varsity team, and respected her parents. When she went to college, she got pregnant during her freshman year. I just recently began asking about her experience. My mom said when she told her mother, my Mimi burst into tears. Abortion was never an option, marriage was my mom's future. I have looked through every photo album in my grandparents' house, searching for pictures while she was pregnant with my brother. There are none. She was married to the guy for four years. They had another child, my sister, to try to solve their problems. It didn't work out. My brother's earliest memories are of my mom and his dad fighting.

Well, they got divorced, my mom married my dad, and had two more kids. They are happy. We are all happy. But my mom doesn't talk about sex. She doesn't like to. It has always been a hushed topic in my house, despite our conversations about everything else. Sex is something I talk about (a lot) with my friends, not my mom. It seems strange, but that's the way it's always been and probably always will be.

-Madi Lohmann



Sexuality/Spirituality

Sexuality has been something of meaning to me for a number of years now. Much of it revolves around sex itself, the act: I love having sex, I love talking about sex, I love experiencing art and music that deal with the topic of sex. But sexuality can be so much more than just the act of sex. A glance, a brief, accidental touch of two bodies, a scent, an innate feeling of knowing between one person and another.. The raw sensuality that comes with being a sexual being is something that fascinates me the more I explore it, yet I never fully considered what a spiritual thing expressing my sexuality could be. Last summer, I delved head-first into the world of spirituality, and began to understand that sexual endeavors and sexuality are brilliant entities of energy, manifesting themselves into experiences of love, pleasure, expression, and connection.

On a personal level, there was something that clicked when I realized myself a sexual and spiritual being. For instance, beforehand, I had always exclaimed how masturbating and getting myself to orgasm was an incredible gift that was a huge step on my path to self love, but when I added spirituality into the mix, a whole new perspective arose. And from then on, I have experienced orgasms (both with myself and my lover) as spiritual experiences: I can quite literally sense myself as a body of energy reaching a higher vibration, or a higher frequency of energy. I think people are under the impression that spirituality equates to being wholesome and gentle, but let me tell you, fucking and love-making can both be completely spiritual. Finding the feminine energy within myself and unleashing it was perhaps the best thing I have ever done for myself as a human, a woman, and a sexual being, and is an experience I hope to share with generations of women who come after me.

-Emma Girson