

cv: **Alexandra Jacoby** [alexandra@vaginaverite.com]

A self-taught painter and photographer, Alexandra Jacoby is not a vagina expert.

The project was born out of a conversation with a friend about what their vaginas looked like, and how they compared to other vaginas. As there was no visual reference available, Jacoby set about creating vulva portraits—for women, so we can see ourselves for ourselves.

Jacoby has made 72 vagina portraits to date. She has also developed a website, vaginaverite.com, which includes over a 1000 pages of responses to questionnaires on vagina-related topics, essays and reference links.

vagina vérité® is Jacoby's primary artistic focus. She plans to publish a book of the images, and to exhibit widely.

In between exhibitions, Jacoby has the v-portraits installed on her living room wall and welcomes viewers.

exhibitions and presentations

Red Tent Women's Project. November 2007, NYC.

Vagina, vulva, pussy, cunt – and have you heard the latest celebrity darling: vajayjay? Why are there so many words and why do none of them seem right?

Spark Your Fire. August 2007, NYC.

WomanVision and vagina vérité® co-hosted a free event exploring our whole, juicy, sacred selves. With the v-portraits installed around us, Joanna and Dawn led us through an experience of the power and potential of an all-women's circle.

Vagina Festival. February 2007, NYC.

The v-portraits were exhibited as part of a group show.

Vagina Festival is a space for conversations we don't usually get to have. The 2007 Vagina Festival was our first. We were a part of V-Day's Worldwide Campaign to end violence against women and girls. Visual artists, performance artists, musicians, and speakers came together to raise awareness about the pervasiveness of violence against women, and raised money for V-Day.

The V-Factor: A Private Matter in the Public Eye. November 2006, Montclair.

With over 60 v-portraits revealing what most women have not had a chance to see - the amazing diversity that unites us, our salon discussion explored the dynamic interplay between society's view on 'the -v' and our own evolving sense of self.

Open Studio. October 2006, NYC.

62 v-portraits on view. An unabashed exploration of the plain, ordinary, mysterious matter of our vaginas.

Art Feast. Musée de Monoian. September 2006, NYC.

Spire (a 6' 3" totem of eight v-portraits) was included in the Art Feast at the Musée de Monoian.

rated R for Random. Agni Gallery. September 2006, NYC.

The v-portraits were presented in book form for the first time at Agni Gallery as part of the *rated R for Random* group exhibition.

Emerging Artists International. October 2005, NYC.

As part of the citywide *Emerging Artists* open studios event, Jacoby invited viewers to experience the v-portraits.

Society for Menstrual Cycle Research Conference.

June 2005, Boulder.

An installation of 50 v-portraits and printed excerpts from vaginaverite.com questionnaire-responses engaged health professionals and researchers in conversation about how our personal experiences of our bodies relate to health and well-being.

Open Studio. March 2005, NYC.

A six-hour unfolding conversation among women and men while viewing a wall of v-portraits.

Vaginas, an exploration. March 2005, NYC.

As part of the Alliance for Women's Equality's *Awe-inspiring Authors* series, the v-portraits were exhibited during Liz Topp's reading from her book, *Vaginas, An Owner's Manual*. Lively Q&A followed.

Love Your Tree. Dec 2004-Jan 2005, NYC.

Spire (a 6' 3" totem of eight v-portraits) was included in the *Love Your Tree* exhibition of 16 photographers' work on women's relationships with their bodies. The *Love Your Tree* space was created by Paulette Cole as a companion to Eve Ensler's *The Good Body*—a place for women to gather, talk and listen. The exhibition was curated by Paula Allen.

Threat: A Gathering of the Tribes. Oct-Nov, 2004, NYC.

As part of the *Threat* exhibition, a group show of paintings, photographs and assemblages, a wall of 41 v-portraits, unabashed, soft and proud, posed a challenge to the concept of power as domination.

Decoration & Handicraft: Re-visioning 1970's Feminist Art. Parson's School of Design. April 2003, NYC.

With the v-portraits installed on the classroom blackboard, Jacoby presented the project and explored the complexities of representing female sexuality with students.

yOur Exhibition. December 2002, NYC.

The first public exhibition of 30 v-portraits surprised and stimulated viewers at Smithfield, a bar on the lower east side of Manhattan. It was attended by 130 women, many of whom had heard much about the project, but still didn't know what to expect until they saw the images. Some were nervous about attending.