

ARTIST STATEMENT

vagina vérité®—an unabashed exploration of the plain, ordinary, mysterious matter of vaginas
by **Alexandra Jacoby**

Since Sept. 2000, I have been capturing a glimpse of women's most private selves. So private that most women have not seen their own, much less others. I've been making vagina portraits. I call them v-portraits.

The v-portraits are close-up documentary photographs. 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**.

I am not a vagina expert. I am a [painter and a photographer](#), and -

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 that there was something wrong with how hers looked.

I began asking around and found that most women had not seen other women's vaginas—nor necessarily seen 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?

[To explore this](#), I set about creating vulva portraits.

So far, I've made 90 v-portraits, each beautiful and strikingly unique. I plan to publish a book of the images, and to exhibit widely.

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

While the work is in progress, many of the v-portraits are installed on my living room walls, where I welcome viewers, hold salons, develop [vaginaverite.com](#) [over a 1000 pages of Q&A on v-subjects] and produce preview exhibitions.

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



For more on vagina vérité® go to www.vaginaverite.com
Contact Alexandra Jacoby at alexandra@leavethecastle.com