



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

on making a v-portrait

The v-portraits for vagina vérité® are digital, documentary-style color photographs.

If you're interested in participating, here's a description of how it goes -

I photograph in my apartment, where I have all the v-portraits installed in my living room, so you can see them all first.

I use my bed as the platform. The position you take is similar to a gynecological exam.

Unlike the exam, there are no stirrups, and no speculum. Also, no gown; you'll just undress from the waist down. Or if you like, you can wear a long, loose skirt that you'll push up to your waist.

The camera will be on a tripod at the end of the bed, with me behind it and I'll turn on two very bright, very warm lights.

There will be a towel on the bed and some pillows. You'll lay back, and I'll ask you to scoot forward, so that your bottom is at the end of the bed. You'll bend your knees, placing your feet flat (there is an edge to the bed where you can rest your feet) and spread your knees apart. I'll let you know whether I have a good view, and you'll let me know when you're set in a comfortable position.

Then I'll adjust camera settings for lighting (the settings vary depending on skin tone and ambient light) and click off a number of images, checking them on the camera's screen in between.

Probably, we'll be talking the whole time.

There is a release to sign, where you give me the right to use your images, and verify your identity and that you are of age. You'll bring a form of ID (driver's license, passport, etc.), and note down the ID# and type on the release. In the release, I also affirm that your identity will remain confidential.

A photo-session takes half an hour or so, and you can see preliminary images right after.

And, if you'd like a print of your v-portrait, I'll mail you one when it's ready.

— Alexandra Jacoby

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