

SECRET GARDEN

A GROUP EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE
THE UNTITLED SPACE

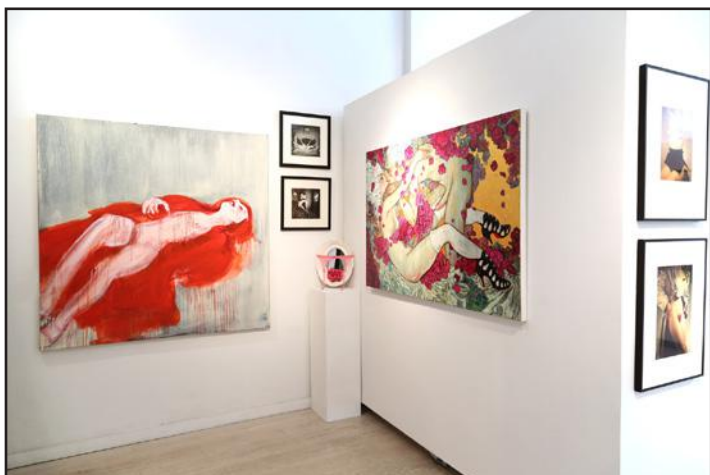
The Untitled Space gallery is pleased to present “SECRET GARDEN: The Female Gaze on Erotica” a group exhibition of female identifying artists exploring figurative works of nudes and erotic art. Curated by Indira Cesarine, the exhibit will be on view from June 27 – July 30 and will include works of painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, pottery, sculpture, collage, mixed media and video. The exhibit title is inspired by the book, “My Secret Garden”, published in 1973 by sex positive feminist author Nancy Friday who was instrumental in addressing taboos revolving around female sexuality in the early 70s and an important figure of the feminist sexual liberation movement. Through historical works of pioneering feminist artists such as Betty Tompkins and Joan Semmel, to that of emerging contemporary female artists such as Andrea Mary Marshall, Myla Dalbesio, India Munuez, Katie Commodore, and Leah Schrager, SECRET GARDEN presents works by taboo shattering artists who fearlessly address sexual themes in their art and celebrate freedom of expression.

Along with the legalization of birth control in the 1960’s came a profound shift in attitudes towards women’s sexuality and the freedom of sexual expression. The sexual revolution celebrated the erotic as a normal part of life, and denounced conservative attitudes that it should be repressed by a patriarchal society, religion or state. From a feminist perspective the movement focused on a woman’s right to choose her sexual partners and preferences free from outside interference or judgment. As women’s sexuality was redefined, many artists of the era, including Betty Tompkins and Joan Semmel, addressed these themes in their works, and fought against censorship and oppression.



Since the inception of the sexual liberation movement women have been faced with polarizing views on sexuality, including pornography and erotica, and its place within feminism. Through the highly documented feminist sex wars, which many historians believe attributed to the decline of second wave feminism, came the rise of the sex positive movement, which embraced women’s sexual freedom as central to women’s liberation. While the women’s liberation movement is often been equated with sexual liberation, the fight continues against the double standards that inhibit women from enjoying their sexuality freely and without judgment.

Despite decades of “liberation” contemporary feminist artists today continue to address these themes, to explore the dichotomies of contemporary society and challenge the double standards that linger. The battle with censorship may have shifted from film to the internet, yet artists continue to grapple with to the constraints of conservative positions on depictions of nudity and sexually explicit works. Through their own visual narrative, the artists of SECRET GARDEN explore works that challenge stereotypes, celebrate femininity and reclaim sexual independence. The female perspective on the theme is at once visible through the subtle details as these artists define in their own terms the language of “erotic”. They engage a dialogue of sexual self-empowerment that pushes social and political boundaries with artworks that exemplify a new wave of women’s sexual liberation in art.



EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Alexandra Rubinstein
 Andrea Mary Marshall
 Annika Connor
 Betty Tompkins
 Brittany Maldonado
 Brittany Markert
 Cabell Molina
 Danielle Sigler
 Dara Vandor
 Dominique Vitali
 Elisa Garcia de la Huerta
 Ellen Jong
 Fahren Feingold
 Hiba Schahbaz
 India Menuetz
 Indira Cesarine
 Jacqueline Secor
 Janine Gordon
 Jeanette Hayes
 Jessica Lichtenstein
 Joan Semmel
 Julia Fox
 Kat Toronto
 Katie Commodore
 Katya Zvereva
 Kelsey Bennett
 Kristin O'Connor
 Kristin Prim
 Lauren Rinaldi
 Leah Schrager
 Maia Radanovic
 Mairi-Luise Tabbakh
 Maisie Willoughby
 Marne Lucas
 Mary Theinert
 Meredith Ostrom
 Miza Coplin
 Myla Dalbesio
 Natasha Wright
 Rebecca Leveille
 Renee Dykeman
 Rowan Renee
 Signe Pierce
 Suzanne Wright
 Tafv Sampson
 Taira Rice



Alexandra Rubinstein

Still #18, 2014

Oil on canvas

16" x 20"



Andrea Mary Marshall
Self Portraits with Venetian Mask, 2017
Polaroid
5" x 3.5"



Annika Connor
Crush, 2010
Watercolor on board
12" x 16"

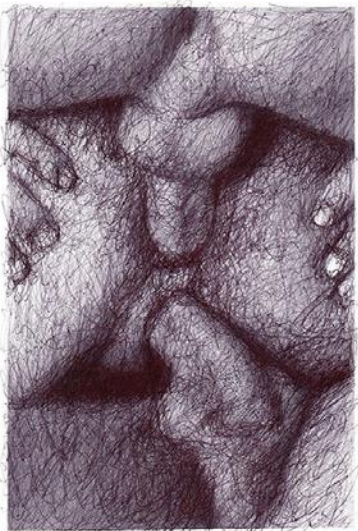
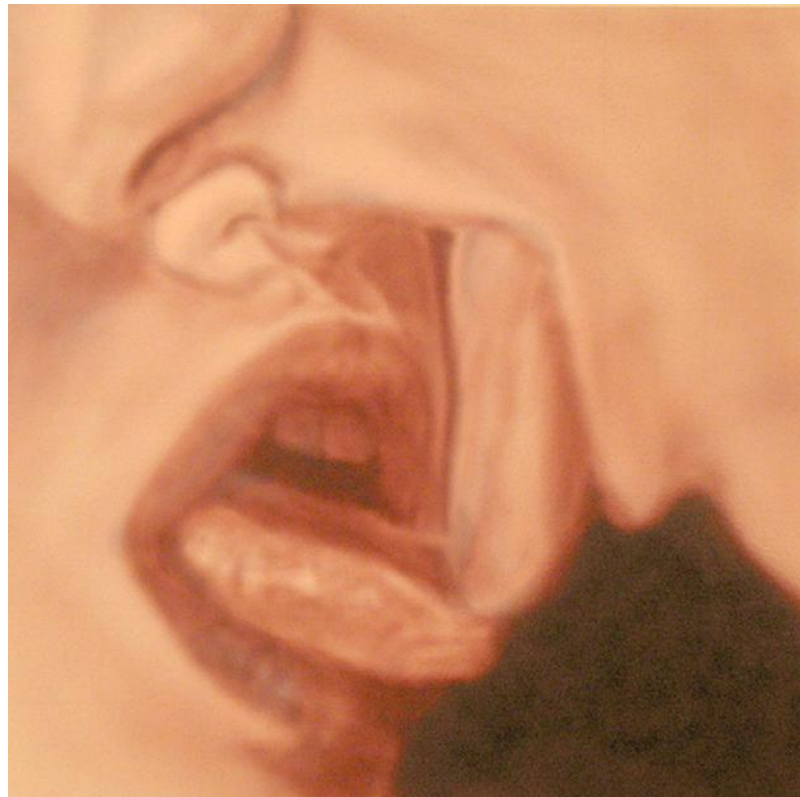


Photo Drawing #3, 2012
Ink on digital photo
11" x 8.5"



Kiss Grid Painting #1, 2007
Acrylic on paper
26" x 26"

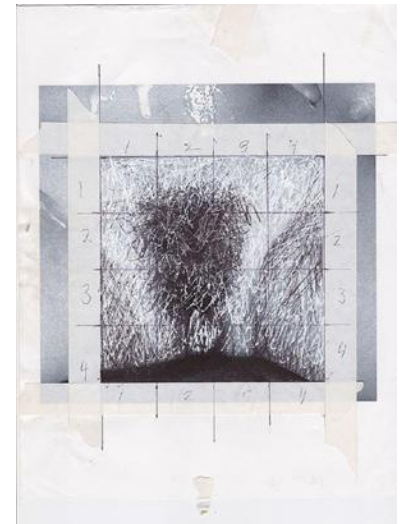


Photo Drawing #18, 2014
Ink on digital photo
11" x 8.5"

Betty Tompkins



Brittany Maldonado

Paris Ave, 2016

Collage

30" x 20"



The Two Selves, 2015
Silver gelatin print
11" x 14"



Untitled New Orleans, 2016
Gelatin silver print
11" x 14"



Untitled New Orleans 2, 2016
Gelatin silver print
11" x 14"

Brittany Markert



Cabell Molina
Crazy Confessions, 2015
Mixed media on canvas
30" x 40"



Fucking Classy, 2012
Red earthenware, underglaze, glaze
7" x 7" x 1.5"



So That's What That Looks Like, 2011
Stoneware, underglaze, glaze
8" x 8" x 1.5"



Main Squeeze, 2011
White earthenware, underglaze, glaze
8" x 8" x 1.5"

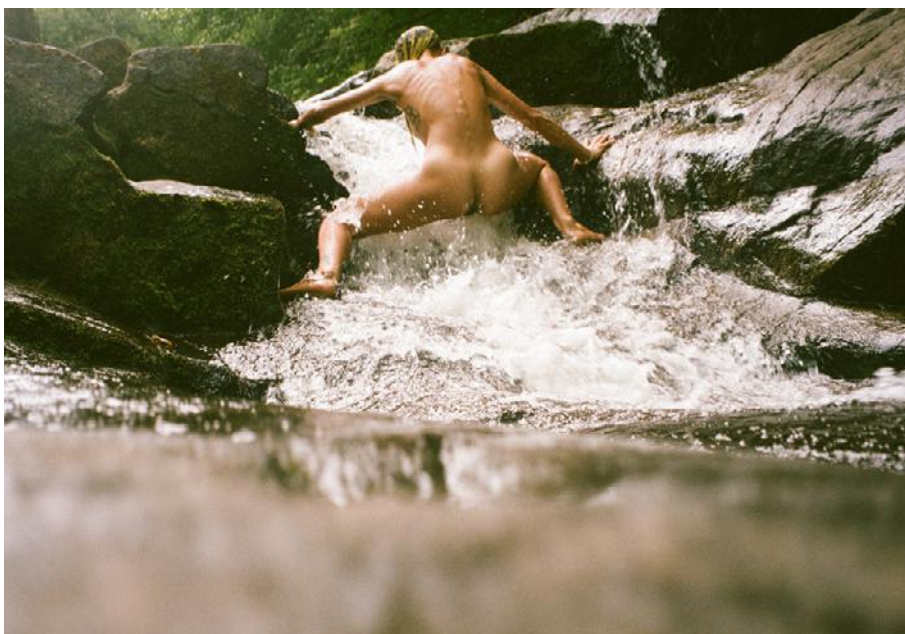
Danielle Sigler



Dara Vador
Dirty Knickers, 2017
Felt tip pen on canvas
12" x 16"



Dominique Vitali
Independence, 2016
Embroidery on vintage slip
14" x 24"



Forest Womb, 2016
35mm photography
8" x 10"



Flow/tting Lavender Cleanse, 2016
35mm photography
8" x 10"

Elisa Garcia de la Huerta



Ellen Jong

Lily, 2006

Archival pigment print

20" x 16"



Blue Monday, 2017
Watercolor on paper
11" x 15"



Monday Can Suck It, 2016
Watercolor on paper
9" x 12"

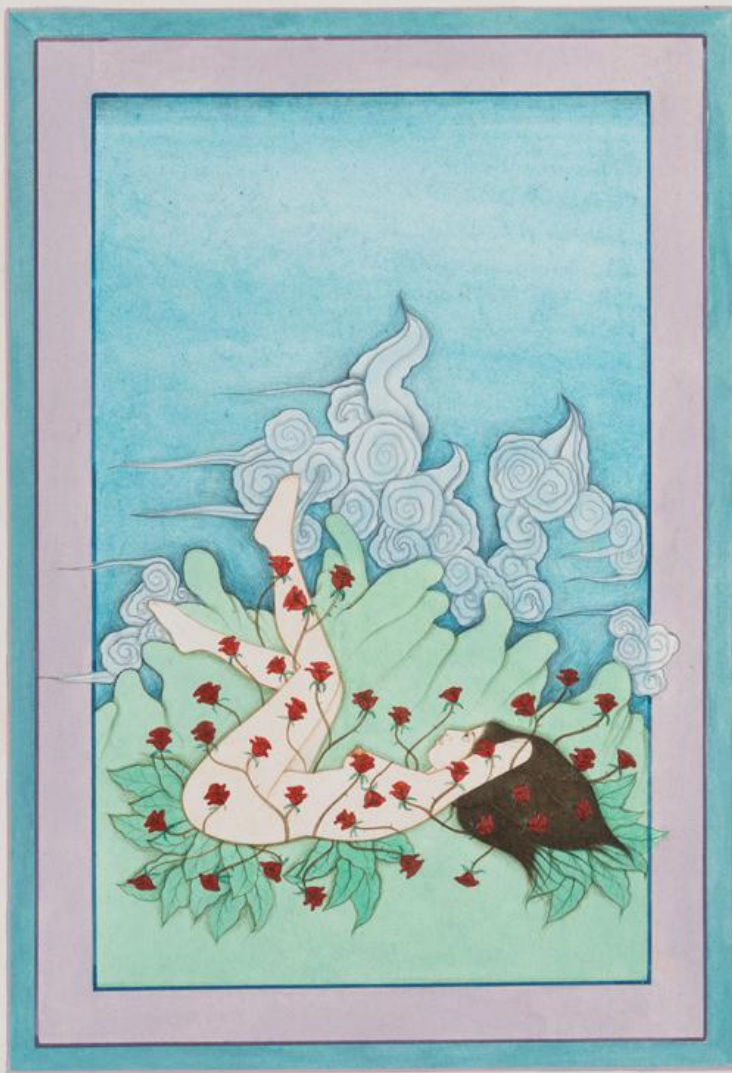


Phone Sex, 2015
Watercolor on paper
6.5" x 9"



Violet Don't Be Blue, 2017
Watercolor on paper
11" x 15"

Fahren Feingold



Hiba Schahbaz

Self-Portrait With Roses, 2014

Tea, gold leaf, gouache
and watercolour on wasli

17" x 19"



India Salvor Menuez
Copper Test: Postcard Grls
Intaglio Etching
12.25" x 14.75"



Indira Cesarine
Girl In Red, 2017
Intaglio Etching
12.25" x 14.75"



Sunday Morning, 2017
Watercolor on Arches Cotton Paper
12" x 16"



Sunday Afternoon, 2017
Oil on canvas
16" x 20"



Sunday Night, 2017
Oil on Canvas
16" x 20" x 2"

Indira Cesarine



Indira Cesarine
Second Circle, No. 2, 2012
Museum Archival C-Print
16" x 20"



Indira Cesarine
Second Circle, No. 5, 2012
Museum Archival C-Print
16" x 20"



Indira Cesarine

The Kiss, 2010

Video Art in Electric Object Monitor

3 mins 08 secs



Jacqueline Secor
Diversity of Nature, 2016-17
Mixed media
21" x 21"



Janine Gordon
Bored Dom, 2010
C-Print
20" x 24"



Poke 39, 2017
Oil on wood
6" x 6"



*Portrait of Marquise d'Aguirandes
and a Wild Kabutops, 2017*
Oil on wood
6" x 6"



Poke 40, 2017
Oil on wood
6" x 6"

Jeanette Hayes



Jessica Lichtenstein

Lust

Inklet print on Acrylic

3-D Text Sculpture

38" x 88" x 4"



Joan Semmel
Cornered, 2006
Oil on canvas
48" x 58"



Julia Fox
Strangers, 2017
C-Print Diptych Mounted in Plexi
30" x 20" x 2"



No Time For Tears, 2016
 Photograph printed on metal
 16" x 20"



Flying Saucers, 2016
 Photograph printed on metal
 16" x 20"

Kat Toronto Aka Miss Meatface



Katie Commodore

Allison, 2015

Line etching with aquatint

6" x 4"



Katie Commodore

Molly and Erin, No. 6, 2008

Gouache and ink on paper

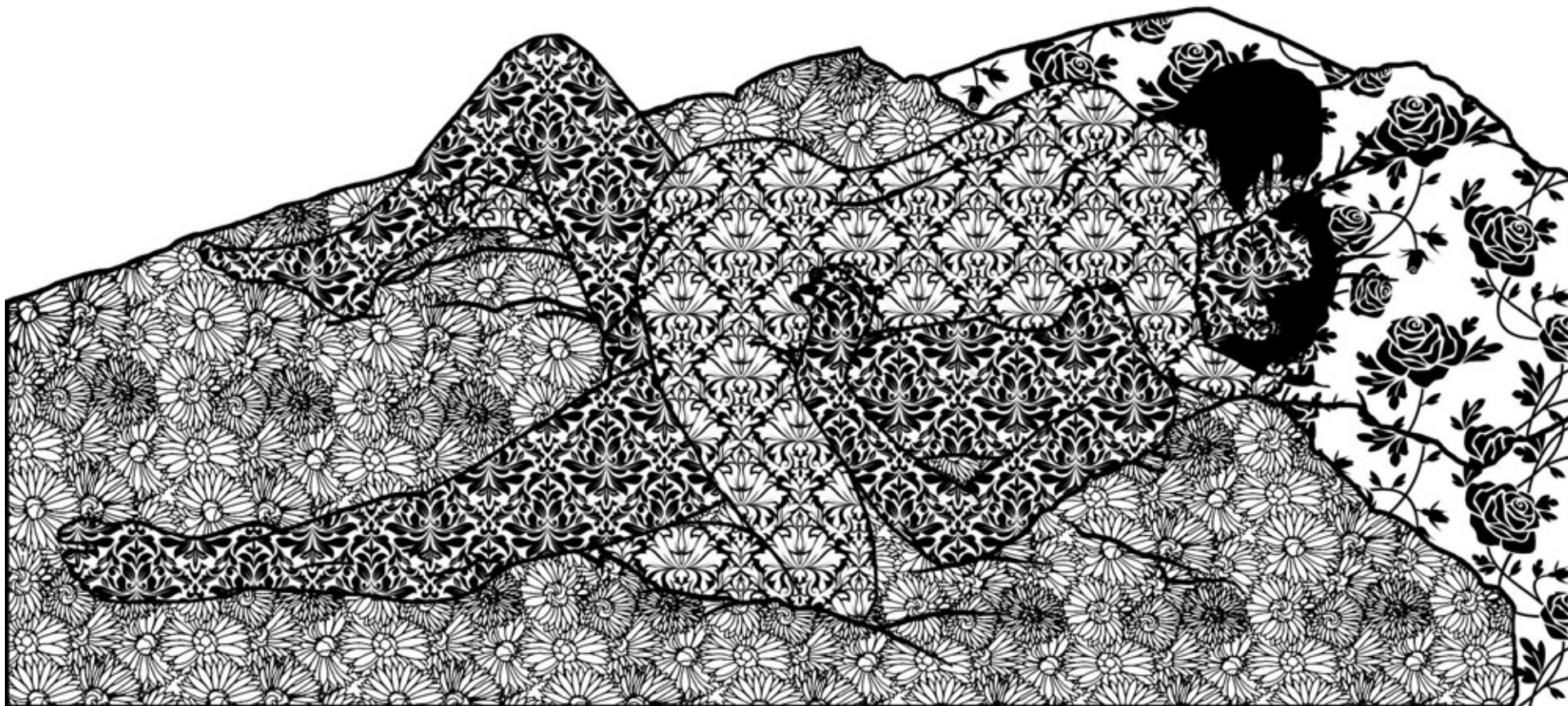
16.5" x 22"



Katie Commodore

Untitled, 2011 - 2017

Watercolor on ivory in reproduction
brass and silver frames
Miniatures of various sizes



Katie Commodore

Mark and Lisa, No 7, 2013

Cut Vinyl on Paper

22" x 30"



Katya Zvereva

Linguist, 2016-2017

Wood Print on Layers of Fabric

32" x 24"



Coneja, 2017
C-Print
11" x14"



Coneja With Popsicle, 2017
C-Print
11" x14"

Kelsey Bennett



Q430, Ruby Slipper, 2015
Oil on canvas
36" x 36"



907, Strawberry Mist, 2016
Oil on canvas
12" x 9"

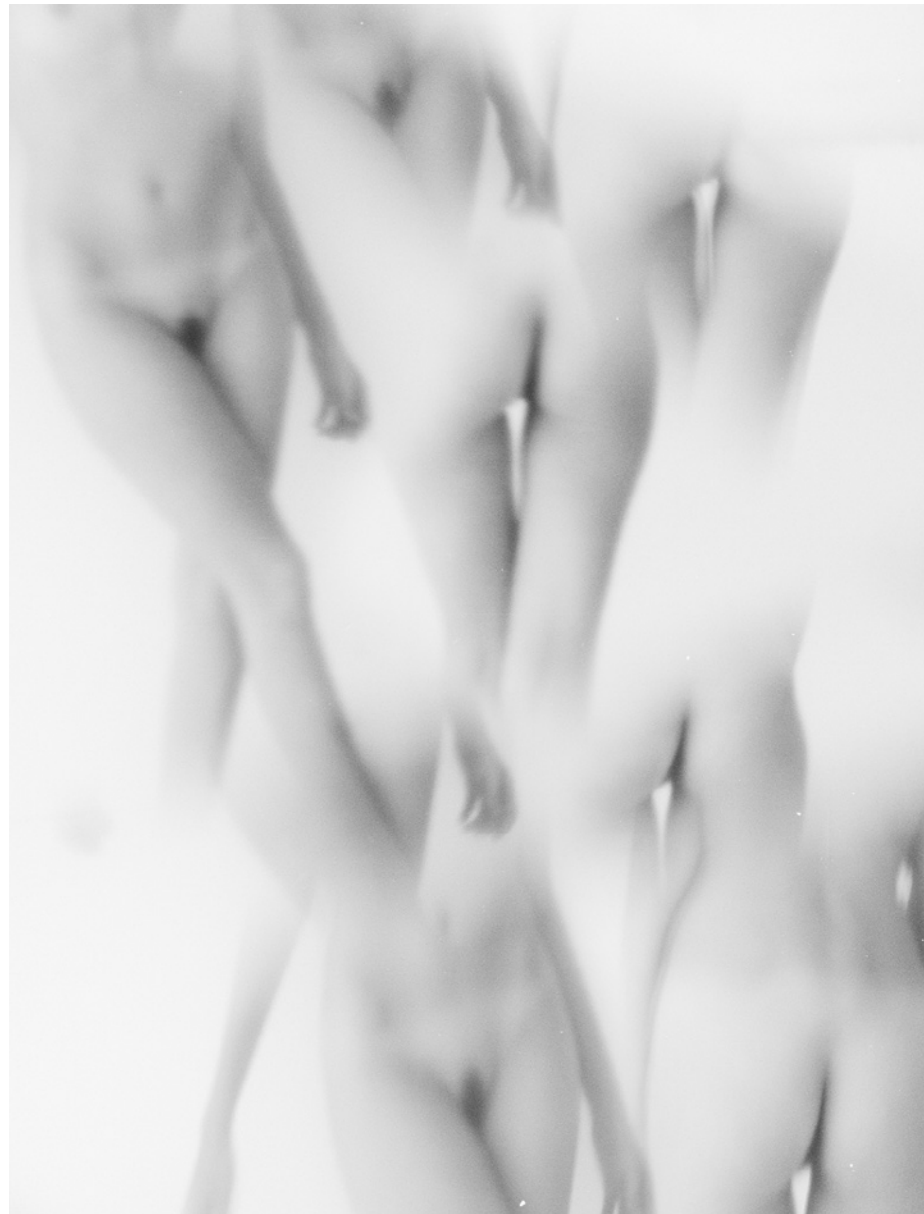


920, Red Revenge, 2015
Oil on canvas
6" x 6"

Kristin O'Connor



Delirium, 2016
C-Print
16" x 20"

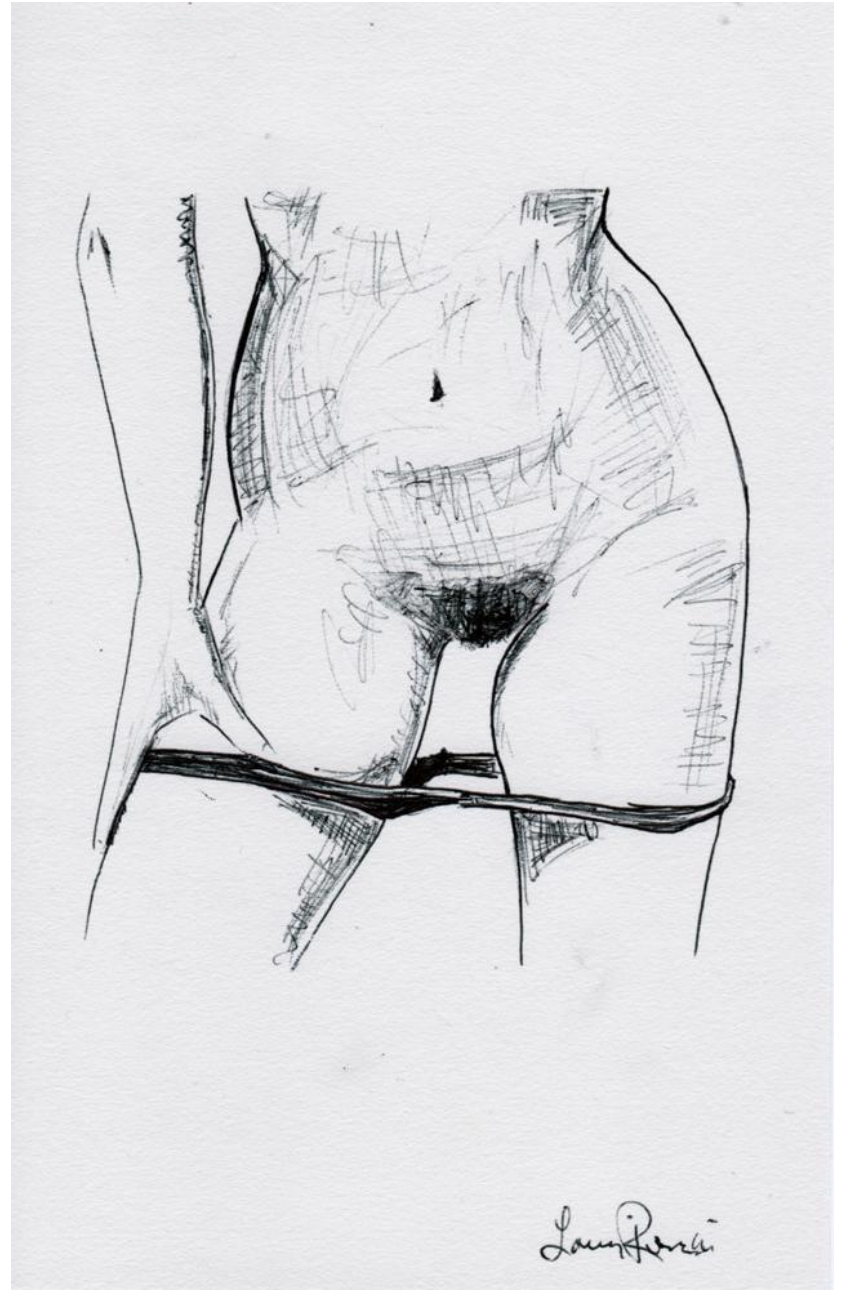


Again (Repentance), 2016
C-Print
8" x 11"

Kristin Prim



Cascade Masquerade, 2017
Ballpoint pen on paper
5.5" x 8.5"



I Dare You, 2017
Ballpoint pen on paper
5.5" x 8.5"

Lauren Rinaldi

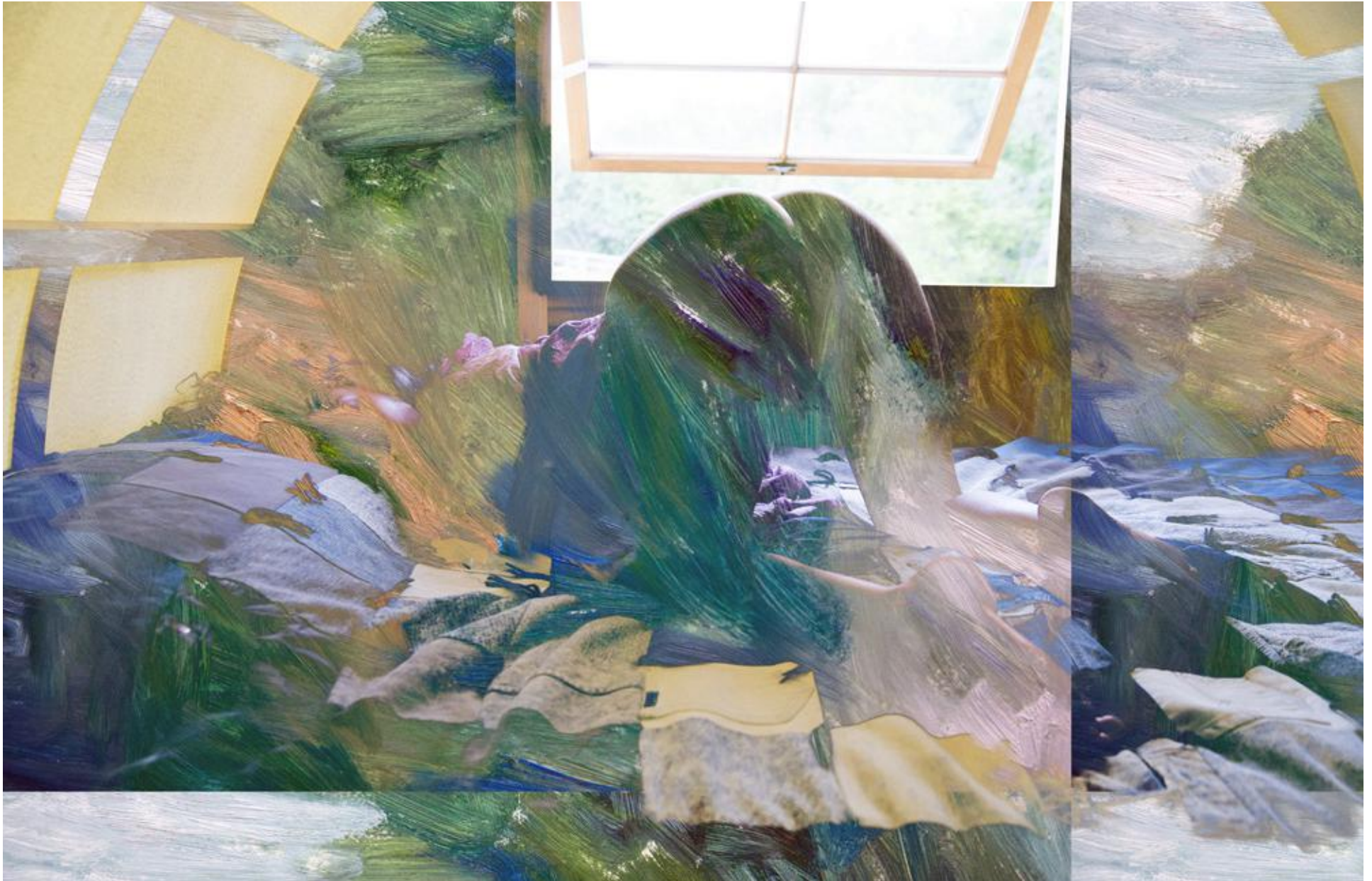


Leah Schrager

Hotel Desiderata, 2017

Digital print on aluminum

20" x 30"



Leah Schrager
The Storm Inside, 2017
Digital print on aluminum
20" x 30"



Universal Gypsy, 2017
Digital print on aluminum
20" x 30"



My Blossom, My Tradition, 2017
Digital print on aluminum
20" x 30"

Leah Schrager



Maia Radanovic
Feminine, 2015
Mixed media
10" x 12" x 3"



Cecilias4, 2015
Archival platine fibre rag
12" x 18"



ShawneeV, 2009
Archival silver gelatin print
9.5" x 12"



Maisie Willoughby
Emily for Talc, 2013
C-Print
16.15" x 13.78"



Marne Lucas

MLSP Sink, 2013

Archival pigment print

16" x 20"



Mary Theinert

Object 3 (Master and Mamma), 2014
Watercolor, pen, and ink
35" x 52"



Meredith Ostrom
Into the Wild, 2017
Acrylic on canvas
36" x 48"

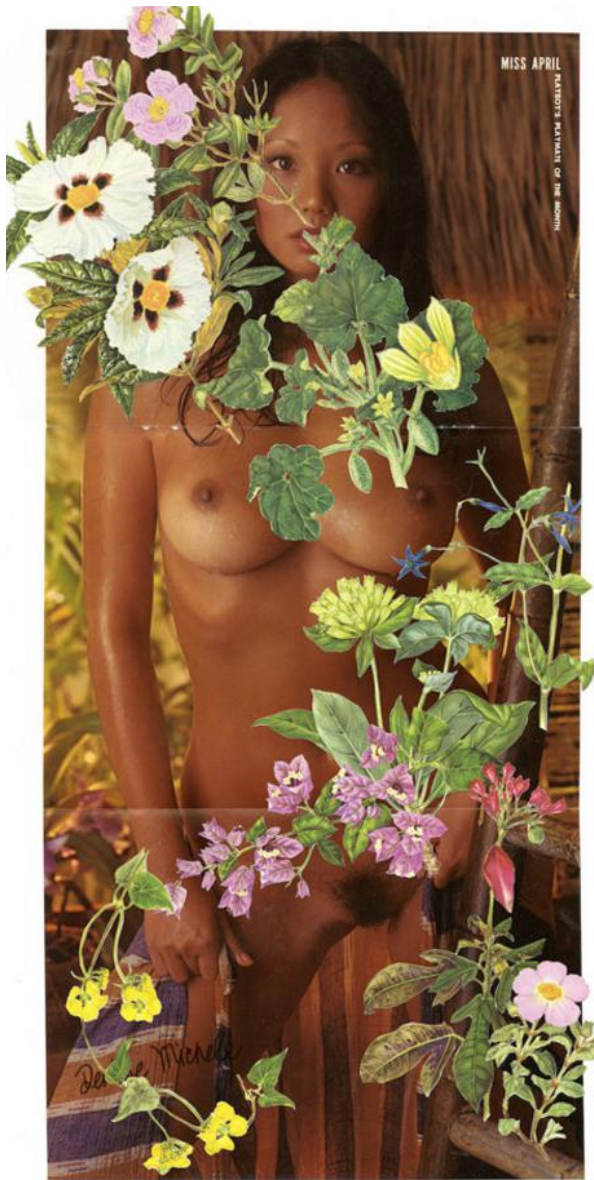


Miza Coplin

Wet Dream, 2017

Ink and marker on bristol

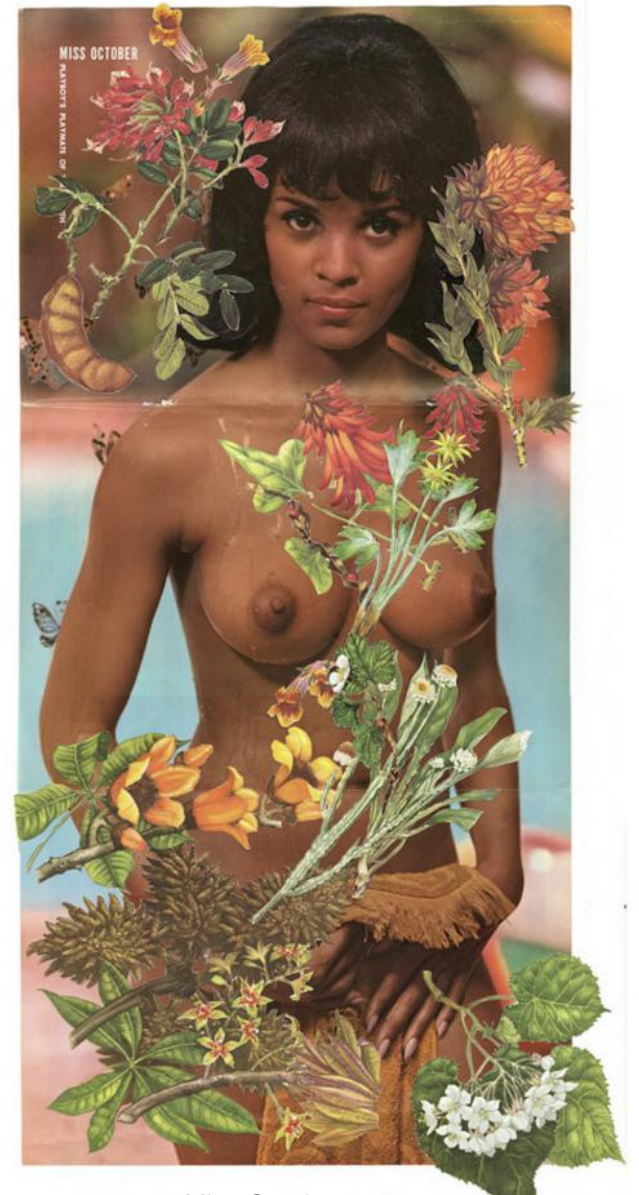
19" x 14"



Miss April, 2016
Collage
26" x 14"



Miss August, 2016
Collage
26" x 14"



Miss October, 2016
Collage
26" x 14"

Myla DalBesio



Myla DalBesio
Series "The World In You", 2015
Collage
26" x 14"



Myla DalBesio
Series "Madonna Mia", 2015
Collage
26" x 14"



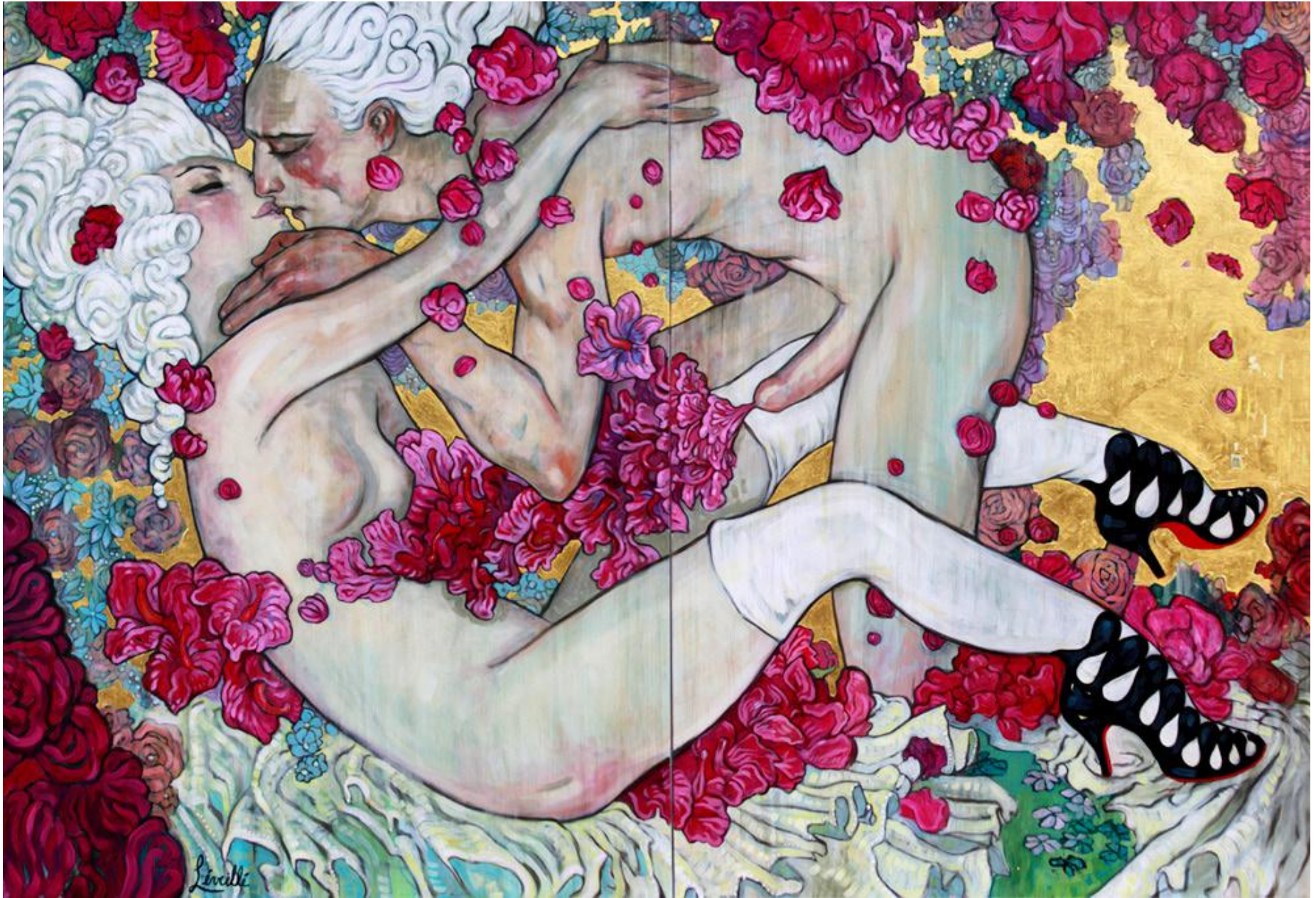
Myla DalBesio
Series "The World In You", 2015
Collage
26" x 14"



Natasha Wright
Goodbye Language, 2017
Ink on paper
30" x 22"



Natasha Wright
Unfocused, 2017
Oil on canvas
60" x 60"



Rebecca Leveille
Flowers, 2016
Oil on canvas
40" x 60"



Renee Dykeman

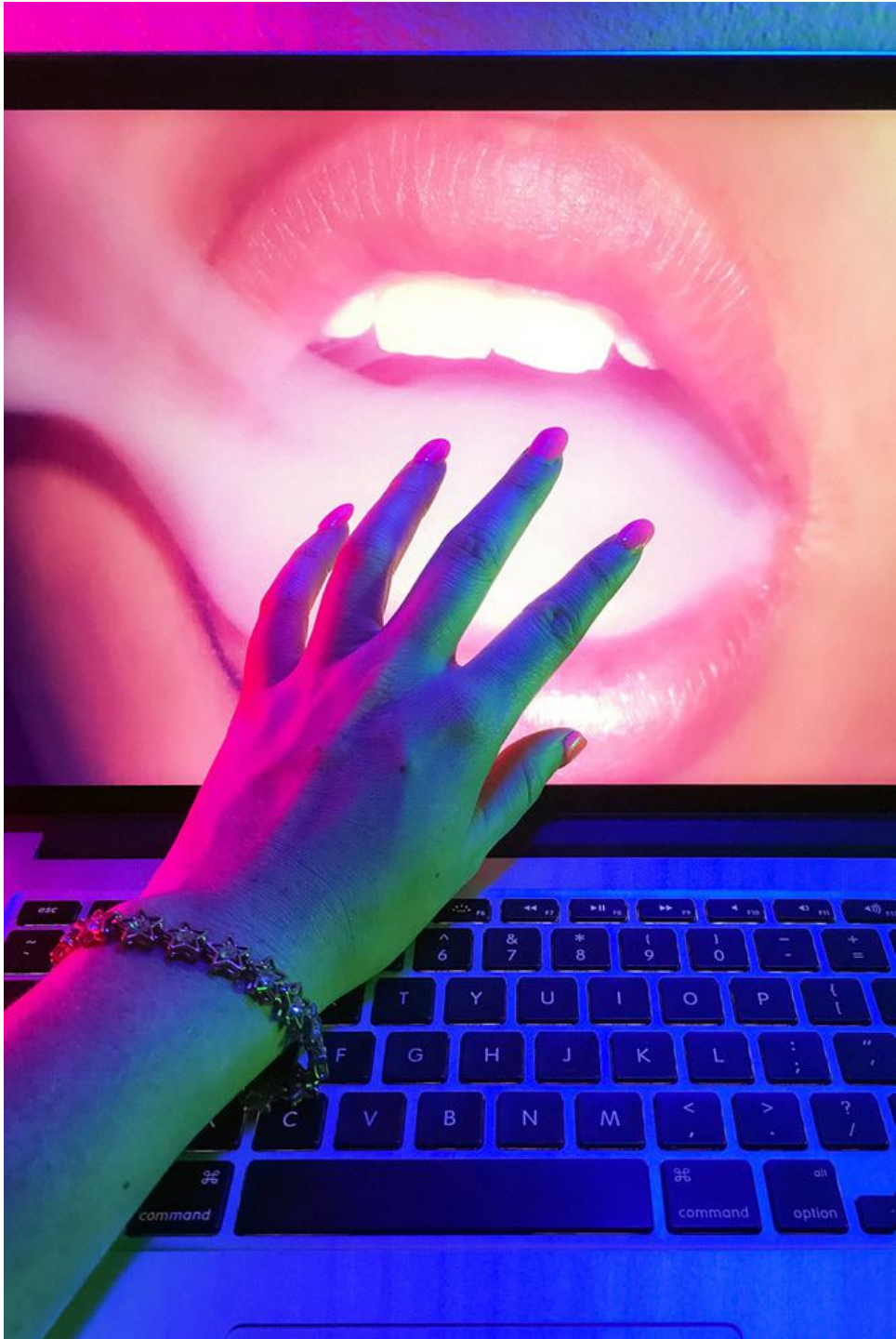
Rubber Maid, 2017

Plastic rubber, patent leather

50" x variable dimensions



Rowan Renee
Bodies of Wood, 2016
C-Print
14" x 14"



Signe Pierce
Synthetic Lust, 2016
C-Print
24" x 32"



Suzanne Wright

Hoover #3, 2016

Collage

30" x 25"



Rose Garden, 2017
35mm photography
24" x 17"



Two Roses, 2017
Print of a Polaroid
14" x 11"

Tafv Sampson



Taira Rice

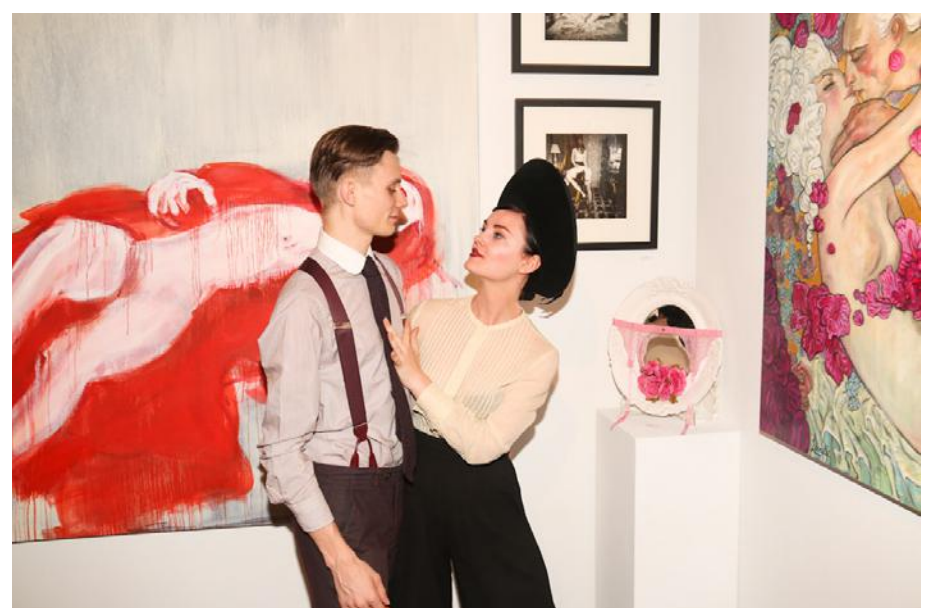
Prexal, 2017

Watercolor & pen on paper

8.5" x 7"

"I feel it is an important time to present an exhibition of female artists who are resisting oppressive structures and climates by championing sex positive feminism. With the new political right, we have ushered in a conservative era, which attempts to challenge many liberties we have grown accustomed to including women's reproductive rights and the legality of birth control. The importance of censorship-free, sexually liberated art has regained significance as women today continue to battle for equality and freedom of expression." **Curator Indira Cesarine**

Opening Reception



PRESS ON SECRET GARDEN

Full article:

<http://vmagazine.com/article/secret-garden-female-gaze-erotica/>

V Magazine
July 5th, 2017

V MAGAZINE

SECRET GARDEN EXPLORES THE FEMALE GAZE ON EROTICA



Much has been said about the female gaze, thanks in part to photographer Amanda de Cadenet's launch of the GirlGaze collective—and to that end, there's a new exhibit on the Lower East Side dedicated to celebrating the female gaze, but with the spotlight on erotica. Untitled Space's *Secret Garden* show (taking its name from the seminal 1973 Nancy Friday book) features a mix of media by over 40 female artists, including photography, video, sculpture, and more.

Full article:

<http://www.hungertv.com/feature/secret-garden-is-the-exhibition-celebrating-female-sexuality/>

Hunger Magazine
June 30th, 2017

HUNGER



Hosted at New York's disruptive gallery The Untitled Space, *Secret Garden* is an exhibition exploring female sexuality. Inspired by the 1973 seminal work *My Secret Garden* by sex positive feminist author Nancy Friday, the show charts the modern history of women and sex, deconstructing taboos, considering the longtime absence of the female gaze from porn, photography and sexual history and assessing art's contribution to a new chapter in the sexual liberation movement.

Featuring works from pioneering feminist artists including Betty Tompkins and Joan Semmel through to the progressive, arresting work of emerging artists including Signe Pierce and Leah Shrager, *Secret Garden* is both an emphatic celebration of female sexuality and a challenge to society's stubborn persistence that women must be judged by their sexual behavior. Erotic, alternative and urgent, this a vital show in times when progress has been halted by a tragic and threatening return to conservatism and the political right.

<https://www.thecut.com/2017/06/nsfw-secret-garden-female-gaze-on-erotica-at-untitled-space.html>

THE CUT

These Artists Explore the Female Gaze in Erotica (NSFW)



With so many outlets depicting what female sexuality *should* look like — from pornography to magazines and billboard advertisements — the “Secret Garden” show is designed to highlight a more dynamic female experience. Artworks depict contorted, vulnerable, and simultaneously empowered women as subjects whose sexuality cannot be deduced or simplified to fit stereotypical criteria.

Full article:

<http://www.metro.us/news/local-news/new-york/untitled-space-secret-garden-female-gaze-erotica>

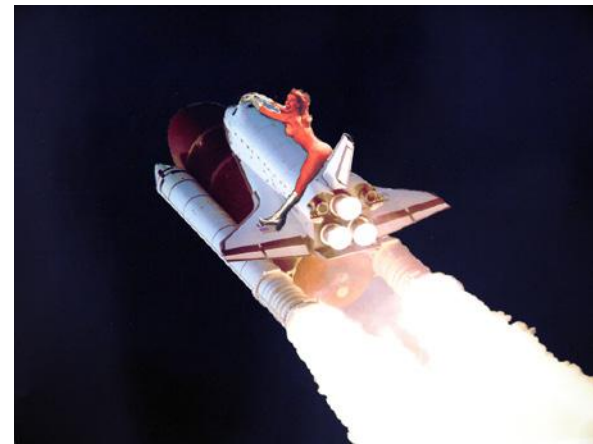
Metro
June 27th, 2017



New York

With 'Secret Garden,' female artists use erotica to break barriers, reclaim sexuality

Untitled Space's "Secret Garden" exhibit emphasizes women's decades-long uphill battle for equality and freedom of express



Since the election, female-identifying artists have joined forces at the Untitled Space gallery in Tribeca to use their medium of choice to **rise, up and resist**, focus on positivity and now, address the double standards and restrictions they face when it comes to their own sexuality.

Full article:

<http://bulletmedia.com/article/must-see-secret-garden-the-female-gaze-on-erotica-at-the-untitled-space-in-nyc/>

Bullett
June 30th, 2017

BULLETT

Art & Design

Must See: 'Secret Garden: The Female Gaze on Erotica' at The Untitled Space in NYC



Featuring multi-disciplinary work from over 40 femme-identifying artists, *Secret Garden* highlights the way women approach sexuality in their lives, and art. With Trump's misogynistic rhetoric and the future of reproductive rights still in jeopardy, curator Indira Cesarine wanted female artists to challenge representation and champion positivity, furthering the dialogue surrounding female sexual freedom. As the female body continues to be subjugated and censored, *Secret Garden* celebrates femininity in all of its forms. And since our President thinks he can grab us by the pussy, we might as well blow it up, paint it and showcase it everywhere.

Full article:

[http://time.com/4761944/
celebrity-sex-art/](http://time.com/4761944/celebrity-sex-art/)

Time
May 2nd, 2017

TIME

INTERNET CULTURE

Exploring the Blurred Lines Between Celebrity, Sex and Art



For me, the main platform your work deconstructs is the art world and its accompanying rules of conduct. Would you say that's fair?

I think that's totally right. Because if it's a man presenting a woman in the art world, it's okay and there's a long history of it. But then there's really not much history of the woman presenting herself. And especially not a history of her presenting herself in a sexual way. So I feel like it's this new challenge and a lot of it does circle back to commercialization. My task is to analyze and gather information, deconstruct and construct the mainstream celebrity sphere and the art sphere.

Full article:

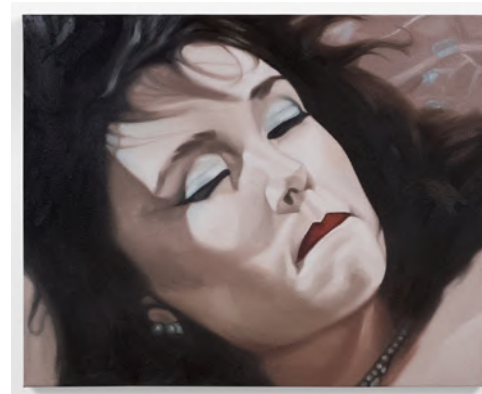
<https://www.juxtapoz.com/news/painting/secret-garden-the-female-gaze-on-erotica/>

Juxtapoz
June 2017



PAINTING

SECRET GARDEN: THE FEMALE GAZE ON EROTICA (NSFW)



Secret Garden: The Female Gaze on Erotica is a group exhibition of female identifying artists exploring figurative works of nudes and erotic art. Hosted by [The Untitled Space Gallery](#) and curated by [Indira Cesarine](#), the show will include works of painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, pottery, sculpture, collage, mixed media and video. The exhibit title is inspired by the book, "My Secret Garden", published in 1973 by sex positive feminist author Nancy Friday who was instrumental in addressing taboos revolving around female sexuality in the early 70s, and was an important figure of the feminist sexual liberation movement. From historical works of pioneering feminist artists such as Betty Tompkins and Joan Semmel, to that of emerging contemporary female artists such as Andrea Mary Marshall, India Munuez, Katie Commodore, and Leah Schrager, *Secret Garden* presents works by taboo shattering artists who fearlessly address sexual themes in their art and celebrate freedom of expression.

Full article:

<http://bust.com/arts/193101-secret-garden-the-female-gaze-on-erotica-sexual-liberation-through-art.html>

Bust
June 2017

BUST

18 Artworks That Highlight The Female Gaze In Erotica



The Untitled Space Gallery in Tribeca, New York will be housing a show called "SECRET GARDEN" from June 27th until July 30th, and it really isn't something to miss. "SECRET GARDEN: The Female Gaze on Erotica" is an exhibition of dozens of women's art in all forms curated by Indira Cesarine. The purpose of the show is to remind the world that women's bodies aren't to be censored or regulated by anyone other than themselves, and to **express** female sexuality in a way that is free from judgement. According to the Untitled Space, "The artists of "SECRET GARDEN" push social and political boundaries with artworks that boldly challenge the status quo and exemplify a new wave of women's sexual liberation."

Full article:

<http://girltalkhq.com/new-sex-positive-exhibit-untitled-space-gallery-nyc-fights-censorship-double-standards/>

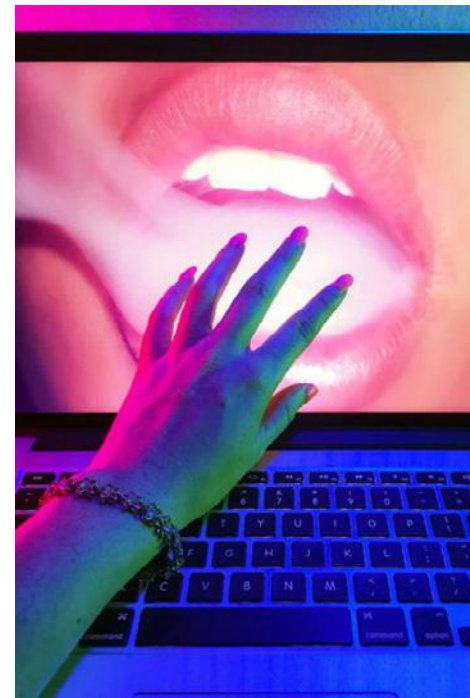
GIRLTALKHQ
July 6th, 2017

GIRLTALKHQ

THE GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS OF FEMALE EMPOWERMENT NEWS MEDIA

CREATIVITY

New Sex Positive Exhibit At Untitled Space Gallery In NYC Fights Censorship & Double Standards



What makes an exhibit like this so important, especially given the current political climate in the US where women's bodily **rights and representations are being stripped away** and silenced by regressive policies, it is powerful to see messages around sex and sexuality specifically from a female gaze.

Full article:

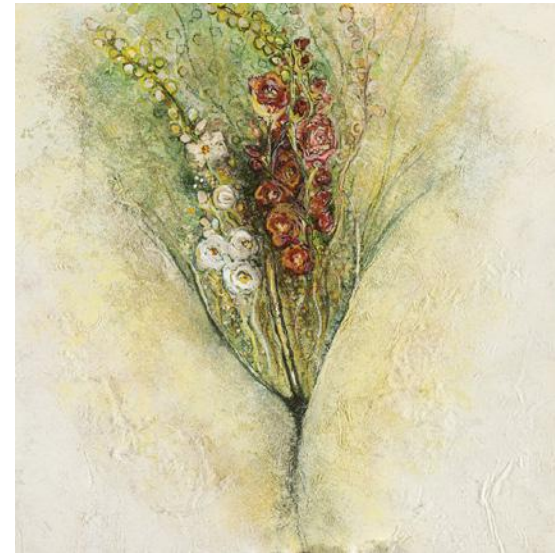
<https://www.nylon.com/articles/jacqueline-secor-vulva-paintings>

NYLON
June 30th, 2017

NYLON

How Painting Vulvas Helped This Artist Deal With Body Dysmorphic Disorder

“Our society has created a whole culture around what our vaginas are supposed to look like”



Ahead of her New York debut at the Tribeca-based group exhibition, Secret Garden, which opened this week at the Untitled Art Space and is on view until July 30, we spoke with Secor about her struggle with BDD, the power of painting vulvas, and the importance of body acceptance at a time when the fate of women's health care is more relevant than ever.

MORE PRESS ON SECRET GARDEN

ARTFUSE
ART NERD
ART ZEALOUS
360 MAG
UNTITLED MAGAZINE
ARTSY
THE ART GORGEOUS
BEDFORD + BOWERY
BUSTLE
NY OPTIMIST
WALL STREET INTERNATIONAL
ART FORUM
ART PUBLIKA MAGAZINE



THE UNTITLED SPACE

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