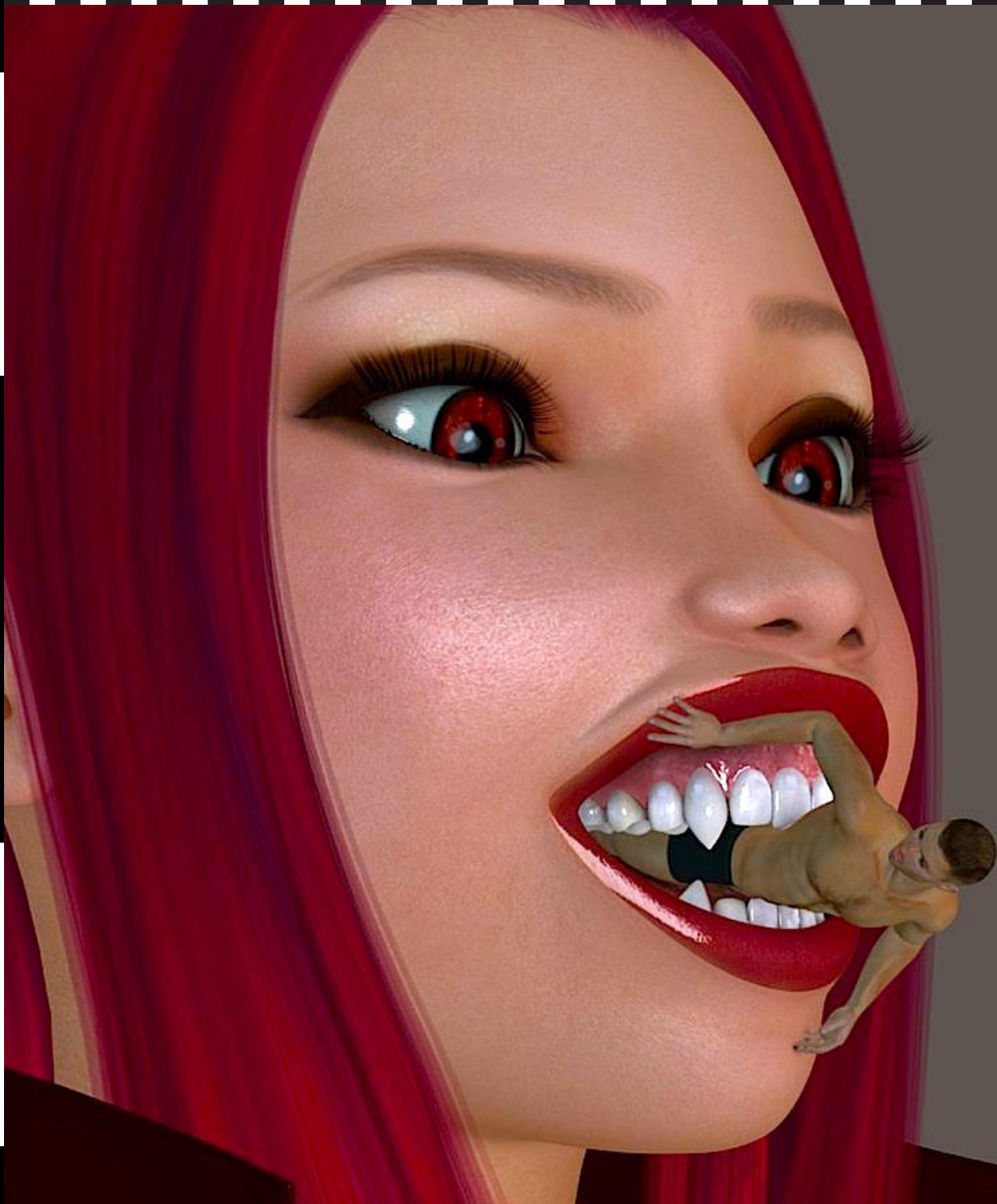


THE DISRUPTED BODY



Bodies are queer in many ways. One of the most common ways is through our exposure to **endocrine disruptors** -- synthetic hormones found in plastics, pesticides, and birth control pills -- which make their way into our bodies thanks to petrochemical, agricultural, and pharmaceutical industries. In response to these synthetic hormones, we are fed the heteronormative reactions of loss of masculinity, fear of feminization, and sex panic, reinforcing a politics of purity. But what about queer body worship? If we are living in this all-pervasive toxicity, and if queerness is our inevitable future, then we must decide on a discourse that liberates us.

The **anogenital distance index (AGDI)** is a population survey tool which measures the distance between the anus and bottom of the genitals. Studies since the 90's have discovered that the AGD is getting smaller and smaller due to exposure to phthalates, a common endocrine disruptor. Thus, the AGD is anatomical proof of our increasingly queer and hormonally complex bodies.

By Mary Maggic

