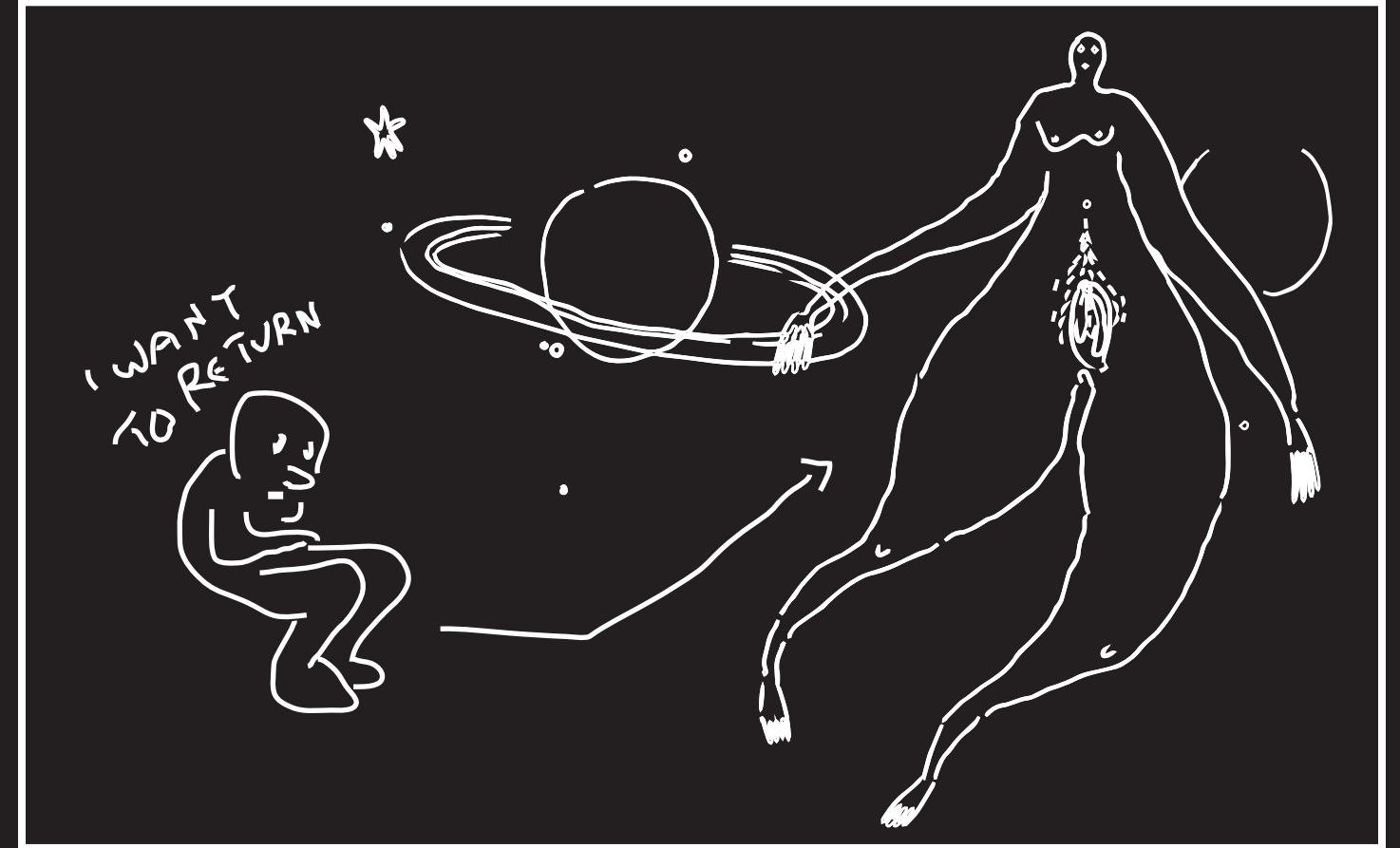


VORAREPHILIA AND THE DESIRE TO PERMANENTLY ESCAPE LONLINESS



Vorarephilia, or Vore, is a sexual paraphilia which delights in the act of eating things, or being eaten. It is distinct from cannibalism in that the “chewing” or general mutilation of a human body is not in the interest of the vorarephile, but rather the vorarephilic subject wishes to either be swallowed, subsumed, or absorbed by a significant other. Alternatively, a vorarephile may want to devour their love interest, so that they may permanently escape the loneliness which occurs from inhabiting a separate body from the beloved.

Though little empirical research has been conducted on vorarephilia and its place within sexual behavior, it is clear that it overlaps with a variety of dominant / submissive themes including but not limited to: macrophilia / microphilia (sexual attraction to unrealistically large or small people, such as giants or people the size of mice), “unbirthing” (the idea of being swallowed alive by the vagina and returning to the safety of the uterus), and digestion-themed sadism / masochism¹.

“Vorephiles” also share some overlap with bestiality, inasmuch that vore artwork often involves humanoid animals as the devouring entity, with the additional valence of an animal persona being applied to specific body parts, such as the penis. In some instances, vore artwork features a theme of “penis as vagina”, where penile-like reptiles “swallow” a sexual partner, similar to the vagina in coitus.

Additional phenomena in the world of vore seems to focus on the simulation of oneself as a literal body part as a source of arousal, namely, imagining oneself as an anus, or perhaps as merely a bodily fluid, such as urine or semen. Though case studies of this crossover are few and far between, one cannot help but speculate that sexuality is continuing to expand on a virtual level, meaning that the projection of oneself onto a specific body parts or objects or avatars has become increasingly fluid in a technologically mediated world.

¹ Vorarephilia: A Case Study in Masochism and Erotic Consumption. Lykins, A.D., & Cantor, J.M. (2014)