S̶i̶m̶u̶l̶a̶t̶i̶o̶n̶ stimulation

(A culture of repressed female sexuality)

Vulva, clitoris, masturbation, stimulation, vibrator - it's all shameful, dirty and makes me look bad. Because none of this has anything to do with conception and motherhood, but I was taught that "sex is about mum and dad", not about pleasure. It is embarrassing and animalistic to think about sexual pleasure: this is how I feel as I write this text.

The mindset I grew up with, of being modest, of not touching myself, of not talking about "that", of lowering my eyes at intimate moments in a film, and, as a consequence, of not asking my partner to touch me where I like, of not even thinking that I might somehow enjoy it, still holds me back.

I am interested in the problem of widespread, almost normal, female orgasm simulation: between 63 and 92% of women have faked coming at least once in their lives. For me, the major reason for this problem seems to be the taboo on masturbation and on the image of vulva. From visual examples, I bring the art history and combine my photographs with some six excerpts from well-known paintings.

I have chosen the Venus motif because it is here that the woman, or rather the "goddess of love and beauty", is clearly shown more as a sexual object than as a subject. Her permanently feminine and sexually passive decorativeness plus her always covered vulva with hands/hair/rags is a good example of this taboo on active female sexuality, a taboo on meaningful participation in a sexual process in which a woman would respect her own orgasm.

By doing this project, I have taken as some study objects in my project these complicated feelings about my own sexuality and this crushing inner spasm when I get close to the topic of "female orgasm", and my body - as an expressive medium.