

The Community of Practice on Sexual Pleasure is looking to commission an illustrator to create images on sexual pleasure

Share-Net Netherlands is the Dutch knowledge platform for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and one of the country hubs of Share-Net International. The KIT Royal Tropical Institute hosts Share-Net Netherlands. It has individual members and organizational members who work in low- and middle-income countries and in the Netherlands on SRHR. Share-Net has several Communities of Practice (CoP).

The CoP Sexual Pleasure is looking for an illustrator to create images to fill in the gaps in existing imagery regarding sexuality and sexual pleasure.

Introduction

The CoP aims to create a content bank to support SRHR professionals and educators to increase their access to visual aids to communicate in their work about sexual pleasure in an open, positive and practical way.

The CoP intends to encourage professionals to start conversations on sexual pleasure by providing visual guidance on how to communicate, inform and educate on sexual pleasure and wellbeing through the assistance of visual content. The content bank will serve to support anyone who wants to promote sexual wellbeing, sexual rights and sexual pleasure.

The CoP has completed an analysis on accessible, available images relating to sex, sexuality and sexual pleasure and seeks to fill the noted content gaps with this commission. Alongside this the CoP has developed guidelines for considerations when drafting imagery on sex, sexuality and sexual pleasure – see attached PPT.

Therefore, we are currently looking for an illustrator who can design/draw/create images on the following topics:

- Oral sex
- Mutual masturbation
- Masturbation with a sex toy
- Post sex cuddling

Image type: As the CoP we are flexible on the formats of the images (sketches, drawings, graphics etc).

The crosscutting criteria that need to be integrated and made visible in the image set as a whole include:

- Diversity: Diverse bodies and the image deck should include diversity along the following parameters; diverse sexuality orientations (heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, pansexual), gender identities (male, female, transgender, non-binary), ages (18-80years), various body types, variety in pubic hair, varying penis/vulva shapes and sizes, skin colour, real bodies (scarring, spots, sagging skin), disability (in a wheel chair, someone using a stairlift, walking with crutches/walking stick).
- Connection, enjoyment and pleasure
- Evidence based (educational in nature)

Support

The illustrator will be supported by experienced CoP member(s) who are available for discussion and support as needed.

How to apply

If you want to apply, please send us an email to charlotte.petty@rnw.org by 16th January 2022, including

- Your rate per drawing/image
- Link to portfolio / website / instagram

We are attaching a PowerPoint with more information on this initiative.

GOING BEYOND BANANAS

Diversifying pleasure

Share-Net
Netherlands

The Knowledge Platform on
Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights



Consultancy project | CoP Pleasure
Joy Dekker | winter 2021



OVERVIEW

- Introduction
- Parameters of pleasure
- Library topics
- Artist commission
- Concluding remarks



INTRODUCTION

In the COP sexual pleasure developed the [Share-Net sexual pleasure checklist](#) to stimulate reflection and spark discussions on how sexual pleasure and wellbeing can be (more) integrated into SRHR programmes.

This document is a next step to support the checklist. We know that images are an important part of sexuality education: it is essential that learners feel that their bodies and sexualities are reflected in the images shown in sexuality education/information. Images are powerful: often we don't miss what we don't see but they do impact the way we inform and experience our (sexual) self.

Sexuality educators may not have the time, energy, and budget to find or develop the rights images for their work. This is why we have started to evaluate and collect sources and images that inspire and tell a pleasure-focused story. The goal of this library is to inspire and provide sex educators and people working in SHRH with accessible and easy platforms to find good sources.

This library is a practical document that shows how sexual pleasure can best be reflected in images. It is created to inspire and support you to use the right and positive images in sexuality education. This library also highlights the gaps in existing images and gives examples of existing ones. It looks particularly at inclusive, diverse, realistic, and evidence-based images. We don't pretend that it is a complete overview of important images to make sexuality education sex-positive and pleasure-focused. We would like to invite you to evaluate and add your sources to the library!

GOING BEYOND BANANAS

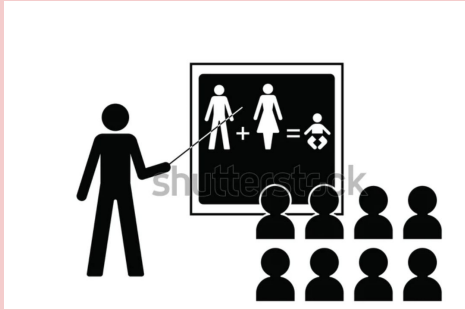
There are two main problems with the images in sexuality education. Firstly, pleasure-focused images hardly exist or are inaccessible. Secondly, many images that do exist on the internet are incomplete, incorrect, or simply problematic. Often images are heteronormative, CIS normative, white, young, and penetration-focused. A short google image or stock photo search will unfortunately still yield very few images of the clitoral complex, many unrealistic and objectified (beheaded) bodies, many funny or infantilizing images, and a lot of smiling fruit in a condom.

That is why this library wants to go beyond bananas.

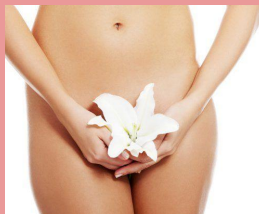
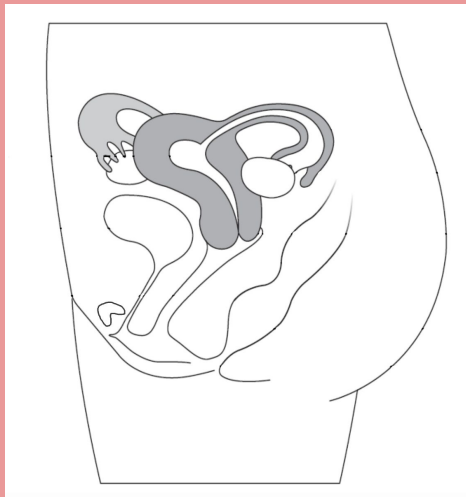
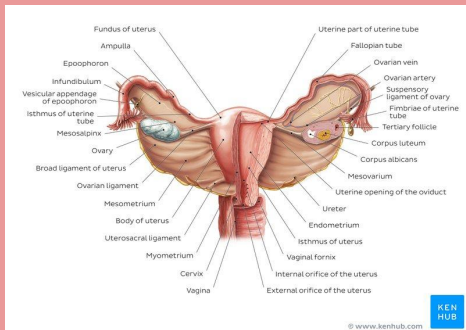
In the current presentation of images we see three types of shortcomings: content, diversity, and practical limitations.

- **Content**-wise many sources lack medical accuracy, are too complex, or are too simplistic. Many photos are risk-focused, and objective body parts.
- **Diversity** is another important area where imagery can be improved, not only with regards to showing diverse people, but also genitals appearance and sexual activity. Ethnicity, body size, age, ability, pregnancy, but also genital diversity in size, appearance, hairstyle, circumcision, menstruation.
- There are also **practical limitations** regarding sexuality education images: poor quality, limited languages, and inaccessibility due to paywalls. We do stress that recognition and payment for images are important; sourcing and paying for creative content is essential. Artists, especially those focusing on diversifying sexual imagery deserve recognition and income for their creative work!

NO GO's



- Fruit/food
- Smileys/'Funny'
- Concealing or vague
- Cut off body parts (no heads)
- Risk focused/scary images
- False information
- Too complex/simple diagrams
- No clitoral diagram
- Solely focus on reproduction
- Solely focus on contraception
- Only heterosexual penetration
- Only young white heterosexual
- Hairless small vulvas
- large penises



PARAMETERS OF PLEASURE

- Realistic
- Sex positive
- Inclusive
- Evidence-based



FRAMEWORK OF PARAMETERS

We have developed four parameters for images of sex and sexuality to ensure the library is pleasure focused. By using parameters we mean the qualities we are looking for in the images. Sexuality education is one of the sites where young people are presented with see real and diverse images. The overall aim of using the parameters is to give guidance of the elements that are needed to ensure the images are sex positive and sex. Most images will not address or include all parameters. However, these parameters can be used as guidelines or as framework - how a 'good', correct and pleasure-focused image could look like.

Images are used in context; they need to fit in your personal goal and style as a facilitator and they need to be right for your audience. The sources included in this library have - according to us - reached a acceptable level in all relevant parameters.

We use the following parameters:

1. Images should be realistic
2. Images should be inclusive
3. Image should be sex positive
4. Images should be evidence based

1. REALISTIC

- Does this source reflect authentic sexual practices and realistic bodies?
- Do these images foster a healthy body image?
- Can the audience identify with these images?

Withs parameter, you check whether the images of bodies and sexual activities give realistic representation. Ensure that sexual activities and bodies are not portrayed as pornographic, degrading or performance focussed. On the other hand, the images should not be too simplistic, concealed, or almost childlike, 'sweet'. Definitely no go's in images are smiley's, fruit, or trying to be too 'funny.'

Although challenging, ideally the images you choose should portray sex and sexual activities as a way to explore sex, fun but messy: figuring 'it' out is for many people part of the journey. This parameter especially focuses on sex images which are often forgotten: masturbation, outercourse (manual and oral sex), anal sex, and sex toys. Other aspect such as lubrication, condoms, a towel, or a toilet roll can be part of realistic sex imagery.

Bodies and genitals are all very different and 'imperfect': have spots, wrinkles, and have different sizes and shapes. An important point is to question whether or not the audience can identify themselves in the images portrayed. The parameter aims to show sex as something you can relate to: a private, pleasurable but everyday activity.

2. SEX POSITIVE

- Is this source pleasure focused and does it portray in a sex-positive way?
- Do these images induce fear about sex?
- Do these images contain people (with heads) connecting?

With this parameter you can check if the imagery is sex-positive. This means that it shows sex as a positive part of our life. So picture that are used to induce fear or are used to only focus on risks don't meet this parameter. Although teaching about safe sex, reproduction is important, you need ensure that it includes pleasure when using images. With regards to consent, next to learning how to say no: how do you say yes? The images should focus on the connection between partners. Strangely enough many images portraying sex, don't often portray people's heads. As if sex only takes place between genitals. It objectifies genitals and sex. Ideally, you want to show images of people enjoying themselves and others and teach about the emotional aspects of sex. This parameter is a good opportunity to check if your sexuality n education is destigmatizing and empowering people. Genuine enjoyment.

3. INCLUSIVE

- Can the audience identify with these images?
- Does this source portray inclusive bodies, genitals, sexual preference, and practices?

This parameter is easy to measure. This parameter is not to portray one image, but diversity should be included in all imagery. Include diversity in images is important for the audience to identify themselves, and create a broader image of what sex can entail. Diversity is a broad term, and images should be diverse both in people, sexual preferences, and sexual activity is shown. Diversity includes gender /ability/sexuality/ethnicity/gender. It also refers to sex positions, and how people are involved are portrayed; who is portrayed as active and passive? In particular, you need to pay attention to genital diversity, as some in the audience might be insecure about this: pubic hair, length, shape, colour, and size of labia and penises - also circumcision. Consider how you want to portray intersex or transgender individuals. Pregnancy, menstruation, linked with sex are important images to add to your sexuality education. Finally: diversity in setting, context, and level of kinkiness can also be included.

4. EVIDENCE-BASED

- Do these sources provide evidence-based information?
- Do these images unnecessarily conceal information?
- Are these images too complex/ too simple for my audience?

In this parameter, we evaluate whether or not the image provides or supports evidence-based information. Evidence-based information is in particular important for anatomical diagrams. Especially with regard to the anatomy of genitalia, including the clitoral complex. It is essential that images are specific, are not hiding any aspect but help to get a good understanding of the body. Flowers, or bananas instead of genitals gives the impression that sex is something to be hidden. When explaining anatomy, not only focus on the reproductive importance but also the science behind lubrication and orgasms. This parameter also tests whether or not your imagery is appropriate for the level of understanding of your audience, as some diagrams are very complex and create confusion rather than an understanding.

HOW TO USE THE DOCUMENT?

The library is divided into 3 broad topics

- Sexual self
- Sex with partner(s)
- Sexual behaviour

We felt that a wide range of topics need a range of diverse and pleasure-focused representation in images. Feel free to use these (source it well!) in your work.

This image library has only started to broaden your horizons of sexual pleasure, we would like to invite you to contribute too!



LIBRARY TOPICS

Sexual self

- Anatomy
- Masturbation
- selfcare

Sex with partner(s)

- manual
- oral sex
- Anal sex

Sexual behavior

- Masturbation
- Period sex
- Physical disability



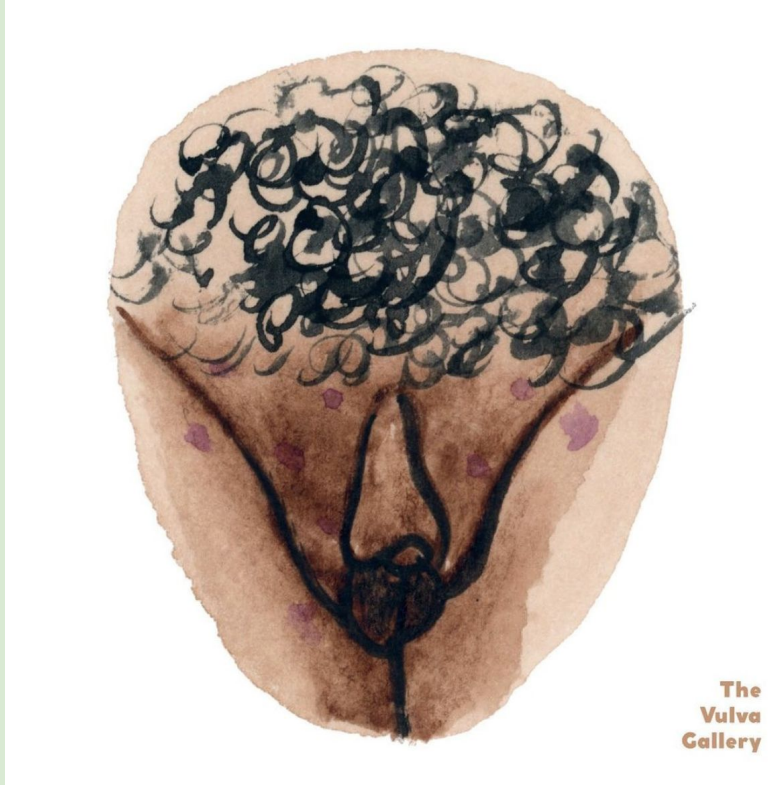


SEXUAL SELF

- Anatomy
- masturbation
- Selfcare/ mental health



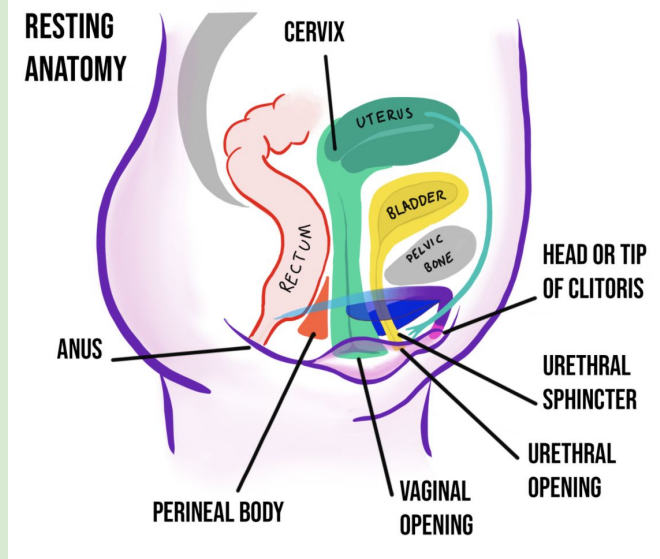
GOOD EXAMPLE | The Vulva Gallery



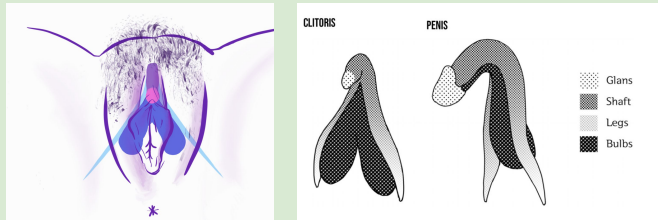
An Instagram account and shop by Hilde Atalanta. They share people's story, alongside their vulva portraits to celebrate vulva diversity. They also provide information regarding sexual health and anatomy. Educational image sets are available in Dutch, German, Spanish, and English. (\$)



✓ GOOD EXAMPLE | Anatomy of female pleasure



This website by Ali Mann and Timi Kosa contains many images and information regarding female anatomy - the clitoral complex. The website contains (interactive) images and how the female body changes during arousal. All information is well-sourced. Unfortunately no information regarding the penis.





GOOD EXAMPLE | Dainis Graveris

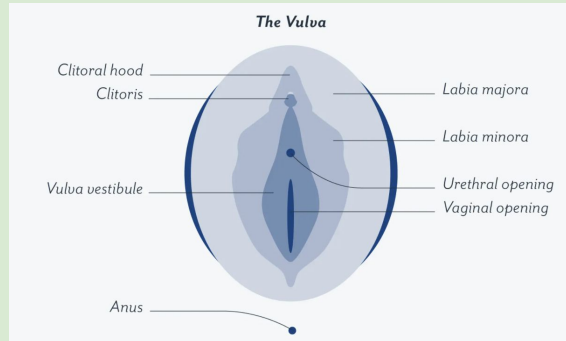
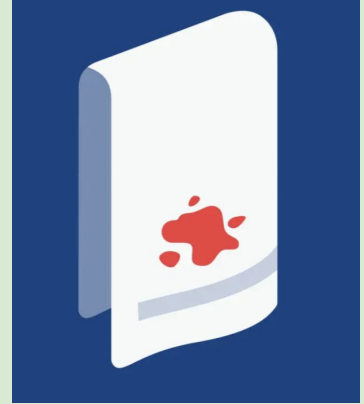
Dainis Graveris has a great selection of free photos at [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com/photos/). Despite the large amount of fruit, there are some good pictures with sextoy. Dainis, based in Latvia, is also a sex educator and owner of [Sexualalpha.com](https://sexualalpha.com/).





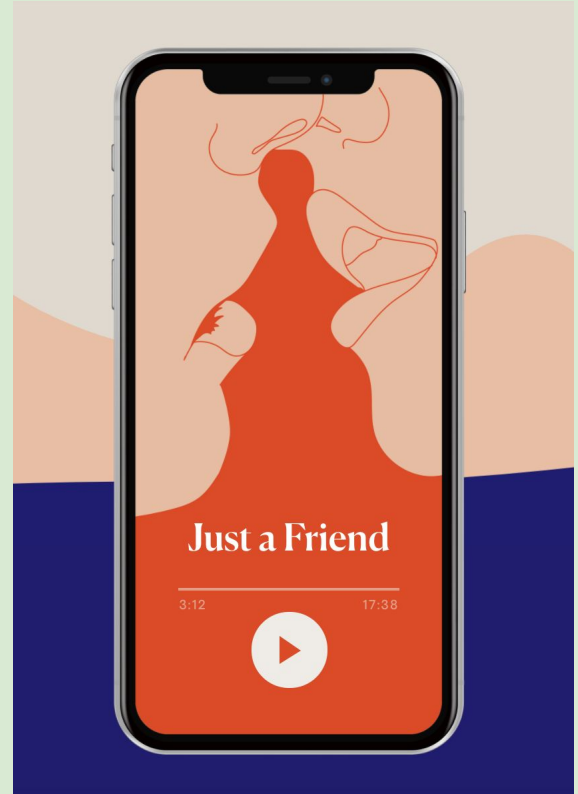
GOOD EXAMPLE | Clue

Clue is a birth control app, but their website also provides an Encyclopedia with well-sourced articles and images about pleasure, self-care anatomy, menstrual and sexual health. Most articles are available in multiple languages.
Illustrations: Marta Pucci & Katrin Friedmann.



✓ GOOD EXAMPLE | Dipsea

This source is not image-based: this app offers sexy audio stories that include all kinds of interests and sexual preferences. The app focuses on sex that is communicative, non performative, and promotes encaustic consent. Stories are set in a different context and feature a variety of kinkiness for your imagination to fill in the picture. (\$)





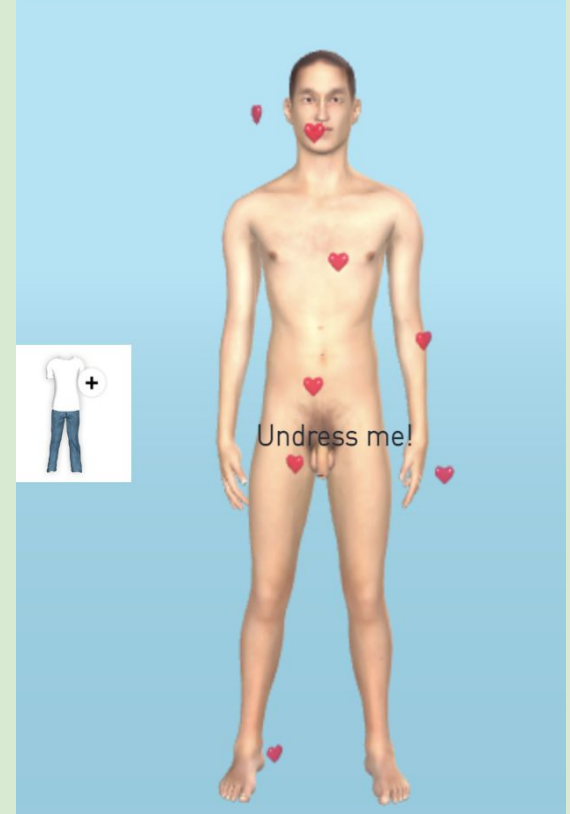
GOOD EXAMPLE | Sense

This Dutch NGO provides information about sex in both Dutch and English. They have an interactive image to learn about erotic zones. Sense also provides many blog articles, a chat service, and an information helpline. Recently Sense published a podcast (Dutch).



SENSE

The Dutch site for all your questions about sex





SEX WITH OTHERS

- manual sex
- oral sex
- Anal sex
- Consent
- Emotional aspect of pleasure



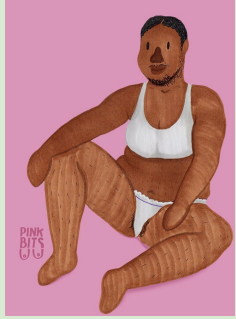
GOOD EXAMPLE | Consent



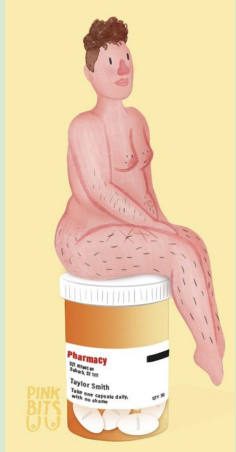
Although Planned Parenthood has surprisingly few images available on their website, they do have a great number of videos. Especially this consent video focuses on pleasure and scores well on the diversity parameter.



GOOD EXAMPLE | PinkBits



The Instagram account @pink_bits creates beautiful imagery of a wide variety of bodies. Physical disability, body hair, and size. Unfortunately, the account does not include many images of penises and men.





GOOD EXAMPLE | Frances Cannon

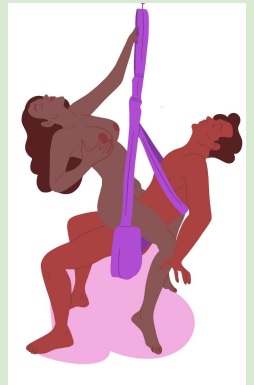
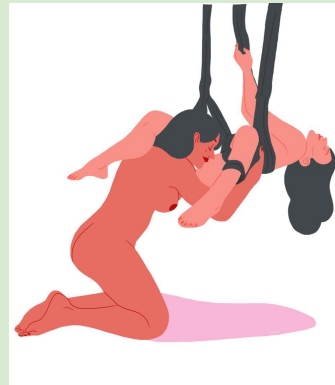
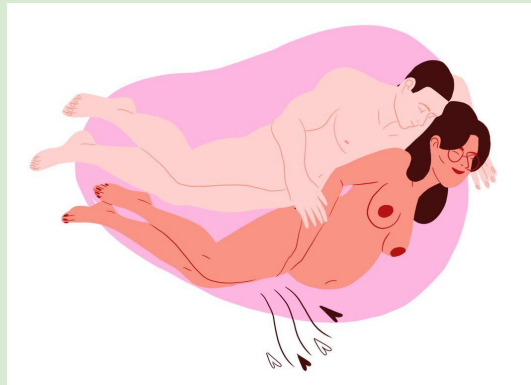
Frances Cannon, Australian based artist (they/them) creates body-positive illustrations, focusing on LGBTQ+, consent, mental health, and self-care. @frances_cannon



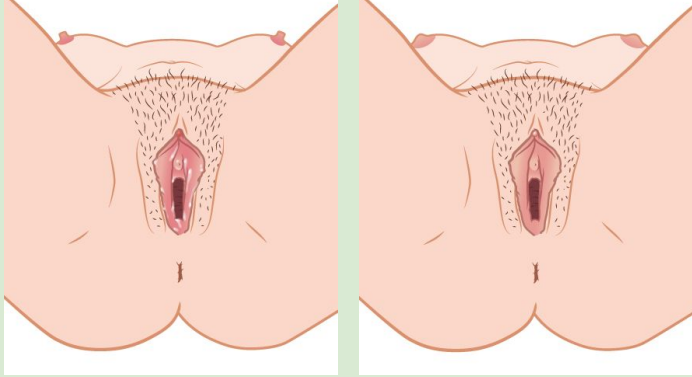


GOOD EXAMPLE | Cosmopolitan

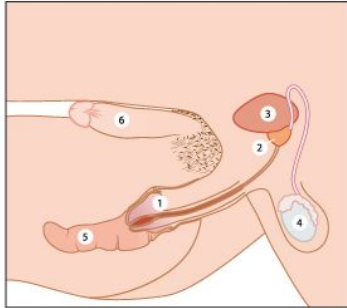
The cosmopolitan has several articles explaining and showing different sex positions. Pregnancy Sex Positions, Period Sex Positions, Lesbian Sex Positions, and different kinky (swing) sex positions. Text by Jill Hamilton and drawing by Lucie Caron @lucymacaroni.



✓ GOOD EXAMPLE | Pharos begrijp je lichaam



Images by the Dutch NGO Pharos include vulvas and penises in different stages as well as forms of penetrative sex. Despite the lack of diversity in skin color, the depiction of anal sex is a good source to add.



✓ GOOD EXAMPLE | The Porn Conversation

The porn conversation is a non-profit initiative by ethical feminist porn producer Erika Lust. This educational tool (3 versions for different ages) covers anatomy, consent, gender expression, identity, and sexual orientation. Of course, there is also a chapter on porn literacy. For now, available in English. Also information for families.

Unfortunately not enough images!





GOOD EXAMPLE | The Pleasure Project

The pleasure project advocates to include sex-positive and pleasure-based approaches in sexual health. They promote this via their pleasure principles. They have developed a trainers toolkit to integrate sexual pleasure in sex education. The toolkit contains different exercises and tips for trainers. Great source, unfortunately no images.





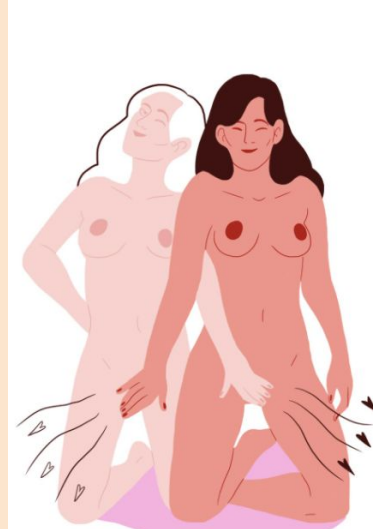
SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

- Mutual masturbation
- Masturbation during heterosexual intercourse
- Menstrual sex
- Oral sex & sex toys
- Physical disability / illness
- Physical disability / age

→ artist commision

MUTUAL MASTRUBATION

- Eye contact during outercourse
- Sextoy or laptop/phone
- Circumsized penis
- Different pubic hair



MASTRUBATION DURING HETEROSEXUAL INTERCOURSE

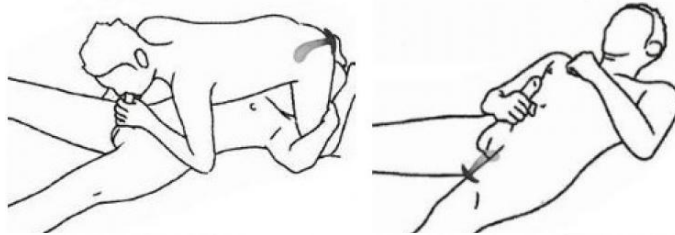
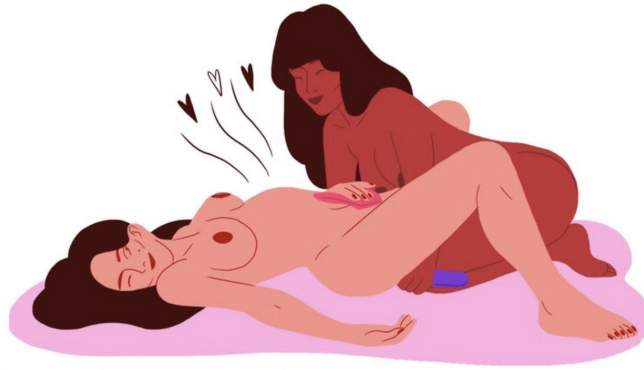


- Women touching herself during penetration.
- Interaction between couple - eye contact.
- Active depiction of women.
- Imperfect skin

→ Showing full head!



T-Kreuz



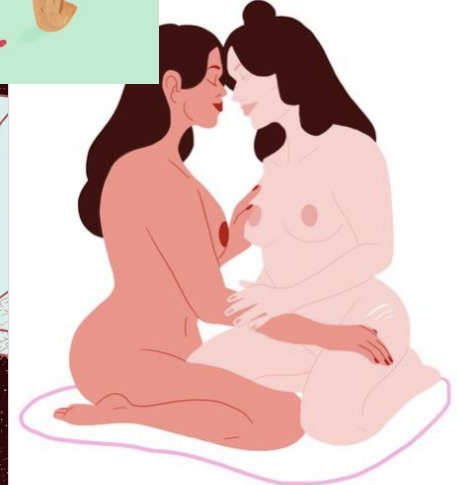
SEXTOYS

ORAL SEX

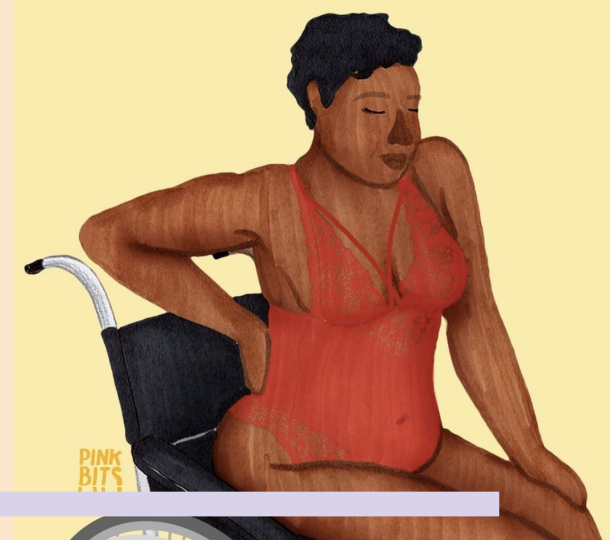
- Combination of both?
- Male on male



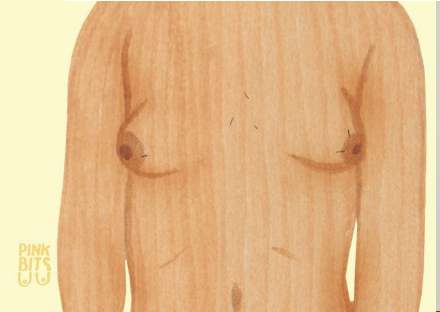
MENSTRUAL SEX



PHYSICAL DISABILITY / ILL



PHYSICAL DISABILITY / AGE



POINTER ARTIST COMMISSION

- Whole people including their heads
- Interaction in the image - people looking at each other (smiling/enjoying)
- Balance between to pornographic and to 'sweet'/childlike.
- Aspect of diversity in every image gender/ethnicity/age/body type/hair.
- Inclusion of transgender

Practical

- In colour
- Free to use for everybody
- Budget
- Esthetics

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Impossible to be all encompassing
- Goal: to inspire sex educators and highlight what is missing
- Artist commission
- Future funding?

Go beyond bananas

Pleasure deserves to be at the centre of sex education





GOOD EXAMPLES | Instagram

ADDITIONAL

@brook_sexpositive

@share_net_jo

@choiceforyouth

@thisisavulva

@sexinscience

@rubyrare

@vagina_museum

MENTIONED

@frances_cannon

@lucymacaroni

@pink_bits

@the.vulva.gallery



GOOD EXAMPLES | Books

- Tomorrow Sex Will Be Good Again - Women and Desire in the Age of Consent | Katherine Angel
- The Wonder Down Under: A User's Guide to the Vagina | Nina Brochmann & Ellen Stokken Dahl