

Artist Statement

Kamila J Gruss

## Daughters of Eve

This artwork, at first glance, exudes sensuality, maintaining the intimate atmosphere of a boudoir. However, as I delve deeper into the details, my attention is captivated by the blue string between my thighs. This unassuming element, instead of accentuating my attractiveness, radically alters the tone, blurring the lines between my sensuality and the raw truth of corporeality.

The string, though subtle, becomes an absolute tool for abruptly stripping me of my sexuality. Transitioning from the vision of my lush beauty to an element of defiance, I strive to defy the expectations of this genre of photography. It's like the contrasting metallic taste of cherries on a delicate cake, evoking unexpected feelings and prompting reflection.

In a historical context, this painting references the ancient celebration of menstruation as a gift, a moment that united women in mysterious rites. Unfortunately, the passage of time and patriarchal - social structures tainted this primal magic, transforming my natural cycle into a taboo. Today, in European culture, menstruation remains shrouded in shame, reinforced by advertisements portraying it as something to be hidden.

This painting not only boldly addresses the topic of my corporeality but also encourages reflection on the historical burden and contemporary taboo associated with menstruation. It is a refined work of art that not only captures my gaze but also raises questions about our societal beliefs and gender constructions.

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