

ARTension: Straight forward with... Laura Méritt!

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SAVVY Contemporary | Richardstraße 43/44 | 12055 Berlin-Neukölln



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A New View of a Woman's Body: An open discussion with Laura Méritt

How much sexual self-determination and self-empowerment is possible for women today? Under what conditions has our knowledge (and ignorance) about "female sexuality" and "the female body" evolved, and how do we personally and politically relate to this knowledge? What is the female prostate? It is within the context of these and other questions that the illustrated handbook *A New View of a Woman's Body* was conceived.

The first edition of *A New View of a Woman's Body* was published in the USA in 1981 by the Federation of Feminist Women's Health Centers, which emerged from the women's movement. Its findings concerning female sexuality and health care options (e.g. with respect to sexual pleasure, contraception, abortion), of a kind that had been repressed during the preceding centuries, caused a sensation. The authors criticized the status quo of male dominance in fields like public health, science, and knowledge production in general. Based on their own empirical studies, notably vaginal self-exams, they revolutionized the view of the female body and made themselves, the women, the subjects of their exploration.

Significant parts of this knowledge still have not found their way into medical or sex guide literature, not to mention school education or media coverage. Moreover, even nowadays, terms for the female sexual complex and its different parts respectively that are both correct and have a positive connotation are scarce. The sources and consequences of these shortcomings will have to be discussed.

Recently, Laura Mérirt has published a comprehensively revised version of the first German edition *Frauenkörper neu gesehen* (1987), supplemented by current topics (e.g. sexual orientations and gender identities, cosmetic genital surgery) – thereby earning a remarkable amount of attention in the media.

At SAVVY Contemporary, Laura Mérirt will not only present the book, but also talk about the political and private relevance of body-embracing, sex-positive feminism.

Dr. Laura Mérirt is a feminist linguist, activist, communication scientist, author and editor. She also runs a weekly salon in Berlin Kreuzberg and the sex-positively and feminist-oriented sex shop *Sexclusivitäten*.



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ARTension is a platform for open and critical discussions on and between scientific, artistic, and other socially relevant positions.
The discussion will be held in German.

Moderation: Ariane Rutz

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