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This is the Worst Thing You Will See Today

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THIS IS THE WORST THING YOU WILL SEE TODAY

Text and Photography by Alicia Pierce

Not the hundreds of advertisements, capitalizing on data collected about you to sell you things you don't need. Not the copious amounts of violence in the media. Not the ever quickening poisoning of the planet. Not the slow suffocation of the public education system following policy change and budget slashing. Not the sensationalization of news and politics. Not the ignorance and intolerance running rampant through your facebook feed, not to mention spilling out of your president's mouth. Not foreign policy in a hundred and forty characters or less. Not the exploitation of resources and people by a select few. Not the immeasurable loss of life in the pursuit of power and wealth.

No.

This.

Nudity.

Society instills in us a belief that nudity is inherently sexual. Modesty is praised. Nudity is shunned. It is seen as inappropriate, pornographic, and obscene. We are taught that a naked body is shameful. It is hidden from the public eye, censored on television, and withheld from the public sphere. A body can be erotic, yes, but it is so much more. A body is a tool, a means of transportation, shelter, and protection. A body is a body, not a scary sexual object.

Not all representations of nudity are pornography and not all nudity is sexual. Censorship of nudity preserves rape culture. In shaming the naked body, we are maintaining the mentality of victim blaming. Any degree of nudity is not a sexual invitation, because a naked body is not inherently sexual. In perpetuating modesty as ideal, people become ashamed of their bodies. They are uncomfortable undressing in front of a doctor, even to the point of harm to their health. It is time to desexualize nudity. Witnessing a naked body will not cause you harm, censoring a naked body will.

Get over your naked self.

We've got far more important things to deal with.