

Rachel Cox

Artist Statement

Over the last year I have been archiving my experiences going through In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF).

I have made repeated photographs of self-administered and partner administered injections. Likewise, I have repurposed ultrasound images of the hormone affects upon my reproductive system, as well as embryos created in the process.

This project at the very outset felt like a unique opportunity to create something which could be shared; a subjective type of documentation that is not only deeply personal, but relatable to the approximately 7.3 million women identifying patients who have received medical care for infertility in the US alone.<sup>1</sup> Visually, I am attempting to subvert a procreation process which feels artificial and lacks sexual connection, with a process that celebrates intimacy and physical connection in a different way. Through vulnerability, sharing, and the act of story-telling, I hope to normalize this experience for myself and bring new visibility to the experiences of women which often go unseen.

The five images submitted depict a portion of the injection protocol required for IVF treatment. Over the course of the last year, I have incurred approximately 250 hormone injections into my body. This repeated disruption of skin becomes routine, the routine itself is logged in charts and calendars existing only in the room in my home where the injections take place. By embossing the prints with phrases frequently used to explain or quantify my infertility, I have inextricably linked the image of myself and the words used to describe my experience by others; each surface cannot be seen independently of the other.

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<sup>1</sup> Dusenbury, Maya. The New York Times: What we Don't Know about IVF. April 16, 2020.