

The Black Glove



dolphin does nothing for me. But I find food very sexy. But real food is often too soft, hard or scratchy to use and the skin of a lot of fruits and vegetables has been treated by chemicals. My professional knowledge combined with my creativity has helped me to create non-toxic, unique personal sex toys. When all my friends loved my creations, I finally decided to turn my hobby into my main profession. I am one of the few female dildo creators in Europe. In ancient Greek times, sex toy makers were revered.

Candida: I was inspired by the idea of creating erotica that appealed to women and reflected our desires and fantasies. I wanted it to be exciting for men as well. There are many men

who do not prefer the standard adult fare one finds everywhere. I wanted couples to be able to enjoy my movies together while also seeing lovemaking that was more egalitarian and men could see what women like.

Maria: It was through my exploration of BDSM that I started translating those experiences into fetish films. My universe is driven by submissive fantasies about the human body being restrained, sensually dominated and punished and she is often presented as beautiful, elegant, sexy and strong.

Emily: When I set up Cliterati, I'd been working in the Internet industry for about seven years and everyone said the web was full of

porn but I couldn't find anything decent for women. That offended my feminist side. The original (short-lived) strapline was 'because women wank, too', but I decided that might be a bit intimidating. I wanted the site to feel safe for women to explore, knowing they wouldn't find anything that was misogynist. I also wanted women to see that other women had erotic fantasies, too, and it's nothing to be ashamed of. Making it text-based meant that we could cater to a wider range of fantasies, and it seemed arrogant to assume that me and the other women who helped me set it up would be able to cater to every fantasy so we opened it up so that anyone could add a fantasy, moderating it to ensure all content was consensual and over age. When *Scarlet* was founded, my editorial team and I decided that it should reflect the way women talk to each other down the pub about sex, when there are no men around; should be anti-diets and non-judgemental about different sexualities, and be funny. Having good sex requires a sense of humour, after all.

the word partner rather than boyfriend as far as possible, so as not to assume all our readers were straight. I also object to the 'mainstream' idea that women need a narrative to get off. Sure, erotic stories are great but, sometimes, just looking at a gorgeous hard cock, attached to an equally gorgeous man — or a beautiful woman with a naughty glint in her eyes — can be just as thrilling. When it comes down to it, female sexuality is complex and so it takes different kinds of material to thrill different women.

Candida: In mainstream porn I miss the sense of connection between the couples rather than mechanical, genital-focused sex. I miss sexual images that are creative, inventive, different than the predictable formulaic 'porno by numbers' fare that one finds in mainstream porn. I would also like to see a variety of people, types of people, ages, sizes, colours. People who are mature and sensual rather than all young, perfect bodied girls who have had all kinds of surgery, and men who appear to be sensitive to their partners needs rather than the brutish

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Forum: What do you miss in mainstream erotic literature, porn and sex toys?

Emily: I think mainstream literature/magazines often assume their readers are passive: they'd never approach a man they fancied, instead having to use coy tactics to seduce him — we've moved on from Jane Austen days, surely? And the assumption that all women are straight is annoying — when we launched *Scarlet* I deliberately asked contributors to use

'rough around the edges' type of guys one finds in most porn.

Anja: Mass-produced toys have been created without love. Women sense this at the first glance. These toys do not fulfil our needs for beauty and sensuality. It is also disappointing when toys are sold and their design does simply not work as its design is not based on women's anatomical shapes. Women want variety. No matter which designs women choose