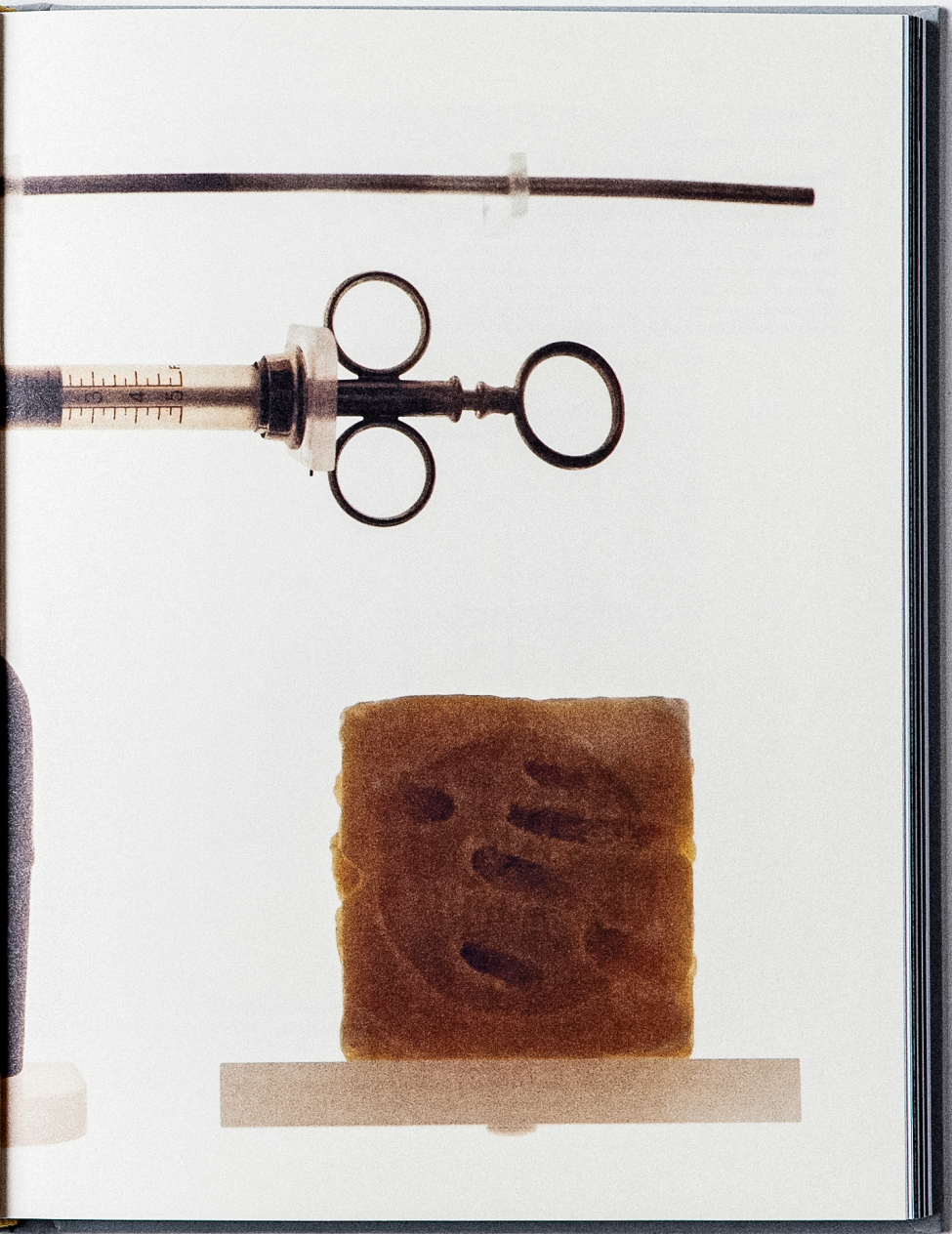


# On Abortion.





# And the Repercussions of Lack of Access







Marta, 29, Poland

"On January 2, 2015, I travelled to Slovakia to have an abortion. I was too scared to take DIY abortion pills alone. What if something went wrong? So I decided to get a surgical abortion in a clinic abroad. I felt upset about borrowing money for the procedure, and lonely and frustrated because I couldn't tell anyone what was happening. The hardest part was facing my boyfriend, who opposes abortion. All the same, I felt stronger and more mature afterwards."





"I got pregnant during Christmas, then had to wait a few weeks before I could make the trip. I was so anxious to avoid the process and save the money that I first tried to end the pregnancy myself. The night before departing, I took a bath in very hot water and swallowed aspirin to induce a miscarriage. I wanted to feel stronger than the law. But I didn't succeed because I was afraid of hurting myself. When I packed for the 15-hour trip, I took only underwear, this nightdress that I hate and €445 to pay for the procedure."



"I was seven weeks pregnant when I finally made the trip. I waited at a gas station in Krakow, and then jumped into a van with two other pregnant girls. We drove about three hours into Sliac, where there's an abortion clinic that welcomes Polish women. I called my (now ex-) boyfriend from the road, and he begged me not to do it. When I mentioned the stuffiness and how packed it was with people, he answered, 'That seems right, murderers should be treated like cattle.'"





therefore we are against  
abortion



even in the case of rape

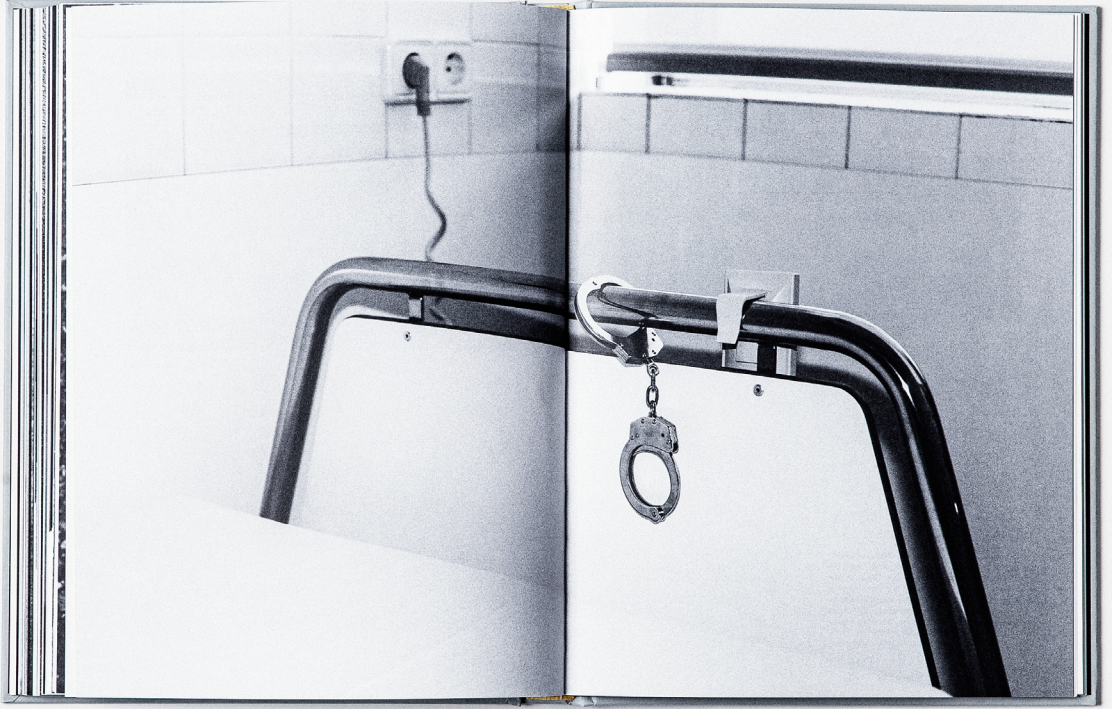


if it's a legitimate rape



the female body has  
ways to try to shut that  
whole thing down







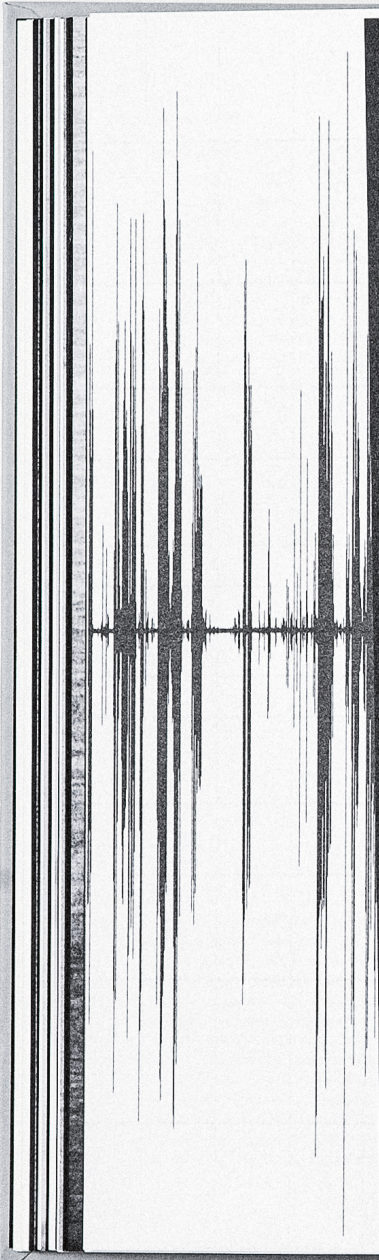
#### VISUAL WAR

Anti-abortion protesters have a long history of confronting women who try to access abortion clinics. Their protest banners range from imagery of innocence to graphic photos of fetuses and dead children, often with false information about the origin of such images. In countries such as the US, Australia, Canada or South Africa, local governments may draw a perimeter around abortion facilities, known as a "buffer zone", "bubble zone", or "access zone", to limit harassment of patients by anti-abortion activists. Pictured: Pixelated image from pro-life sites, comparing a dead foetus to a coin.









“You like killing babies, do  
me? • You like to stab babies  
You like to fucking [...] • I  
• You like to sell parts for  
by my taxpayer money •  
fucking death company  
and sell their dirty parts.  
a disgusting company • You  
disgusting company • So  
like to sell fetal parts for  
babies • Making money  
small creatures that have  
ashamed of yourself • Fuck  
money • You fucking greed  
you like killing babies do  
you • You like to sell de  
outta be ashamed of you



don't you? You like to sell dead parts to  
babies and decapitate them for profit? •  
hey, so you like killing babies don't you?  
a dirty profit • While you get funded  
You ought to be ashamed I saw your  
while you fucking decapitate babies  
That's disgusting what you do • You're  
you're a disgusting corporation • You're a  
you like killing babies, don't you? • You  
dirty profit • Making money off dead  
off babies you killed • Innocent little  
done nothing wrong • You gotta be  
k you • Killing babies for fucking dirty  
ly • Bitch • Greedy sons of bitches • So  
t you? So you like killing babies don't  
d baby parts for a dirty profit • You  
company, fucking greedy psychopath”



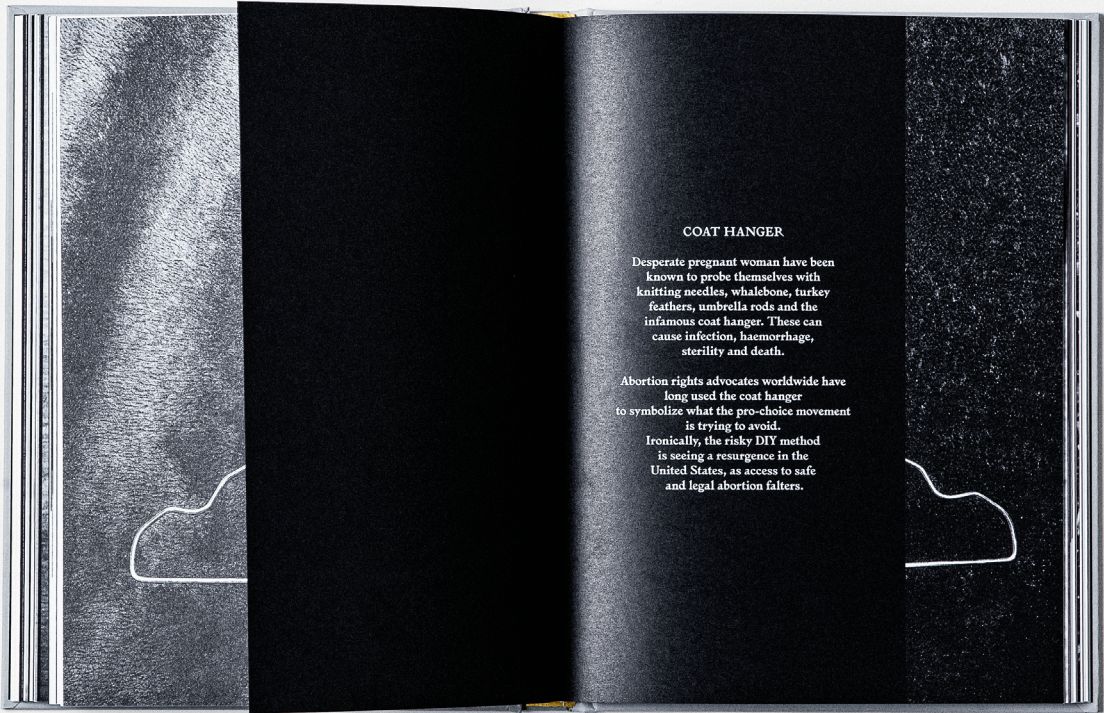
ANNA YOCGA

In September 2015, Anna Yocga attempted to give herself an abortion with a coat hanger in Tennessee, USA. The 31-year-old was 23 weeks pregnant. Worried about her heavy bleeding, Yocga and her boyfriend went to the hospital, where she gave birth to a 1.5 pound newborn. The baby survived and was placed in foster care.

In December 2015, Yocga was charged with attempted murder. The charge was eventually dismissed, but she was charged instead with three counts of felony: aggravated assault with a weapon (the coat hanger), attempted procurement of a miscarriage, and attempted criminal abortion. She pleaded guilty to the second charge in exchange for immediate release from jail.







COAT HANGER

Desperate pregnant woman have been known to probe themselves with knitting needles, whalebone, turkey feathers, umbrella rods and the infamous coat hanger. These can cause infection, haemorrhage, sterility and death.

Abortion rights advocates worldwide have long used the coat hanger to symbolize what the pro-choice movement is trying to avoid.

Ironically, the risky DIY method is seeing a resurgence in the United States, as access to safe and legal abortion falters.



In November 2016, at the request of the author, M. confessed her abortion to a Catholic priest in Bologna, Italy. This is a transcript of their conversation.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

W: Amen

P: When was the last time you confessed?

W: Many years ago.

P: Mmm. (*nods*)

W: Yes, quite a long time.

P: Well, I would like to confess to an abortion I had years ago.

P: Mmm. (*nods*)

W: I know now it's possible to do it.

P: Come on, let's go through the Ten Commandments, we'll find everything there, also all those things that perhaps have not been glories of God. [...] The fifth—Thou shall not kill... This is the one on abortion. Many?

W: Are you asking me how many abortions I had?

P: Yes.

W: One.

P: Well. Then...

W: (*interrupting*) So you say this falls under the commandment that says don't kill?

P: Yes. Yes, because it is a life that has been suppressed. So it is not only for abortion but potentially also for criticism, malicious gossip, slander, lies, in the sense that words cut more than swords. Any criticism, because just to pass time people say anything, and sometimes they don't say good things about others, often they say—

W: No, in general I do not have this kind of attitude.

P: The Sixth Commandment concerns honour and respect for our body and other people's bodies. The man you had relations with—I mean, you had relations outside of marriage?

W: Yes, of course. I have never been married.

P: Is it usual for you to have these kind of relations with others?

W: Well, I had some relationships that lasted a while and then ended.

P: Yes, yes.

W: That is what happened in this case. We did not have any plan to become a family or to get married.

P: Yes, yes.

W: I was very young, so—

P: Also, let's say, not for money?

W: What do you mean?

P: Well, somebody walks the street to earn money, to supplement one's income. (*chuckles*)

W: No, no, no. You mean prostitution?

P: Yes.

W: No, no, no

P: The Ninth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbour's husband. Was this man married?

W: No. I was 20, and he was slightly older. We had a boyfriend-girlfriend kind of relationship.

P: A boyfriend-girlfriend kind of relationship?

W: Yes, it lasted for several years.

P: Ok.

W: And this thing wasn't wanted, it just happened, so—

P: Well, come on, more or less. Besides what happened, I mean the abortion,



