

**Conor Mary Foy**

## **Ass Is The New Pussy**

What I'm about to talk about has been called variously:

Anilingus

Eating ass

Rimming

Tossing the salad

Variations include:

The rusty trombone

There has been such a taboo around most anal sexuality in western culture for a long time, perhaps explaining people's longstanding obsession with it. There are lots of reason for this. Hygiene and health being one. For much of human history people were unable to wash as well or as often as us. My arse is cleaner than any medieval kings, I can say that without a doubt.

Public "Arse Licking" has been a public humiliation and punishment for time immemorial, with it being seriously documented during the thirty years war.

Mozart wrote a detailed joke song called "Leck mic him arsch", described as a "bawdy ode"

Bataille famously wrote *the solar anus*.

Times change, tastes change (if you'll pardon the pun). In the 1990s people ogled large breasts and there were many kind of icons which were representative of this, think Baywatch and Pamela Anderson here. In the 2000s onwards, everything became about the arse (previously the remit of African americans and latin americans).

Oral sex was once reviled. Anal sex is more or less accepted in the mainstream, and we are now coming to a point were eating ass is about to be. A mainstream online magazine in the USA was prompted to quote "Ass is the new pussy culturally", Ha!

Nicki Minaj and rapper Trey Songz have rapped about it (I've never heard of him either, but apparently he's popular). No doubt much of this is driven by easy and free access to pornography.

I guess what I'm kind of interested is that it is still a taboo act (in the heterosexual community at least) which people will be very secretive about, however this seems to be changing.

Whenever I've spoken to my heterosexual friends about it, they've either been intrigued about it, or the more likely reaction has been confessing to it being part of their sexual activities (my gay friends have been surprised that straight people do it). People have broached the topic with me in quite a trepidous secretive way: "do you.....ever do this? With your girlfriend?" testing the waters to see if I think it's weird, waiting to either reply "Oh me neither, it's gross!" to save face or "oh yeah, it's great isn't it?", starting off the secret club of butt-munchers.

In my head I have kind of been imagining a cabal of people who do this, mostly because of my interest in secret societies and transgression.

Inspired by the brown scapular worn by catholics, I made a necklace of ansuses here for everyone at one of James Merrigan's DEEP SEATED conversations that I was invited to with a select few other artists. For an imagined secret society of butt munchers. I guess the only real name for the necklaces

could be "the other brown scapular". The catholics use one brown scapular as a devotional necklace. This is the other secret one. I printed these during daytime hours at an office and laminated them. I work in the public sector. I cut them and punched the holes in a public café, and put the string on a public bus. I remember thinking in the Café "If this had been 25 years ago, I could have been kicked out or arrested". No one even asked me what I was doing

The Triumph Club piece for "standard exhibition" by Davey Moor were printed to order; I timidly broached the topic of the content in the order email "Please don't be worried about the unusual subject matter, this bunting is being printed for an art exhibition", imagining for some reason a family business run by stern calvinists. This is far from what Triumph Club is meant to propose; the proud banners of arcane and utopian exclusive anal cultists.