

Allure > Beauty Reporter



DAILY BEAUTY REPORTER BLOG

The Art of Plastic Surgery?

April 16, 2009



In late March, a New York City gallery called apexart kicked off an exhibition called "I Am Art," consisting of before and after photos and videos of people who have undergone reconstructive and elective plastic surgery (such as the eyelid surgeries shown above) with the aim to show the surgeon as an artist who deals with the most delicate canvas. Cleft palate correction and voluntary nose job displays are fascinating—but the star of a talk at the gallery last night was vaginal rejuvenation.

Virginia Braun, a psychology professor at the University of Auckland in New Zealand and a visiting scholar in sociomedical sciences at Columbia University, spoke about the marketing of the idea that there is one type of good vagina, and the conundrum of Western women choosing genital surgery in a world where female genital mutilation occurs. Statistics that might please her: The American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery recently released their 2008 numbers, and vaginal rejuvenation was down 22.4 percent from 2007.

The "I Am Art" exhibit will be at apexart until May 9th. If you have the stomach for those TLC medical shows (some of the videos get a little graphic), it's worth checking out if you're in New York City.