## **Artist statement**

Ana Espinal

I use photography as a means to explore the everyday lives of women. I make images focusing on topics related to women's issues, such as femininity, beauty standards, and body image. My vision is to create beautiful and provocative photographs and challenge viewers to engage more deeply with my work. I want to convey the hidden reality of the female body, the pain and the imperfections that are not openly talked about and remain invisible.

Color is fundamental to my work, and I experiment with it to express various aspects of femininity. I carefully manipulate the photographs to harness the optimum expressive power of image-making.

"A Part of Me" is an ongoing project I started at the beginning of 2019. This body of work focuses on the beauty of the female body and the importance of the menstrual cycle. Women around the world are frequently compelled to feel embarrassed during their period, and there is a sense of shame associated with sharing their menstrual experiences. My intention in this body of work is to show that menstruation is something natural - a part of the female essence as well as the cycle of life.