



SHAKESPEARE

PROCREATION SONNETS



Transphobia and Radical Feminism

- Robin Morgan targeting Beth Elliott at the West Coast Lesbian Conference (1973)
- Olivia Records
- Mary Daly, *Gyn/Ecology* (1978)
- Janice Raymond, *The Transsexual Empire* (1979)



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Tensions between transness and homosexuality as political identity categories

Emergence of the category of transgender (vs. transsexual, transvestite, street queen, hormone queen)



Trans Monstrosity

mutation - mutilation - deformed - sick -
deluded - alienated - perversion - war with
nature - insult - mutant - outrage - unnatural -
creature - fabrication

What does it mean to have a fabricated body?



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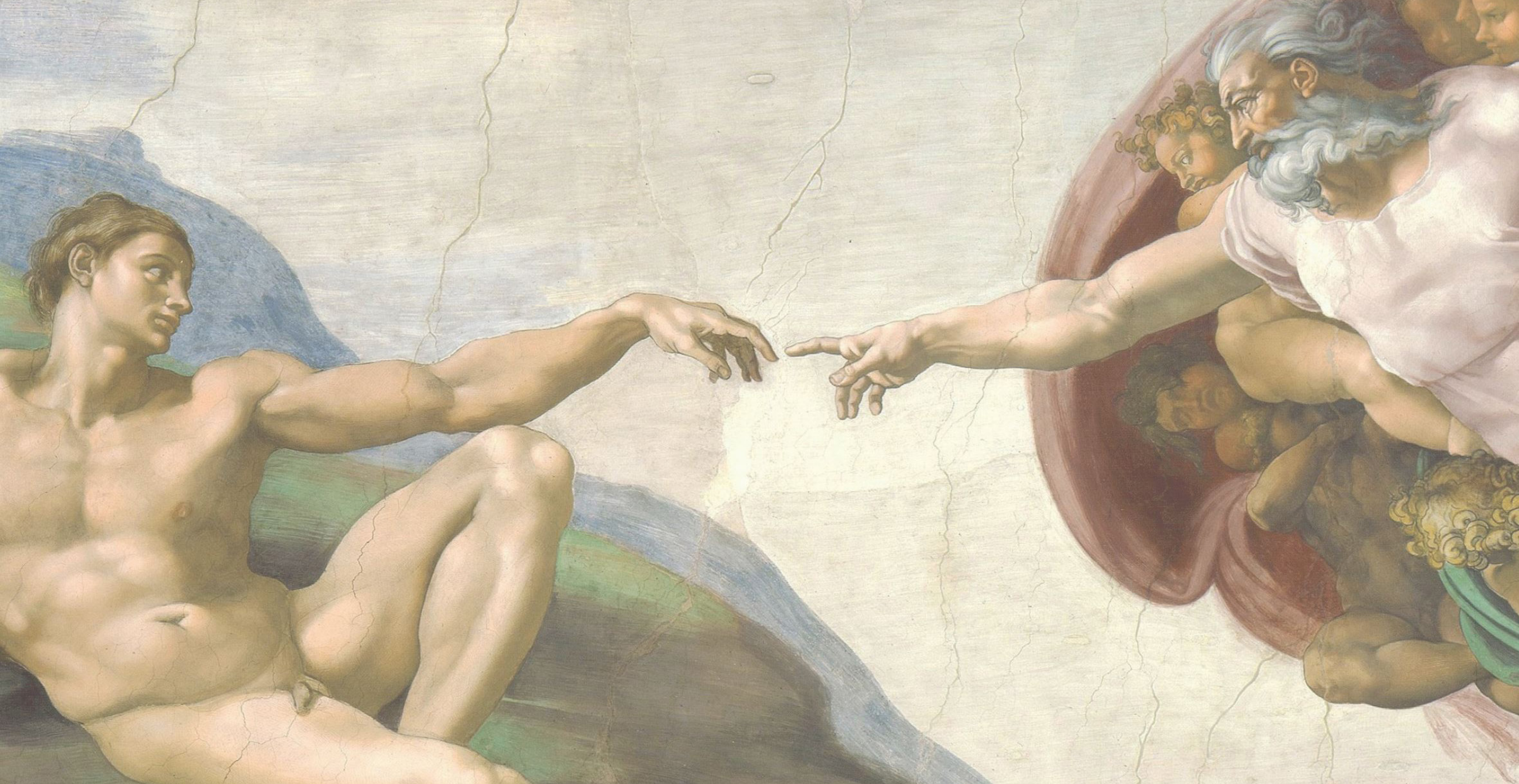
What does “Nature” mean, anyway?

How do we make bodies? What possibilities
for reproduction are available, and what
do they mean (emotionally, politically,
aesthetically?)



Trans Monstrosity

“Transsexual embodiment, like the embodiment of the monster, places its subject in an **unassimilable, antagonistic, queer relationship to a Nature** in which it must nevertheless exist” (242-243).



PROCREATION SONNETS



Shakespeare's Sonnets (1590s)

Francis Meres, *Palladis Tamia, Wit's Treasury* (1598):

“The soul of Ovid lives in melliflous and honey-tongued Shakespeare, witness his *Venus and Adonis*, his *Lucrece*, and his sugared sonnets among his private friends.”



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“Coterie” poems, the queer intimacy of sonnets passed between
“private friends”



Procreation Sonnets

Sonnet 1:

From fairest creatures we desire increase,
That thereby beauty's rose might never die



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Reproduction is a problem requiring management, intervention, creativity

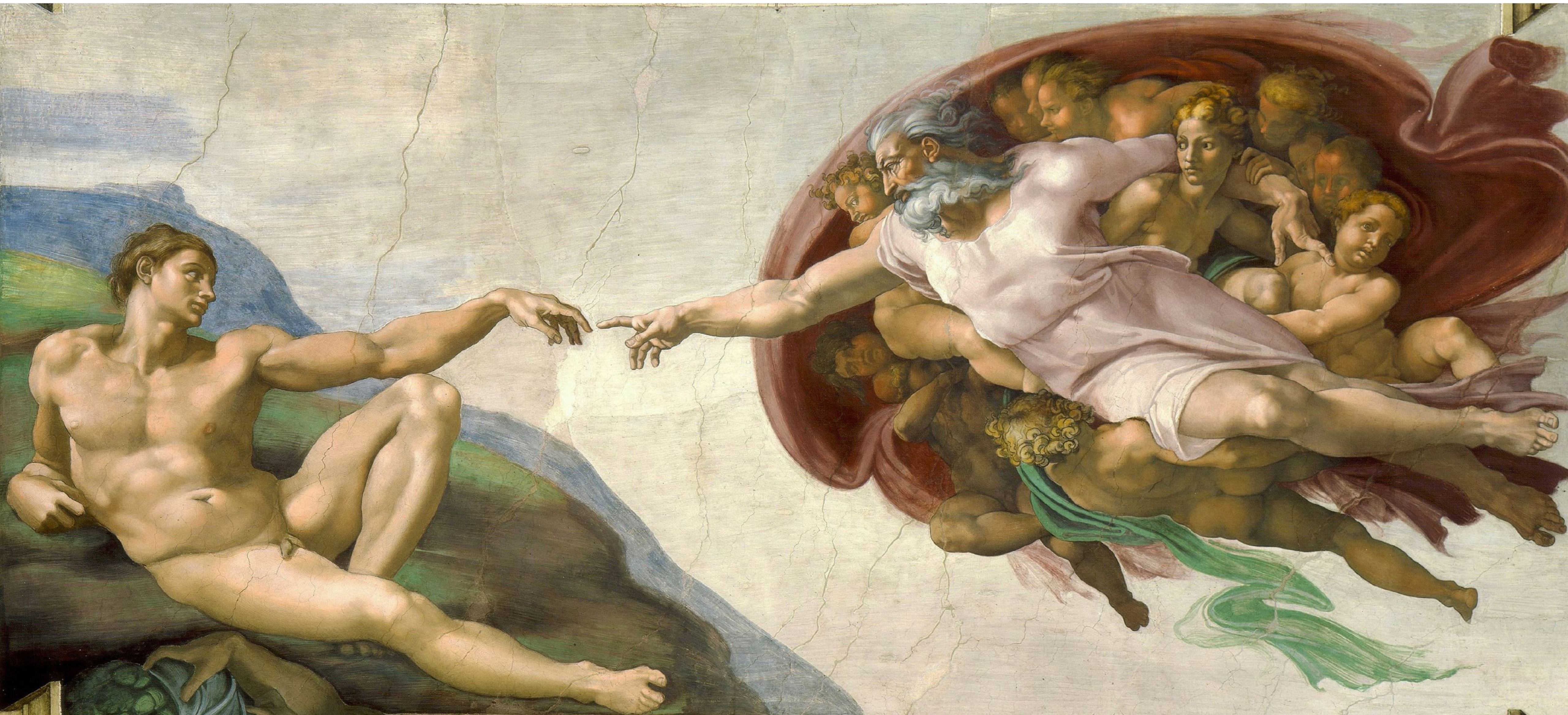




Photo: Sonja Drimmer
Morgan Library MS M876





The Needles Excellence

THE NEEDLES EXCELLENCY
A New Booke wherein are diuers Admirable
Workes wrought with the Needle. Newly inuented and
cut in Copper for the pleasure and profit of the Industrious.

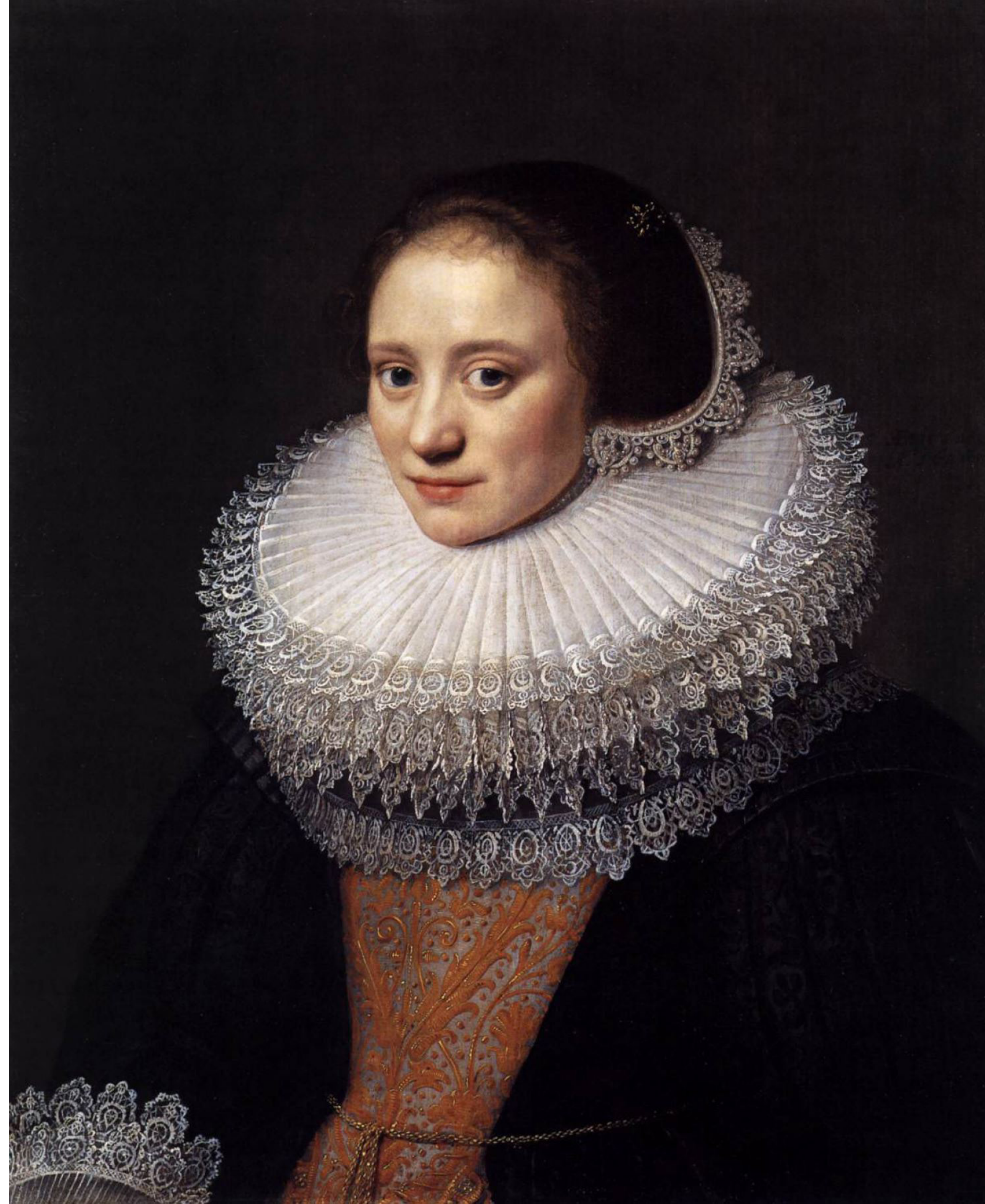


Printed for Iames Baler and are to be sold at the Signe of the Marigold in Paules Church yard.
The 10th Edition enlarged wth diuers newe workes as needle-workes puries & others neuer before printed.

1636



Figure 1. Pieter Van der Borcht. Engraving (c. 1562) of monkeys aping the latest fashion: starching and setting linen ruffs, using “poking-sticks.” © Trustees of the British Museum.





Hier beg soll man spürn vnd mercken: Wie der Teuffel & hutt die Hoffard & Sterckenn





