HOME BIRTH CULTURE

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ABSTRACT

*Home Birth Culture* is a photographic essay that examines women’s reasons for choosing to birth at home. Environmental portraits are combined with audio clips to help tell the story of each subject’s experiences with home birth. This work provides an intimate look at the influences that affect women’s decisions about childbirth, and also how cultural expectations help shape the decisions that women make regarding birthing.

Jennifer Loomis, who works as a maternity and family photographer in Seattle, San Francisco and New York, was interviewed using a semi-structured interview for the professional analysis. Loomis’s work was analyzed and compared to how the media has portrayed the pregnant form over time. The purpose of this analysis is to look at how maternity photography has evolved, and how it has helped shape the views women have about their bodies while pregnant.