

Fake beauty only feels real in "Silicone" Valley

Fake beauty only feels real. With each passing year, our country experiences drastic increases in superficial behavior. We hold ourselves to unrealistic standards of physical appearance as we strive to sculpt our bodies into the perfect silhouette. Though both men and women are subjected to such appalling ideals, the scrutiny of women is held at a much higher degree. It is astonishing that women can be duped into believing their natural physical features are below par. Because of the pressure for perfection that dominates our society, many women turn to extreme measures, such as plastic surgery.

Some of the most common surgeries include nose jobs and tummy tucks, however, boob jobs - or breast augmentations as surgeons call them - are climbing at an exponential rate of popularity. In fact, 329,296 women in the United States received this procedure last year, according to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

A recent article in The Columbus Dispatch noted after a 14-year absence because of multiple lawsuits, silicone breast implants are back on the market. This reestablished availability has women excited and eager to undergo the surgery because patients say it feels more natural than saline, which has been used as a safer alternative.

Not only do silicone implants cost more than saline ones on an average of \$1,000 to \$1,500, but many potential health risks are at play - infection and rupture for starters. Women are also subject to capsular contracture, which is when scar tissue develops around the implant which tightens and squeezes causing breast pain and changes in nipple sensation. The Food and Drug Administration recommends that women who have silicone implants receive a yearly MRI - and additional cost of roughly \$2,000 that insurance companies do not pay for - to check for leakage that cannot easily be detected. How could any of this sound appealing? And to top it all off, you don't even get a lifetime guarantee. "All breast implants break eventually. That's one thing that everyone agrees on," said Diana Zuckerman, president of the National Research Center for Women and Families, according to the Dispatch.

A utopian world is not one in which everyone shares what is perceived as ultimate physical beauty. Rather, it is a world where everyone appreciates the beauty of what comes naturally.

About the Author

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