IN HIS IMAGE

Shawna R. Bolingbrooke
“And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness… So God created man in his own image, in the image of god created be him; Male and female created be them.”
- Genesis 1:26-27

“Behavior is the mirror in which everyone shows their image.”
- Johann Wolfgang Von goethe
Through their methods of worship, women too the concept of “Being in the image of God” into their own hands.
FEMALE SPIRITUALITY
THE IMAGE OF HIS BLOOD
BLOODY CONTRADICTIONS
“Women drew from the traditional notion of the female as physical a special emphasis on their own redemption by a Christ who was supremely physical because supremely human. They sometimes even extrapolated from this to the notion that, in Christ, divinity is to humanity as male is to female." Christ's body, she argues, itself did "womanly things: it bled, it bled food and it gave birth."

Caroline Bynum (excerpt from The visual and the Visionary)
HONEY SWEET DIVINITY, 
TORRENT OF DELIGHTS
THE IMAGE OF HIS BODY
“Rather than God making man in his image, it [was] now the artist who fashion[ed] an image of divinity.”

–Jeffery F. Hamburger
A Veronica image printed on leather and then sewn into a prayer book.
A MAN OF MANY FACES
“And after this I saw with bodily sight in the face of the crucifix that hung before me, on the which I gazed continually, a part of His Passion: despite, spitting and sullyng, and buffeting, and many languoring pains, more than I can tell, and often changing of colour. And one time I saw half the face, beginning at the ear, over-gone with dry blood till it covered to the mid-face. And after that the other half [was] covered on the same wise, the whiles in this [first] part [it vanished] even as it came”
“It was a figure and likeness of our foul deeds' shame that our fair, bright, blessed Lord bare for our sins: it made me to think of the Holy [Veronica] at Rome, which He hath portrayed with His own blessed face when He was in His hard Passion, with steadfast will going to His death, and often changing of colour. Of the brownness and blackness, the ruefulness and wastedness of this Image many marvel how it might be, since that He portrayed it with His blessed Face who is the fairness of heaven, flower of earth, and the fruit of the Maiden's womb. Then how might this Image be so darkening in colour and so far from fair?”
“We know in our Faith, …, that the blessed Trinity made Mankind to His image and to His likeness. In the same manner-wise we know that when man fell so deep and so wretchedly by sin, there was none other help to restore man but through Him that made man. And He that made man for love, by the same love He would restore man to the same bliss, and overpassing; and like as we were like-made to the Trinity in our first making, our Maker would that we should be like Jesus Christ… He would for love and worship of man make Himself as like to man in this deadly life, in our foulness and our wretchedness… it was the image and likeness of our foul black deeds' shame wherein our fair, bright, blessed Lord God was hid. But full certainly I dare say, and we ought to trow it, that so fair a man was never none but He, till what time His fair colour was changed with travail and sorrow and Passion and dying.”
SYMBOLISM OF A TRUER IMAGE
Key Imagery and research:

The Visual and the Visionary - Jeffery F. Hamburger
Nun’s as Artists – Jeffery F. Hamburger
Blood and body, Women’s religious practices – Jenny Tudesko

Supporting images:


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pregnancy_in_art

https://www.pinterest.com/marijkesteenbru/eva-adam/?lp=true

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visitation_(Christianity)