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25,000 Years Of Erotic Freedom



Synopsis

With each new technological advance, pornography has proliferated and degraded in quality. Today, porn is everywhere, but where is it art? 25,000 Years of Erotic Freedom surveys the history of pornography and argues that the success and vibrancy of a society relates to its permissiveness in sexual matters. This history of erotic art brings together some of the most provocative illustrations ever published, showcasing the evolution of pornography over diverse cultures from prehistoric to modern times. Beginning with the Venus of Willendorf, created between 24,000-22,000 bce, and book-ended by contemporary photography, it also contains a timeline covering major erotic works in several cultures. 25,000 Years of Erotic Freedom ably captures the ancient and insuppressible creative drive of the sexual spirit, making this book a treatise on erotic art.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Sexually progressive cultures gave us literature, philosophy, civilization and the rest, while sexually restrictive cultures gave us the Dark Ages and the Holocaust". (Alan Moore)"

Alan Moore lives in Northampton, England, and is most famous for his influential work in comics, including the acclaimed comic books Watchmen, V for Vendetta, and From Hell. In 2006 Alan Moore and Melinda Gebbie released Lost Girls, an illustrated series of erotic art exploring the possible sexual meanings in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Peter Pan, and The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. He lives in Northampton, England. Eva Prinz is a New York-based editor and curator.

This little text is an exceptional piece of art history that throws light on sex as the subject of art as opposed to the ascetic approach taken by so many art books. Alan Moore is an exceptional writer of comics (up in there in the pantheon.) It turns out he is not unschooled in the history of art and this book is a genuine work of scholarship and an astute analysis of the status of pornography in our world today. There is a panel in "Watchmen" where Ozymandias is sitting in his secret base with a whole wall of televisions analyzing what it is that the world watches and points out that there are even sexual innuendos in commercials for children's candy bars now. This sort of over-saturation of sexuality in our modern world where sex itself is prohibited reinforces a cycle of guilt, Moore argues. So in a sense, this book is a plea for sanity and tolerance in the way we think about sex. The difference Moore notes between erotica and pornography is usually the amount of money the purchaser makes. So pornography should be restored to its proper place as art and not relegated to some marginal standard-less cellar. Moore diligently chronicles the prejudices exacted on erotic expression in art (mainly since the 19th century, which is why I give the book a 4) with humor and style. Reading the book is great experience, it challenges many assumptions about what is considered acceptable and what is not. If you have read Moore's work before than this is an excellent supplement to his work, it is also wonderful in its own right if you're interested in art, sex, or both.

Alan Moore, a latter day libertine and brilliant author takes an iconoclastic view of pornography in this essay. I recommend it but it is neither a scholarly work nor a collection of erotica. Rather, it is one very intelligent man making the case for a serious reexamination of porn.

25,000 Years of Erotic Freedom is an unedited and expanded hard cover binding of an essay that Alan Moore wrote for "Arthur" Magazine during the publication of his erotic graphic novel masterpiece the Lost Girls. The book is a light survey of humanities' obsession with sex since the dawn of time to present day, illustrated with many full page panels of titillating art and the masterful prose of Moore. Like the Lost Girls, 25,000 years of Erotic Freedom does not seek to overtly glorify "pornography" or taboo subjects, but merely brings them to light and exposes the fact that we are more drawn to that which we publicly object to than we willingly admit. Moore explores our double-sided viewpoint on all things erotic, at once trying to sweep it under the carpet while secretly pilfering guilty glances while no one else is looking; and analysis the effect that such a suppressive attitude has had on sexuality and culture in general. A wonderful read for anyone who is tired of feeling guilty for wanting to explore all that sexuality has to offer in a culture that practically buries us

under mountains of sexual suggestion while slapping our wrists for getting excited.

well done

This slim book is an expanded form of a piece Moore wrote for the counter-cultural free magazine ARTHUR a few years back. It's a great tour of the history of erotic/pornographic art, ideas, human attitudes towards such. It is not scholarly, but Moore simply riffing is a real treat: insightful, amusing, informative and thought provoking.

good book

25,000 Years of Erotic Freedom has some interesting insights, but it does not provide anywhere near enough detail to make a persuasive argument. It goes through a huge amount of history in less than ninety pages (really less than fifty when you consider the amount of photographs in the book), leading to paragraph long overviews of major figures such as the Marquis de Sade. This leads to a great deal of over simplification. Furthermore, the book is poorly organized, with pictures just distributed willy-nilly throughout, with no real relationship to the text. For example, a discussion of nineteenth-century erotic art is accompanied by pictures of fourteenth-century paintings. 25,000 Years of Erotic Freedom is at its best when it examines erotic artists in some depth, as it does with the author of The Yellow Books. Furthermore, it has some interesting arguments about the role of pornography in society, providing an all too necessary counterbalance to the arguments of religious and feminist fanatics. However, these arguments would have held more weight if they had been strengthened with more detail.

As the author of THE MAGIC HOUSE, I am interested in any book with a title like 25, 000 Years of Erotic Freedom. If not a must read, this is certainly a book I want to at least browse through. As it turned out I did more than browse and found some antecedents (some known, some unknown) to my own work. I don't need genius in every book I read, but this book has flashes of it. On the down side, it could be better organized and many aspects of our fascination with eroticism are overlooked or treated superficially. Still, this is a good book.

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