

# EROTIC MANIFESTO

Why erotica? Why erotic art? Why EROTIC PHOTOART?

For Sigmund Freud (1856 - 1939), the Austrian neurologist and founder of the psychoanalytic school of psychiatry, the life drive, the libido or eros, the desire for survival, propagation and sex was the most important motivating force in life.

And Richard Holloway, former Bishop of Edinburgh, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, former Gresham Professor of Divinity, says in his book *Between the Monster and the Saint*: "The fuck is as fundamental as the fight." (o.k., he says it the other way around, in a different context; same thing, though.)

So, is sex important? You bet it is. What shall we do about it? Well, one of two things: We may ignore our sex drive and do nothing about it, we may even go so far as to suppressing it - many more people do than one would think; for many reasons, probably mostly religious - or we revel in it. I do the latter. I like sex; always have, always will.

I am a follower of tantra: Guiltless sex. Not sex for procreation, where women are relegated to being reproduction facilities, but sex for pleasure, sex as an expression of one's self. This is sacred sex ... sex without shame, embarrassment or regret (sacred as opposed to religious ... with all its blame, disgrace and sinfulness), sex that is celebrated, talked about, written about, depicted ... sex that is not taboo.

Erotic Photoart is sexy, sensual, artistic and adventurous; furthermore, it also tests the boundaries between erotic and pornographic. One definition for pornography is: Anything that turns you on. By that definition my work is pornographic. But the most accepted, most common-place definition is: Pornography is offensive, derogatory, demeaning, tacky, rude, vulgar, devoid of taste. Then my work is not pornographic. But you'll have to make up your own mind.

When I look at my work I am aware of its voyeuristic nature. Tantra acknowledges that we view the nude body with desire and thus gain satisfaction ... and in the process indeed become voyeurs. This is an aspect of our nature Erotic Photoart caters for ... unashamedly so.

I adore eros, the god of love and desire. Eros, according to Greek philosopher Plato, is the creative force that inspires art, literature and sciences. Hence Erotic Photoart ... explicitly on the quest for the celebration of beauty and our sex drive.