

Sex Show

penetrating the sex industry through a group show

21 august - 25 september 2004
(Preview event 21 august 6-8pm)

The lotus gallery is frankly delighted to present the 'sex show', a mixed media exhibition of works inspired by the sex industry. The show aims to open a discussion of the emotional positives and negatives involved in this industry - primarily from sex workers' points of view. The artists have been selected either because their work has been inspired by the sex industry or because they are, or were, sex workers. Much of the work is highly personal and reveals the vulnerability and risks of sex work, as well as including 'pornographic' images, which challenge our sexuality, sense of morality and willingness to judge others.

Using painting, photography, sculpture and video, the artists have all contributed to exposing a highly visual and emotive subject matter, one that affects many of us through the increasingly explicit use of sex in advertising and the emergence of sex shops on the high street and lap dancing clubs in every city. Sex is sold equally successfully in both poverty and luxury, across cultures and classes, and as 'the oldest profession' continues to flourish, the 'sex show' invites us to consider our misconceptions and fantasies about this prevalent but secretive world.

As a former sex worker, curating this show has been a means of exorcising some tired old ghosts and celebrating the honesty and courage of those who are prepared to expose their own lives for the sake of educating and informing an often misinformed and salacious public.

Contributors are:

Photography - Sarah Ainslie / Allen Ng / Julie Cook / Doris Kloster / Steve DT / Martina O'Loughlin / painting Colette Standish / Susan Hippe / Mike Steadtext 'Lara' / Tami

mixed media/textiles - Dom Wilson / Daniel Lehan / Fig / Alke Schmidt / Michal Cole

ceramics - Joanna Davies

video - Joseph Joy

Carrie Dare - Director