

By PAM NOLES
The Desert Sun

One of the most erotic things I've ever seen was a short film that featured a man peeling an orange.

There was something about the texture of the orange skin, the curve of his fingers as he began to peel.

"It's not so much what it is, as what you think it is," Hayes said. "It's the mind that creates erotica."

Hayes gave high marks to the paintings, furniture, photographs and mixed-media at the erotic art show. Although some pieces were questionable in terms of execution and quality, others were treated with finesse.

"There is a vast range here," she said. "Some of it is there because of the subject matter, but some of it is truly evocative."

Hayes has spent most of her adult life in the art world but never had attended a show designed around erotic art.

"It's not the sex alone that makes an erotic work succeed," she said. Erotica, like any art, must call forth something out of the viewer if it is to work, she said.

"That's why a series of body-part castings I saw in her eyes. It seemed to be a presentation of bits, rather than an evocation of a whole, she said.

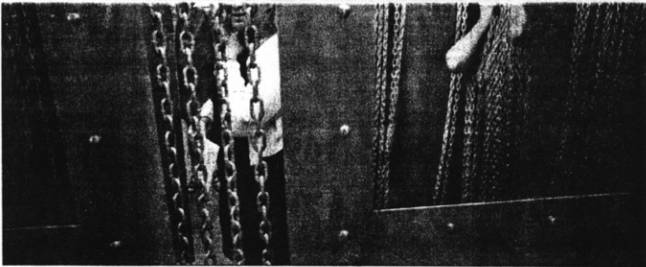
But Hayes felt a bronze sculpture of a man's neck and open to the cosmos was stunning. It hinted at passion and was simple in execution, she said.

Impressive, too, was a series of photo montages that combined human models, inanimate objects, paint and light.

"It's taking the human body in its simplest form and presenting it," she said. "These are beautiful. I would have these in my home."

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—Terrie Hayes



Don MacMullan/The Desert Sun
Dan MacMullan/The Desert Sun
Exhibition on Thursday in Palm Springs. Hayes was part of a Desert Sun panel who reviewed the show.

Desert Sun panel rates erotic art

'A' not 'XXX'

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Surprised critics give good grades to diversity, quality of Palm Springs show

By PAM NOLES
The Desert Sun

Three artists invited by the Desert Sun to critique the Seventh Annual Sensual & Erotic Art Exhibition in Palm Springs wouldn't have been surprised to see a bit of vulgarity and a touch of titillation.

But Terrie Hayes, Michele Maggiora and Bob Silva left an advance viewing of the 170 works impressed by the range and quality

of the exhibition at the convention center.

In short, don't believe the hype, the artists said.

"I would say there was a good amount in there that went beyond shocking, that evoked feelings in me as a work of art," said Maggiora, a Thousand Palms artist who teaches art in prisons. "In art, I really feel if you don't give it all away, it wants you to go into it. It isn't enough to have shock value. Shock value you get over quick."

The art show was part of a sex convention that organizers said

started as a First Amendment stand against censorship.

John Hoffman, curator of the exhibit, said the event is a growing venue where erotic and mainstream artists can showcase their work. Word also has spread among people who enjoy the art.

"Erotica is something a lot of artists do, but they don't have a venue for display," Hoffman said. "We've grown, and that really validates us. This truly is a quality show and it's a show people want to see."

Works at the convention include painting, sculpture, photography, computer-generated art, mixed media, furniture and a 17th-century book containing 70 watercol-

ors considered shocking during Puritan times.

Works were created by an eclectic collection of 38 artists from around the world. They included French sculptor Karin Sweldin; Cathryn Ward, former member of the '60s rock group The Bangles; and Sandra Chang, a comic book artist.

Jack Lambie, an Anaheim sculptor who specializes in erotica, said he enjoys the genre.

"The human body is the most challenging of things to sculpt," he said.

"There aren't many out there doing good erotica. I love to do it. It gets your juices flowing. I like sending these beautiful curves"

Show proves erotica is more than body parts

By PAM NOLES
The Desert Sun

In his long career in the arts, Bob Silva has seen the sex expressed in many forms, and he appreciates them all.

"So-called erotic art has been there since the beginning—cave paintings, Picasso, whatever," he said. "You can't go into a museum without finding something to offend someone."

"But subject matter alone is the last thing. Art is art. If it's well done, I don't believe you're unaware of the eroticism of the image. To separate erotic art and mainstream art is ludicrous."

Silva was one of three artists invited by The Desert Sun to critique the Seventh Annual Sensual & Erotic Art Exhibition in Palm Springs.

A cheapened erotic art show would have revealed itself quickly, Silva said. Art would have pandered to

CRITIC NO. 1



Name: Bob Silva
Home: Palm Desert
Occupation: Artist at ArTeach, an educational group

"So-called erotic art has been there since the beginning—cave paintings, Picasso, whatever."

—Bob Silva

works at the Palm Springs exhibit weren't just about body parts, Silva said. He particularly liked a 10-inch high bronze statue of a kneeling female that not only used its space well, but also hinted at ancient fertility rites and evoked a yearning for life.

Silva said he was pleased by the range of works. He was glad to see furniture, sculpture, mixed-media and illustrations share space with photographs and paintings.

The historical introduction to erotica mounted near the front of the exhibit show was informative, he said.

People who have heard but not seen the art show would have expected an exhibition of much lower quality, he said.

"Overall, it was an excellent show," he said. "I would have paid to see the show and I would have been satisfied. The variety made the show."

vulgar and mundane tastes; it would be cluttered with objects that make no attempt to go beyond the flesh to the soul.

But a majority of the

Diversity, humor, intelligence merit praise

By PAM NOLES
The Desert Sun

Quality art goes beyond the mere presentation of an image. It is an expression of viewpoint, a truth too easily lost when it comes to erotic art, said local artist Michele Maggiora.

Erotica that does little more than present tweaked, mainstream images of sex is trash, she said.

Much to Maggiora's surprise, a lot of what is displayed at the Palm Springs Convention Center this weekend is art, she said.

"I think the man who put the show together tried to pull from different qualities to show different erotic art from different eyes," Maggiora said. "I'm actually slightly more impressed than I thought I would be."

Works that are avant-

CRITIC NO. 2



Name: Michele Maggiora
Home: Thousand Palms
Occupation: Art teacher

"I think the man who put the show together tried to pull from different qualities to show different erotic art from different eyes."

—Michele Maggiora

garde in message and meaning, that go beyond pushing the easy buttons of protest, are art, she said.

Maggiora said curator Jerry Hoffman did a good job of presenting a range of viewpoints in such a small space. The meaning of erotic was presented through the eyes of creators straight and gay, male and female, she said.

The variety of the objects demonstrated how eroticism can be captured in many ways. be it with piece of furniture or a painting, she said. And enough works

related a sense of whimsy and humor that's needed for art, just as it is needed for life.

The subject and execution of some items were poor, and they obviously were included because they dealt with sex, she said.

But overall, the exhibit was top-notch, she said. "It was interesting going to undermine a person's morality," she said. "They don't have to walk through the door."