

R E C L A I M I N G O U R S E L V E S :
A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE OF PORNOGRAPHY

DEFINITION

Pornography is the ideological basis for the systematic persecution of women by men as a means of social control. Pornography is the indoctrination that routinely portrays women and children in violent and degrading situations for the purpose of sexual stimulation. It presents female sexuality as defined by men. Through this process, women are taught to objectify themselves for the sexual pleasure of men, as well as for their own fulfillment.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP/PRESENTATION

- 1) To analyze pornography from a feminist perspective ie. the subject of Demography is male power and control over women, not sex.
- 2) To educate women about the hatred of women expressed in pornography.
- 3) To increase understanding of the destructive consequences of these images.
- 4) To put an end to all portrayals of women and children being bound, raped, tortured, killed or degraded for sexual stimulation or pleasure.
- 5) To reclaim-redefine women's sexuality.
- 6) Tactics and strategies.
- 7) To establish, for women, the right to the same human dignity that is now verbally afforded to other oppressed classes such as Indians, Blacks and Jews.

METHOD

We want to make clear the connections that exist between the objectification of women as shown in sexist advertising, magazines, movies, etc. through to its logical conclusion: hard core pornography, as exemplified by snuff movies where women are tortured and dismembered for the purposes of male titillation. This workshop is being presented to women because it is an important issue for us to understand and deal with. We need to teach ourselves before we can begin to teach others. We have not covered up the genital areas because we want the full impact of these images to be understood by women. Some of the images that you will see are extremely offensive and may shock you. However, all of these slides have been taken from readily available publications. Keep in mind that Playboy outsells TIME magazine.

The following definitions may be useful to you for clarification purposes.

despotic: having the characteristics of a despot i.e.: a person exercising power abusively, oppressively or tyrannically,

euphemisms: auspicious, the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant.

feminist: a woman who has rejected the oppression of a patriarchal system and who has chosen to commit her energies, time and emotions primarily towards furthering her own and other women's well-being.

genocide: the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political or cultural group.

ideological: the process whereby the formation, selection, legitimization and reproduction of ideas takes place.

infibulation: the sewing together of the labia majora after the scraping away of the clitoris, labia minora and sometimes all external Genitalia. Infibulation is practised on girls (ages 4 to 8) in parts of Africa. The purpose is to have visible proof that the girl is "intact" when given to a man in marriage. . •

integral: essential to completeness; lacking nothing essential.

protagonist: the leader of a cause.

quasi: having some resemblance usually by possession of certain attributes.

reciprocity: a mutual exchange of privileges.

sado-masochism: deriving of pleasure from the infliction of physical or mental pain on others.

sentient: responsive to or conscious of sense impressions.

titillation: pleasantly stimulating or exciting.

voyeristic: one obtaining sexual gratification from seeing sex organs and sexual acts.

orifice: an opening through which something may pass.

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A lot of talk concerned with how to approach it - From top- ie-Safeway or base-ie-producers censorship