

Opinions/Editorial

Get porn out of windows

It's one thing to watch someone fondle themselves in the privacy of your own living room, but when these images are on display in the front window of your neighbourhood art gallery, people aren't just going to raise their eyebrows.

Certainly, claims can be made about whether this is legitimate art, but that isn't the point here. This erotic photography displaying full nudity has no place in a very public street-side window.

La Petite Mort Gallery is renowned for its controversial exhibits — its name translates to "little death," the French term for orgasm — but its latest exhibit has crossed the line.

Festival X is intended to show controversial photography that gleans varied public reactions. This is the case of the window display by photographer Lynne Anderson, who has also exhibited collections of road kill and transgendered men.

It's not the merit of art that had the community up in arms, but the location.

The gallery is along a school bus route, so as children travel back and forth each day, they get an eyeful of the sort of images that wouldn't be shown on television before midnight.

The compromise between police and the gallery owner was to partially cover the images with the red dots used to mark sold pieces inside the gallery — hardly effective as the stickers cover the bare minimum and don't take away from the image's impact. The photos need to be removed entirely.

It's true that art for art's sake needs to be respected, especially in a culturally-diverse city like Ottawa, and there is no reason that this art should be disdained.

La Petite Mort should be more considerate of its community when arranging its exhibits.

The art itself definitely has a place in the gallery, but erotica shouldn't be made into a featured public display. □