

# DISPATCH

SPRING 2006

TOM OF FINLAND  
FOUNDATION

Winners Of The  
Emerging Erotic  
Artist Contest

Countdown  
to the  
New York City  
Erotic Art Fair  
Weekend  
&  
"Coming of Age"

**IMAGE OF THE YEAR**



## The Greats Come Together In New York City

TIME PASSING... Looking at the photo of Tom, Wally Wallace — manager of the Mineshaft, and Dom Orejudos — the artist Etienne, brings up memories of times past — for my own life, for gay history and the systematic deconstruction of a community and a lifestyle that appears, soon, will no longer be in existence. Not unlike the dinosaurs, or the Neanderthal man, gay culture, as we have known it, seems to be on its way to the files of social anthropologists.

It was fall of 1978 and by all definitions the underground scene of New York was alive and thriving. I had arranged an exhibition of Tom of Finland's and Etienne's artwork at a very underground space in the village. The space was run by one of the *heavies* of the NY leather community — that's *heavy* in the masochist sense — Louie Weingarten. Louie was a real mover and shaker in New York. He was a classic composer — dark and foreboding — yet seemingly able to always have a laugh to lighten his own somber moods. Yes, Louie was a truly righteous leatherman in my books. He mentored me, geared me up in his leathers, and *quaalude-ed* this unsophisticated dude up so that I became the terror of the Eagles Nest on the night of their yearly contest. Grabbing guys — pulling them up onto the stage — beating them up — licking my boots — head locks to induce mandatory armpit inhalation.

Yep, I won the contest and got a photo shoot with Target Studios. That was with Lou Thomas of Target who also owned the famous Paradise Garage. It was at Lou's that I met Dom (aka Etienne) who became my best friend and fuck buddy for years. It was Dom who gave me Tom's address in Finland and so — the three of us came together. Louie opened his gallery on a side street in the village next to a Chinese laundry. He had his used boot shop upfront and then through those unpretentious curtains you stepped into his *salon des artes*. The name he picked for this establishment was "STOMPERS". These two great artistic marvels — and they were the Greats — creatively and personality wise. Generous, humble and just loads of fun. I had the good fortune of having these two geniuses in my life for many years.

So here we are — a space totally without pretense — yet so very *kool*. This is at a time when *Women's Wear Daily* was writing about the live fist-fucking shows they had stopped in on during cocktail hour at The Anvil — or was it at J's? Someone will straighten me out on that one...

Well, it was time to head out to JFK airport to pick up Tom, who was flying in from Finland, just in time to be swept into the City to attend his opening at STOMPERS with Etienne. This was the first exhibition that I had arranged for both of them and 'cause of Louie — it was in the center of the universe back then — New York City. Louie and his friends, Dom and myself — we — all of us — wanted to make it real special for Tom so we arranged for a contingent of leather clad motorcycle guys from the neighborhood bars to escort a borrowed Lincoln town car back into the City carrying The Man of the Leather Underworld.

Well, Tom stepped through the doors of customs in his typical Finnish travel-wear — gray dress slacks, tweed sports jacket, a sport-golfing-type cap and scarf to match. I opened the rear door of the town car — and being so worried that he was late — yet really he was just New York style *fashionably* late — he didn't notice all the fanfare 'til we were five minutes into the drive. He looked through the front seat, the dashboard and the skyline of New York was being framed on both sides by his men leading the procession into the City by night. Tom saw that the chauffeur was dressed in a leather cap, shirt and gloves and out in front were two — four — six motorcycles flanking the town car with their riders geared up in black leathers with the city lights glistening as the backdrop.

Tom's knee-high black dress boots were revealed under his dress slacks. Out of his satchel came his leather jodhpurs and his motorcycle jacket. He hurriedly pulled



Left to right: Tom of Finland; Wally, of New York's Mineshaft; and Etienne, an artist that needs no introduction together in 1978. New York City continues to be a hotbed for art!

clothes off and slid clothes on — all the while he dangled a cigarette from his lips and gulped his favorite drink — a G & T — while being delivered into the bowels of the inner city to the waiting throng of fans and personalities at the newest underground art spot.

The evening just kept getting better and more special for Tom as he entered the crowded storefront filled with party-goers welcoming him. There was Dom, of course, who was the One that was responsible for introducing me to Tom — so now I was arranging exhibitions for both of them. Oh yes, Mapplethorpe was there and Warhol too, but to be honest back then I wouldn't of known it 'cause I didn't even know who they were — being an unsophisticated hoser from Alberta.

That evening filled with chattering, smoking, drinking, and yes, selling art — moved its way from the gallery to deep into the trenches of the meat-packing district to the Mineshaft. Tom, Etienne and I stomped up the endless flight of rickety wooden stairs to the waiting doorman who had a reputation for telling guys to beat it if they didn't meet his standards. He also was known for pulling out a pair of boots or jeans to lend to some sexy stud who had mistakenly shown up to this depraved social establishment in non-dress-code attire. Well Colin, his name, was all smiles to be meeting the legend — the man responsible for transforming so much of the gay scene from colognes and ascots to jack boots and bulging crotches. Tom and I, of course, did some venturing down into the pit — the asshole of the club — to feast on rising orgasms coming here and there.

Anyone who knows Finns can testify to the simple fact that once they really get into serious drinking they have no interest in stopping unless it's absolutely mandatory. It was good that the City had bars open into the wee hours of the morning.

Oh, you are wondering where the two of us laid our heads that night. It was almost a cold water flat — The Hotel Chelsea — a room with a radiator that had no circulation in its veins, the paint job baby blue with drip marks going in all directions, broken dresser drawers to match a sagging spring bed and a shower that sprinkled out spurts down onto our shivering bodies.

But damn it — we stayed at the legendary Hotel Chelsea. Now that Tom's work resides in the MoMA, I think it only seems fitting that the hotel should put "Tom of Finland Slept Here" along side some of the other greats of



Photo © 2006 A. J. Epstein

STOMPERS in New York City

the twentieth century (who hopefully also fornicated within those walls).

So there's a teaspoon of some gay history. We have been the ones — the special ones — who have been the leaders in the arts, style, fashion, trends and *edge*. Yes, the cutting *edge*. Wake up. We are about to lose it. The plan of Big Brother — I'm talking about the manipulators of western culture — is to see *Gaydom* disappear. They would like nothing better than to have us blend in with mainstream culture. They are removing all vestiges of our identity and separateness — leaving us to meet at Starbucks, dine at some chain, shop at the Gap and drink at a bar that is owned, operated and in line with the Central Office of Performance!

We need to keep who we are, alive — to pass on our history, to share the tales. Why? So they can be recreated, redesigned by our younger ones just coming of age. Don't let what we are pass away. Mentor, introduce, share, guide, preserve who we are: where we have gone, and are going.

The visual erotic arts do just that — they tell the stories of our most pure, yet basest desires, urges and cravings. They evoke that which wasn't taught, but felt. We have now *come* of age — arriving at adulthood.

The Foundation is 21 years old as a nonprofit 501(c)(3). We are marking this very special occasion and time of passing over into a new era. In our development from here on, we, and those who support us, must be quicker, smarter and wiser. To all of you who read this — do whatever it takes to preserve the culture of who we are, by making sure you support the future of this cultural institution — the Tom of Finland Foundation — as it represents aspects of who, what, and where you are and have traveled in your lifetime. — Hey, I think I might book a room at the "Chelsea" when I'm there for the ToFF Erotic Art Fair Weekend in May....

— Durk Dehner

**On our cover:** The Image of the Year 2006 was selected by our Board to represent the Foundation in our promotional materials during 2006. Created by Tom of Finland, this graphite working drawing is one of a number of his studies available for purchase.

**Commanders, Campaigns, Contributions and Commitment**

So very many interesting topics to cover that I hardly know where to begin. You've seen the cover. That's the newest "Image of the Year" that was unveiled, introduced, what-have-you, at the very interesting Commanders' Dinner we recently had honoring those who've contributed \$250 and up to the Foundation. There's now a black marble mini-monument (a pillar? a stele? NOT an obelisk) that will have plaques affixed that bear the names of those generous \$2,500 donors who wish to become life-time members here at ToFF. But there are, as always, in the case of non-profit organizations, a boatload of other causes that you can steer your money towards, especially the "Capital Campaign" which was also rolled out at the "Commanders Dinner".

We've got this goal of raising \$500,000 and so far we're edged past \$100,000, thanks to our ever-helpful supporters (there's a list on page 5 explaining the allocated amounts). Speaking of that, after the "Commanders Dinner" there was a benefit event held at the Gauntlet II (now rebaptized Eagle L.A.) hosted by those magnificent creatures, "The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence" with proceeds going to the ToFF. There was an art auction involved and one of my truly beautiful original drawings, *It's Mine!*, went for a song. A trifle. But I'm not bitter.

Anyway, The good Sisters raised over \$6,000 for the ToFF at this thing, and half of that is slated for the "Capital Campaign" fund. Just a notice here — if you are involved in a group or organization that would like to put together some kind of fundraising effort for the ToFF, please contact us about any way we might be able to facilitate and encourage the venture. Can the *Square-Dancing Gay Bowlers of Omaha* possibly raise more than the Sisters? We shall see! To tell you the truth I recently proposed that we have "ToFF chapter houses" wherever a group of intelligent, innovative, creative and erotic art-appreciating people

gather and have fundraising wars. Everyone looked at me askance. So help me prove that you folks are invested enough in our cultural heritage to get it together. I'd love to get smug about being right. Ha-ha!

So we have Tom's "Image of the Year" which bizarrely (coincidentally?) reflects the current "Brokeback" fascination and is indeed lovely, but make sure you check out the image on the new passports we've made up. It's sweet. It's one of those Tom scenes that just gets some

wicked salivating to occur. You don't know what the passports are? Come on, people. It's the little card that you use to sign up to become a "Seamen" (I always giggle at that, sorry) or a "Recruit" or a "Commander" and a whole assortment of other titles that denote your financial level of participation. I really like these little pocket-sized inducements and frequently yank one out of my jacket to jump-start a conversation with somebody humpable when I'm hanging out in a bar, or a park, or a bar. Ha-ha!!!

Seriously, you'd be surprised how passionately some guys regard the erotic art that has touched their lives in some way. And a conversation about Gay art is always more informative than the usual biographical spiel we've all heard way too many times. Think about it. Good Gravy. What else did I want to tell you guys? Hmm... the renovations of the office at the ToFF are nearly complete. We'll be so much more efficient now that we can serve you and the cause even better. Many thanks to those who made this possible. Also wanted to mention that the Foundation President, Dan Berkowitz, just pledged money to outfit the library — one of the bedrooms is being converted into a study/research center — in honor of longtime member and volunteer Ed Lambek. Some of you who have attended our events might vividly recall some of his bartending and doorkeeping skills. I've heard stories. The new "Calendar of Events" is here somewhere. If any of you want to put on an event we can list it on the website and the regular e-news. (Sign up NOW!)

A bunch of us just got back from San Diego's "Leather Pride" celebrations where the crowning ceremony — where Mr. San Diego Leather was anointed — partially benefitted the ToFF. Great City. Great Party. Wonderful People. Many thanks to the heart-stoppingly beautiful Graylin Thornton who along with the charming Tom Dickerson organized one of the smoothest, most entertaining and impressive events I have ever attended. And I've been to some real doozies.

Okay. That's a wrap. I'm the current "AIR" (Artist in Residence) so you can contact me through the official ToFF website if you've got sumpin' to say. XXX

— Michael Kirwan



**Partnership**

This past Sunday was an archive session and I had the pleasure of spending time with the longest serving volunteer (more than 16 years) for the Foundation. He, at a vigorous 82, told me how impressed he was with the dedication, determination and focus that he ascribed to my developing and nurturing the growth of the Foundation over these many years. In fact, 2006 marks the Foundation's 21st year as a nonprofit 501(c)(3). I don't always view my own contribution to the existence of the Foundation with the steadfastness and clarity that this treasured volunteer, Don Watson, does — yet if you take it down to the bare facts — they do stand on their own.

Now in the second half of my 50s, I look for ways to distance myself from the day-to-day operations in an effort to seek out more partners interested and willing to take on the task of preserving this cultural gem that has ridden the edge of Western culture for the past two decades. We must secure the financial wherewithal to continue our work. The programs and services that we offer can carry the ideals of the Foundation into the next century. The documentation and promotion of the visual arts, dealing with human sexuality from a cultural sense, is our primary purpose. Making sure these images are valued and available for the future is our vocation.

It is time to start giving some serious consideration to the idea of a permanent physical structure to house and display the artwork, contain the administrative offices, and provide a space where artists can be nurtured and mentored. A building from which we can educate the general population about the artistic expression of desire, while at the same time archiving, cataloguing, and presenting both old and new images dealing with an erotic theme. I have tried my best to bring this dream to fruition, to honor the promise that I made to Tom 20 years ago, and to establish an atmosphere of respect for erotic art in our culture. It sometimes seems like I still haven't done enough, and there is so much more to accomplish. I need and want you all to be my partners in this endeavor.

We, now more than ever, need cultural facilities that can guide, lead and mentor the younger generations that seek, and reach out for, understanding that is not provided, or available from, the mainstream culture. I was fortunate to be aware and find those who could assist me in traveling down the road I ventured. David Goodstein, the wall street whiz kid who turned The Advocate into the first national gay newsmagazine — he opened the door, paved the way, enabled the gay subculture to connect and coalesce as never before and then, sadly to say, he was virtually dismissed from our social conscience. So then what can be done? I must unearth partners who feel strongly about

this cause enough to bequeath part, or all, of their estates to the Foundation so we can keep this important work going forward.

Those wonderful, magical moments that most of us have experienced in our lifetimes as a direct result of being exposed to the kind of art that touched us deeply — that is what we need to honor and preserve. If we aren't interested enough to share our history, our legacies, and our own iconic artwork with the young people that will follow in our footsteps, then we invalidate all that we have stood for in this life.

One of the unique advantages that we can confer onto gay youth is allowing them access to graphic depictions of their own sexuality. Knowing yourself is key to succeeding in life, and becoming familiar with the works of erotic artists like Tom of Finland, Rex, Harry Bush, Olivia, Drub, and the Hun, for example, acquaints the younger gay population with the sensibilities and background that will enable them to better understand the world and their place in it. Let's not let this treasured knowledge slip away or be casually discarded as the culture becomes more homogenized, more general and tepid. Those in power want to control every aspect of the distribution of information, therefore we must all be willing to fight for our heritage and our particular clan — our tribe — our group's identity.

I never thought that my drag queen friend Darren or my leather jacketed "big brother" Bobby, or David Goodstein would stand out so clearly as being such important mentors. Tom of Finland and his art spoke to me when I was 26 and I never looked back. We need heroes and messengers. Support the arts. Support the Foundation. Join me.

— Durk Dehner

**THE TOM OF FINLAND FOUNDATION'S**

**Capital Campaign**

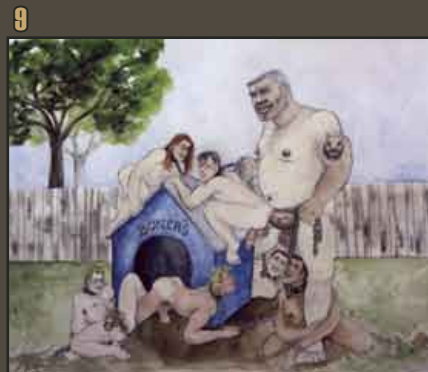
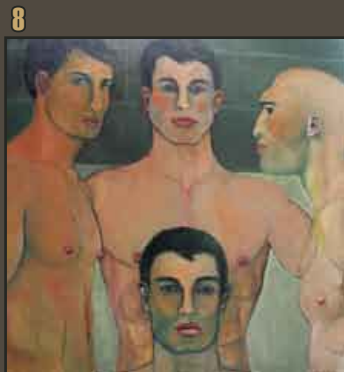
Goal: \$500,000.00  
Amount Raised To Date: \$106,000.00

**Primary Projects:**

- Rebuild front porch of Headquarters •
- Construct a climate controlled art storage bunker •
- Create library and art viewing salon •
- Perform garden and exterior upgrades to house •
- Retire the mortgage on the property •

# Winners Of The Emerging Erotic Artist Contest 2005

## Grand Prize Winner: 1



#1) 1st Place Single Figure (and Grand Prize): *Alone in Giovanni's Room*, by **voz\_cierto**, New York, USA, Acrylic on canvas, 14" x 15"; #2) 1st Place Dual Figure: *Wolf and Cub*, by **voz\_cierto**, New York, USA, Acrylic on canvas, 12" x 16"; #3) 2nd Place Single: untitled, by **Mark Reed**, Missouri, USA, Pastel on strathmore, 18" x 24"; #4) 3rd Place Single Figure: *David: Turning*, by **Shauna Angel Blue**, Illinois, USA, Silver Gelatin Print, 8" x 10"; #5) 2nd Place Fantasy: *The Birth of Lust*, by **Red**, Georgia, USA, Acrylic on board, 20.5" x 30"; #6) 3rd Place Fantasy: *Voyeur*, by **Leo Vincent**, Massachusetts, USA, Mixed ink & stains on glass / layered 3D / shadow box style, 18" x 15"; #7) 3rd Place Dual: *Free Fall*, by **Mike Carcel**, Pennsylvania, USA, Pen & Ink, 11" x 14"; #8) 3rd Place Winner Fantasy: *Boys at Play*, by **Rodrigo Zuniga**, Texas, USA, Oil on canvas, 40" x 60"; #9) 1st Place Fantasy: *The Dog House*, by **Ewynn**, Texas, USA, Graphite and Watercolor, 18" x 24"; #10) 2nd Place Multiple: untitled, by **Aaron Stone**, New York, USA, Oil pastel, colored pencil, ink, 18" x 24"; #11) 1st Place Fantasy: *Wet*, by **Jose L. De Juan**, California, USA, Oil on Canvas, 18" x 24"; #12) 2nd Place Dual: *Fallen*, by **Joel**, Oregon, USA, Acrylic, 16" x 20".

**INSIGHT INTO THE ARTIST:** Our grand prize winner, **voz\_cierto** — who will be exhibiting at the New York Erotic Art Fair Weekend — is interviewed by Michael Kirwan.

*Has winning this contest (and so spectacularly, I might add) changed the way you see yourself as an artist?*

Thank you Michael. Actually I do, I feel somewhat legit now.

*Do you regard your finished pieces in a different light since the competition? Yes, now I see them as having marketability.*

*Are you producing art that is more or less sexually explicit as a result of the recognition by the ToFF? I would have to say the work is sexually enticing rather than explicit.*

*What do you imagine that you bring to the arena of erotic art that may not have been there before?*

If I could bring anything to the arena of erotic art it would be a salacious sophistication. As much as I enjoy looking at artwork that is very explicit, that is the type of art I don't want to create. As a gay artist, I myself would not want imagery which is hardcore hanging on my walls. And also I think there are like minded collectors out there who want work which does reflect their sexual proclivities, but done in a more refined manner.

*Do you see a particular relationship between homosexuality and the arts?*

There are a lot of us in the arts aren't there? But I can't say if there is a relationship between the two... I'd really have to think about that one.

*Do your own artistic creations give you an erection?*

They do, but not in the sense one may expect.

*Are there any other artists whose work has excited you in that way?*

Gengorah Tagame.

*What would be your dream project in the erotic arts realm?*

In general, it would be great to have a loyal following of patrons/collectors who would commission me regularly.

*Why do you think the culture of this country equates any representations of male nudity with pornography?*

I don't think our society necessarily equates male nudity with pornography but with homosexuality. For some the two are possibly synonymous. We live in a male dominated society, and as such men are not meant to be objectified.

*Is there another artist living or dead, that you would like to have discussed art with?*

Caravaggio and Rafael Cauduro.

Every two years, the Foundation makes a special effort to encourage artists to share their erotic work and to elevate the field of erotic art by rewarding some of the best current examples. The contest is open internationally to any artist with the exception of previous winners of the contest, or artists who are already selling their erotic work.

## Unofficial Ambassadors

I was born in Finland and have really enjoyed the past 16 years living here in the United States and being a self-appointed representative for my homeland. The Tom of Finland Foundation has utilized me for translating some of Tom's letters and his early Finnish cartoon strips that had *colorful* text. They have also had me represent them at different events as a spokesperson. I really like it that I get to be an "ambassador" for my country as Tom has been, yet Tom continues to be the ambassador for Finland through his artwork and his name.

Tom's foundation here in Los Angeles does so much public relations for our country. They are regularly providing information on our history and character as a people. The Foundation is our best promoter.

Being Finnish has its own pluses like I get to enjoy being called one of "Tom's Men" by people when they know I'm from Finland. I do get somewhat sad in that I didn't get to meet him — nonetheless his artwork has given me very healthy and sexy attitudes for my life.

Minun mielestäni meidän pitäisi pitää huolta siitä että tulevaisuuden sukupolvet voivat myöskin nauttia Tomin taiteesta, ja olisi hyvä jos Tomin Foundation voisi saada myöskin Suomalaisia yrityksiä, yhtiöiden ja hallituksen tukemusta.

- Peter Karjalainen



The Consulate General of Finland in New York has been an enthusiastic ongoing sponsor of our New York Erotic Art Fair Weekend and we gratefully thank them for their generosity and participation.

There is to be an exhibition of Tom's work that has never been seen before. It will be staged at The Helsinki City Art Museum and scheduled to open on Midsummer's Eve June 21, 2006. The motorcycle club MSC Finland, which was Tom's home club, is assisting in the search within Finland for possible lost and forgotten pieces by the internationally known artist. The Foundation welcomes everyone's involvement and support.

The Foundation will mount its own exhibition of 21 original drawings from our Permanent Collection that have never been shown in New York City. Join us at the Charles Cowles Gallery at the *Coming of Age* fundraiser on May 17, 2006 (see back cover for details).

Although the ToFF was on the Internet back in 1996, we are just now digitizing Tom's body of work. It is an enormous project. Future exhibitions will be curated by viewing digital images, thus preventing the overhandling of works from our Permanent Collection.

## Wake Up!

Fundamentalists setting fires because artists dared to depict Mohammed in cartoons... the attorney general covering up a classic sculpture of Justice because she had a bare titty... new, stringent laws curtailing the types of images artists can exhibit on their websites... Jeez, what's going on?

Freedom of expression is under attack, and not just in the banana republics of this world. The wave of conservatism which swept across the United States in recent years, coupled with an increase in religious zealotry, has brought pressure to bear on all of us to conform to more rigid norms of "respectability." And in this post 9/11 world, if someone doesn't subscribe to "wholesome" values, who knows what he or she might be capable of?!

Well, some of us are mad as hell, and we're not going to take it anymore! We're talking about our basic rights concerning what we can and can't look at, and those rights are being eroded. So regard this as a Call to Arms.

But what I can do, you say?

Well, first of all, don't be a wuss. Stand up for your rights, proudly proclaim you're a lover of erotica, and you believe sexually-charged art is a pleasure to behold, not something dirty and degenerate.

Second, support the Foundation, which has been a driving force — some would say *the* driving force — in preserving, protecting, and promoting the world's erotic art since 1984. If you're not a member, join! Memberships range from "Starving Artist" at \$25 per year to Lifetime Member at \$2,500 — whatever your finances, there's a membership for you! If you're already a member, consider bumping up a level. Our members are the backbone of the Foundation — you are our ambassadors to the world, our first line of defense against the forces who would dictate to us what we can see.

Become a volunteer. True, most of our ongoing programs and events happen in either Los Angeles or New York, but no matter where you live, you can help. Preach the message of the Foundation — that erotic art is a treasure, worthy of protecting, preserving, and promoting. Introduce your friends and associates to the Foundation, and encourage them to join. Sponsor an event in your hometown, whether an intimate gathering at your home or half a dozen friends, or a huge beer bust at a bar. The more we can spread the word about the Foundation — and bring in much-needed funds to continue our work — the better.

Speaking of funds, consider contributing to the current Capital Campaign. Those of you who've visited Foundation HQ — the house where Tom lived and worked most of his last years — know it's a jewel: a 3-story Craftsman house more than a hundred years old. But, as with anything over 100, it needs propping up: structural repairs to the front



This detail of a gouche and pen & ink by Coute Tassi was created in the 1930s and donated by Cathie Bagwell to the Permanent Collection. Tassi was a leader of the Italian Fascist Youth Organization.

of the building, including the porch... major work on the plumbing and electrical systems... new steps leading to the back patio... the list goes on.

But the Campaign goes beyond repairs. By transforming one room into a Library, and another into a Workroom for framing, restoration, and preparing work for the Permanent Collection, we'll function more efficiently. By buying and renovating a walk-in container for art storage, we'll consolidate the Foundation's art, and save thousands of dollars a year which we now pay for off-site climate-controlled storage.

The Capital Campaign is ambitious, and \$500,000 is a scary goal. But until we're in control of our home, we'll never be in control of our future.

And as for the future, let's be blunt: we're all gonna die, and when it's your turn, we hope you'll remember us, not only with a money bequest, but also with at least part of your art. So many times, collectors of erotica assume their heirs will treasure their collections as they do, and so many times, precious works are consigned to oblivion because of the prejudices or ignorance of those heirs. We've all heard the horror stories. If you leave your art to the Foundation, you can be sure it will live on.

Last but not least, support erotic artists. Come to the Foundation's Erotic Art Fair in New York in May (see back cover for details), or in West Hollywood in October, and buy something you will enjoy. If you can't get to L.A. or New York, consider purchasing art through the Foundation's website, or commissioning artwork from a local artist.

And don't hide it away. Display it, be proud of it, throw a party to show it off to your friends! Let the prudens know that erotic art is a joyful part of your daily life!

For questions and detailed information on membership, the Capital Campaign, and bequests, please call the Foundation at 213.250.1685, write us at 1421 Laveta Terrace, Los Angeles, CA 90026, or e-mail us at [Administration@TomOfFinlandFoundation.org](mailto:Administration@TomOfFinlandFoundation.org).

# Foundation News

## Award Winners:

Each year the foundation holds its annual Awards Banquet in conjunction with our West Hollywood — Los Angeles Erotic Art Fair Weekend. Last year we had two major awards groups: our yearly awards for outstanding service and inspiration to the erotic arts community, and to the winners of our biennial Emerging Erotic Artist Contest.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Edward Lucie-Smith of London. An art critic, historian, poet, and photographer, Mr. Lucie-Smith is widely regarded as the world's most prolific and most widely-published writer on art, with more than sixty books on art to his credit. Several of his works, including *Movements in Art Since 1945*, *Visual Arts of the 20th Century*, *A Dictionary of Art Terms*, and *Art Today* are used as standard texts throughout the world. Previous recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award include Hugh Hefner, Larry Flynt, Benedikt Taschen, Durk Dehner, and Charles Leslie & Frederic Lohman.

The Foundation bestowed the Cultural Icon Award on artist and activist Ivy Bottini of West Hollywood. Ms. Bottini was a founder of the first chapter of the National Organization for Women, and designed its national logo in 1969. She has been a graphic artist, a performer, and a longtime community activist, and currently serves as Co-

Chair of the City of West Hollywood's Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board. The Cultural Icon Award is presented to an individual whose career achievements and personal qualities combine to make him or her a role model. Previous recipients include heavy metal rocker Rob Halford; author and filmmaker Clive Barker; and social critic Camille Paglia.

The 2005 inductees into the Erotic Artist Hall of Fame are Pierre Comroy and Gilles Blanchard of Paris, who work professionally under the name "Pierre et Gilles." The pair met in 1976, and began their formal work as Pierre et Gilles in 1978. Their collaboration, which involves intricately staged and hand-retouched photographs, has led to exhibitions at Paris's Musee d'Art Moderne and Centre Georges Pompidou, the Musee d'Art Contemporain in Montreal, and many other venues. Previous inductees into the Hall of Fame include H. R. Giger, Bill Schmelling aka The Hun, Michael Kirwan, and, posthumously, Tom of Finland and Herb Ritts.

Several of the winners of our Emerging Erotic Artist Contest were on hand to receive their awards in person. Check out this issue's center spread for the winners, and for a sample of what these up-and-coming artists are bringing the world of erotic art.

## Art Institute of Chicago Accepts Two Tom of Finland Illustrations

Gallery owner Hudson, curator and owner of Feature Inc., a gallery influential in the early recognition of artist Tom of Finland, has presented two pivotal drawings by the artist to the Permanent Collection of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Feature Inc. presented exhibitions of Tom of Finland's drawings during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Hudson recalls, "His drawing skill and subject matter were an important influence on me and many people I knew, including many artists."

The two pieces gifted by Hudson represent an American period, specifically a California period, when the artist's focus on the black male lasted for over a decade, until his death in 1991.

"Hudson's donation, and the acceptance of these works by the Art Institute of Chicago, is one more stone in the pathway of Tom of Finland's recognition by the fine art communities of the world," said Durk Dehner, cofounder and director of the nonprofit Tom of Finland Foundation.

"I was also curious to see if AIC would accept it as a gift," said Hudson. Then he adds, "It was a great pleasure to hear of the acceptance and to realize that this gift allows many, many people the opportunity to see these terrific drawings and be inspired, amused, aroused, and/or enraged."

Tom's work is in the permanent collections of the Town Hall of Kaarina — the hamlet where he was born and raised; the Kiasma in Helsinki, Finland; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Portland Museum of Art; and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.



Tom of Finland, 1988

## Help us find Tom's "Lost" Works

The Tom of Finland Foundation and Taschen America — publisher of several art books on Tom of Finland — are working together on *The Complete Tom of Finland*, a massive book (11 1/2 x 17 1/4 inches) that we hope to be... well... complete!

Early sales of his artwork were rarely photographed, or were photographed poorly — Tom never claimed to be much of a photographer! So many of his early works from the '50s and '60s were not well documented. Tom would often give away artwork to promote bike clubs and events. The motorcycle club MSC Finland is now assisting in this search.

You could too. If you have any original art or reproductions by this fine artist, even if it's just something you think *might* be a Tom of Finland, please contact us. We will arrange to have your art professionally reproduced so it can be a part of this landmark project. This is your chance to join this stunning tribute to everyone's favorite dirty drawer, and to help us prove once and for all that fine art and great masturbation material can, and should be, one and the same.

Learn more about this project, plus see a video with Foundation Director Durk Dehner giving a tour of the Foundation House on the Taschen Website.

[www.tinyurl.com/kqkyt](http://www.tinyurl.com/kqkyt)



This is one of the many "almost lost" Tom images — and only a tiny out-of-focus photograph remains. There are many hundreds of other images that never were documented. Help us track them down, please!

Other artists, both pioneers and contemporary, are also in desperate need of documenting, while modern artists are invited to submit their works (physical and digital) to our archive.

## MARK YER CALENDARS!

Upcoming 2006 Events

### OCLA BENEFIT FOR THE FOUNDATION

May 13 – Orange County, CA

### COMING OF AGE: A GALLERY FUNDRAISER

May 17 – New York, NY

(see back cover)

### NEW YORK EROTIC ART FAIR WEEKEND

May 19-21 – New York, NY

(see back cover)

### TOM'S BAR

Annual Fundraiser Celebrating Tom's Birthday

June 18 – Los Angeles, CA

### WE-HO EROTIC ART FAIR WEEKEND

October 6-8 – West Hollywood, CA

### PALM SPRINGS FUNDRAISER

November 12 – Palm Springs, CA

### TOM OF FINLAND EXHIBITION

The Helsinki City Art Museum, Finland

Scheduled to open on June 20

## DISPATCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE

## TOM OF FINLAND

FOUNDATION

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Keep up to date with the world of erotic art and Foundation activities

by subscribing to the Dispatch e-news, our electronic newsletter sent twice a month.

Visit our website to sign up!

[www.TomOfFinlandFoundation.org](http://www.TomOfFinlandFoundation.org)

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Over Two Decades of Dedication to Protecting, Preserving, and Promoting Erotic Art

# 6th annual new york city erotic art fair weekend

Friday - Sunday, May 19 - 21, 2006

Thousands of erotic art works by artists from around the world,  
including all media, gender and sexual orientation.

Sculpture, Photography, Paintings, Sketches, Digital Renderings and more.  
Male & Female works of art on display and for sale.  
Most major credit cards will be accepted.

Symposium on Sunday.  
Artists Reception on Friday.  
Enjoy our popular life drawing workshop with live models.

Images by Jackson Photographix • www.jacksonphotografix.com



## OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, May 19, 2006, 8:00 - 11:00 PM

## PANEL DISCUSSION (Included w/ admission)

Sunday, May 21, 2006

## FAIR IS OPEN!

May 20, 2006 Noon - 6:00 PM

May 21, 2006 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Admission \$10, good Saturday and Sunday.

Fair venue: **The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Services Center**  
208 West 13th Street, New York, NY 10011 • 212.620.7310

TOM OF FINLAND  
FOUNDATION



Coming of Age

## “Coming of Age”

THE FOUNDATION HAS TURNED 21!

Join us in New York City on Wednesday May 17, 2006

Don't miss this special one-night-only exhibition of 21  
original drawings by Tom, which have never been seen in New York.

**Plus, a very special silent auction.**

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Advanced tickets: \$75. At the door: \$85. Sponsorships are available.

Venue: **The Charles Cowles Gallery** from 6:30 to 9:30 PM  
537 West 24th Street, New York, NY 10001 • 212.741.8999

For additional information, contact the Foundation  
at 213.250.1685 or visit our website.