

Dispatch



Spring 1996

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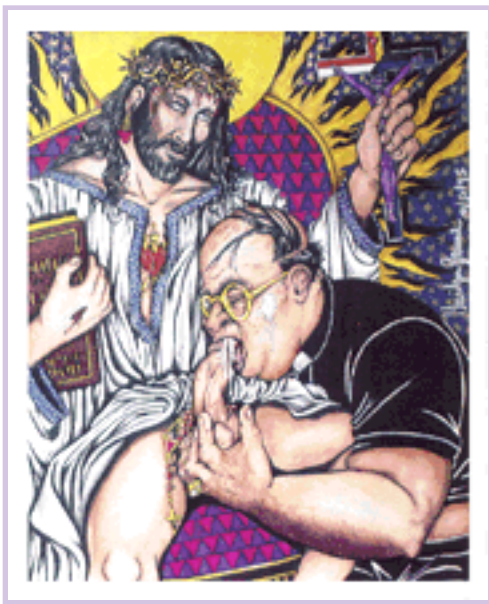
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We always welcome [mail](#) to the Tom of Finland Foundation.

Win, Place, and Show It

The 1995 Contest Winners

by Foundation President, Durk Dehner



As the person who created the Tom of Finland Foundation with Tom himself, I am fascinated to watch its evolution as an arts organization, archive and museum. Clearly, our efforts to nurture erotic art, all erotic art, have moved us into the mainstream of Western culture.

Thus we come to the conclusion of the Second Emerging Erotic Artist Contest. The six judges were selected from a wide area of the mainstream art world: Volker Janssen, art book publisher, Berlin; Tom Bianchi, photographer, Los Angeles; Meeka Walsh, editor of Canada's Border Crossings; Wayne Baerwaldt, gallery director, Winnipeg; Nayland Blake, artist and curator, San Francisco; and William Doan, director, Doan Family American Photography Archive, Ft. Dodge, Iowa. Each one is an expert in a different aspect of the art world. They were nearly unanimous in choosing as the Grand Prize winner Garilyn Brune's "Cocksuckers For Christ" (above left).

That choice produced concern on my part for possible ramifications from segments of the public. These concerns were followed by my reflections that the Foundation's creed has been to not judge or discriminate against artists' free expression, something that is unique within the established art community.

A discussion amongst the Board of Directors specifically pertaining to "Cocksuckers For Christ" produced a

variety of interpretations. One felt it was man ingesting the seed of God. Another saw it as man's service to God. Yet another was a priest's sexual perversion, thinking of Christ in a manner so degrading. My own personal view is that the priest is totally absorbed in his service, Christ's erection signifies his humanness and that sexuality and humanity are connected.

My thoughts of those who will want to chastise the Foundation for being forthcoming in displaying the Grand Prize winner's work will be individuals and/or organizations who do not live in Truth but confine themselves within boundaries of what is acceptable human behavior. The old Christian saying of "Judge not lest ye be judged" is the position that the Foundation holds.

We invite you all to write us and share your interpretation of "Cocksuckers For Christ." We shall print several of your responses in the next newsletter.

Contest Winners

Photography



1st Prize
Leah Lefleur, Long Beach

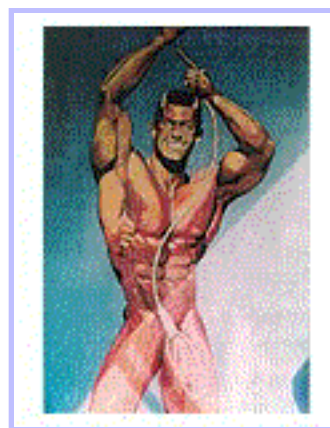


2nd Prize
Toma, L.A.



3rd Prize
Vince Gabrielly, N.Y.C.

Single Figure



1st Prize
Geroge Fuwa, Kaw

2nd Prize
Walter Mellon, Seward,
Alaska

3rd Prize
Dana Roberts, West
Hollywood

Uniform/Costume/Gear



1st Prize
Mark Durham, L.A.

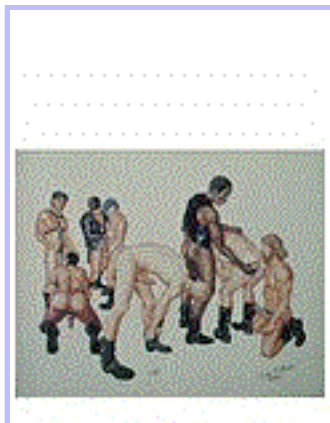


2nd Prize
Jorge Manso, Perth Amboy,
NJ



3rd Prize
Jim Bo, Buckingham, VA

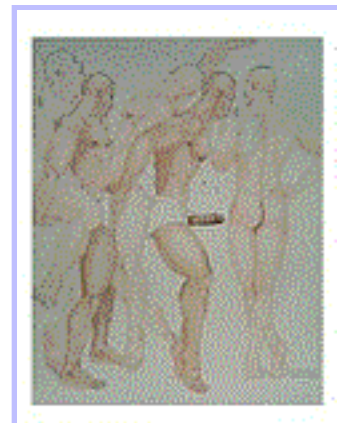
Group Figure



1st Prize
Mark DeBauch, Minneapolis



2nd Prize
Caliban Cock, Camilla, Zurich



3rd Prize
Steve 'Keith' Jensen,
Hermosa

What Does Tom of Finland's Work Offer the Straight World?

by Mrs. Karen Leavitt, Foundation Board of Directors

If one chooses to see beyond the fact that women are not present in Tom's work, they will discover that erotica

in art has a common theme, be it Tom of Finland or Olivia. Curves, muscle, sultry eyes and big hard cocks are just the backbone -- you fill in the action, the detail and the gender. Hot is hot; being a gender censor is not.

Tom's imagination takes you on a sight-seeing tour of his world, where cops, bikers, punks and military men have confrontations -- bondage, group sex, forced cocksucking -- capped by tender moments of male bonding. Anger has been replaced in his work with an underground feeling of good times and a sense of humor. It's hot! with no pretense or allusions to what may come -- pardon the pun.

I collect erotic works of art and, moreover, I hang them in my living room. Erotic art is kept in a separate arena in the art world because buying and displaying it forces the collector to be upfront about a lot more than just artistic taste. Such a sex-positive attitude can make some people realize how uptight they really are, especially when their self image was quite the opposite.

With little or no financial support, artists all over the world carry the torch Tom of Finland carried for decades. I have great admiration for him and for them. One day I hope to have an original Tom of Finland in my collection because his work says to me "These are my Fantasies. This is who I am."



(above) Tom of Finland's men really get it on.

Art For the MASSES

(High Mass, Low Mass, Mass for the Dead, etc.)

by **Garilyn Brune**

Priestly misconduct seems to make the news on an almost daily basis, I have noticed recently, beginning with an infamous lawsuit in Pennsylvania where the victims of child sexual abuse sued a priest by the name of Father Porter.

Soon even bishops were being accused and a Catholic school in California was closed down due to alleged sexual abuse by the priests who ran the school. Often, the Catholic Church handled these situations by quietly sending the guilty priest to another parish where the cycle would start all over again. Father Porter had been transferred three different times.

As an adult (and recovering Catholic) I had come to realize that the Church was a total farce (although the imagery, pomp and circumstance still appeal to my dramatic sense). I could see the stifling suppression of sexuality at the core of a priest's existence. I wondered why someone would choose a life so lacking in sexual expression. Priests are painfully human in this respect and to expect them to live a life of celibacy and self denial is truly an amazing requirement to serving God.

Portraying an icon of the Catholic Church in a compromising position with a priest is deliberately controversial. My intention was not only to shock the viewer but also to make the viewer think.

Jesus represents the Catholic Church. The priest represents the clerics who have used the cloth as a means for attaining their selfish desires. By his silence, Jesus (the Catholic Church) is a willing partner in this desperate act of self-indulgence. While the Church condemns homosexuality, gay sex happens right under its nose (literally, in this painting). Yet persecution of homosexuals by the Church in the name of Christianity still persists.

With this painting, I portray the hypocrisy and degradation inherent in a situation where sexuality is not allowed to be expressed.

TOM'S BAR 5

The latest, biggest, and most financially successful memorial celebration of Tom of Finland's birthday took place on May 5 at Hollywood Moguls and was attended by upwards of a thousand hot, humpy homos and heteros, netting approximately \$2500 for archiving expenses and putting another \$2000 into the museum's mutual funds.



Far left: Mike Andrews, (Board committee for memberships) presents Scott O'Hara (microphone) with the Foundation's first Lifetime Membership. Behind them are contest winners Mark Durham, Steve Jensen, Stutz (accepting for Toma), Leah Lefleur, Garilyn Brune (Grand Prize) and Dana Roberts.

Got the Shirt? -- Get the Hat!

If you already received the member's black 100% cotton Hanes Beefy-T with the Flying Cock badge in white then re-up this year and get the new matching black baseball cap with the badge in silver! All Three ranks get the hat. Recruits (\$35) also get a Tom of Finland print and a 10% discount (only on Foundation merchandise). Seamen (\$100) get a 15% discount, and our Emerging Erotic Artists book. Commanders (\$250) get our badge-pin in sterling silver and a 20% discount. All members receive membership card, a year of the Dispatch and invitations to special events in Their area. New members also get a compilation of earlier Dispatches.

JOIN UP NOW!





Second Year For Erotic Art Gallery

A popular aspect of the Gallery by Mail is the Featured Artist. With each mailing, a well-known artist or photographer is selected to be spotlighted for that mailing. The coverage consists of a single page of biographical and career information on the artist or photographer, self-portraits and representative work. In addition, several prime selections of the work of the featured artist are offered for sale to the subscribers as part of that mailing. During the first year, the three featured artists were the Hun, photographer Justice

Howard, and Olaf.

Victor Arimondi will be the featured Artist (above left) for the Fourth Erotic Gallery by Mail, coming out this July.

To subscribe send a \$15.00 check (\$25.00USD outside USA/Canada) or call (213)250-1685 and leave credit card information. All original subscribers who want to remain charter members need to re-up now.

Connect [here](#) for a preview of the Erotic Art Gallery.

DISPATCH, house organ for the TOM of FINLAND FOUNDATION is edited by Valentine Hooven, and written by Karen Leavitt, Durk Dehner, Garilyn Brune.



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