

Kinsey Institute seeks sponsors to help maintain its artworks

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BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Suggestive and explicit artworks — once kept under wraps — are up for adoption at the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction.

On Tuesday, the Indiana University institute will display 30 to 40 pieces of artwork from its collection. Sponsors are needed to pay \$60 to \$100 for new protective acid-free frames and ultraviolet light-reflecting glass for the works.

In return for adopting an artwork, sponsors will have their names displayed alongside the work at the institute or a public viewing, said Catherine Johnson, curator of the institute's collections.

"Things have relaxed quite a bit in recent years in terms of how under-wraps the collection has to be kept, but we still operate under the premise that the collection exists

for scholarly research," Johnson said.

The institute's collections include more than 7,000 original works of art; about 75,000 photographic images dating from 1880; 80,000 books, journals and scientific articles; 6,500 reels of film; and a variety of artifacts spanning more than 2,000 years.

The art collections are owned by a nonprofit organization independent of the university, although the university does pay \$670,000 for staff and researchers' salaries.

Alfred Kinsey, a professor at IU, was the first director of the institute, incorporated as a private, nonprofit organization in 1947.

The nature of the institute's work has attracted political opponents over the years. However, the institute recently has started opening itself up to the public with art shows, a book of photographs and tours.