

## *Kinsey Today: The Newsletter of The Kinsey Institute*

Spring 1997 (Volume 1, Number 1)

---

### **Private Acts, Public View**

#### **Fall Exhibition Celebrates Institute's 50th Anniversary**

Positive images of sexuality that range from works by Picasso and Matisse to whimsical condoms will be on public display October 24 through December 5. The pieces are part of an exhibition entitled *The Art of Desire: Erotic Treasures from the Kinsey Institute*, organized to help commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction.

The exhibition, which will be mounted at the Fine Arts Gallery on the Indiana University Bloomington campus, will include about 200 pieces selected from the tens of thousands of images in the Kinsey Institute art, photography, and library collections. "The beauty of the Institute's collections is their variety," says Betsy Stirratt, director of the Fine Arts Gallery, and that variety will be mirrored in the works chosen for the show.

About 75 photographs and 100 other two-dimensional works including prints and paintings will be displayed along with selected three-dimensional objects. The range of humanity and human sexuality will be represented, with images of both male and female forms and depictions of heterosexual and homosexual encounters.

The art chosen reflects "a combination of aesthetic merit, technical quality, and great cultural interest," according to Jennifer Yamashiro, the curator at the Kinsey Institute. She and Stirratt have worked with IU Professors of Fine Art Sarah Burns and Jeffrey Wolin to prepare the exhibition.

The Kinsey Institute collections are open only to qualified scholars and students, and previous exhibitions drawn from them have been small or specialized. The fall show "is the first comprehensive survey of the rich visual material in the photography, art, and library collections," Yamashiro says.

Although the exhibit will be appropriate for adult viewing only, Stirratt says, "we looked for images about sexuality that were positive and celebratory in nature."

For further details about the exhibit, please see the recent article in *Research and Creative Activity*, an online publication of Indiana University.

**[Return to newsletter table of contents.](#)**

---

7/97

[About the Institute](#) | [Guest Book](#) | [Collections](#) | [Research and Publications](#) | [Kinsey Clinics](#) | [Events and Exhibitions](#) | [Selected Links](#)



**[Back to The Kinsey Institute Home Page](#)**

**This porcelain sculpture, *Appearance of Kwannon to a Man*, (1995),** was donated to the Kinsey Institute in November 1996

by the artist, Akio Takamori, and his wife, Vicky. The artist, who recalls reading Alfred Kinsey's publications on sexual behavior in the human male and female in his father's library in southern Japan as a teenager, is pleased to have his work represented in the institute's extensive collection of erotic art. The sculpture depicts a man engaged in sexual fantasy who is visited by the Buddhist goddess of mercy, Kwannon.



Credits