

The female nude has been a popular form of symbolism (and study) throughout the ages, whether painted or photographed, however the subtext was always there to be devoured. So forget the fables, the Greek myths which dressed the nude as if it were classical perfection, which was further rampant in the Victorian age. An age full of sexual repression which produced a type of stylized eroticism that in private titillated yet was publicly respectable. Justified erotica filled many a respectable gallery, with only the caption changing the perceived 'obscene' picture into the realm of acceptability eg: 'Venus disrobing in the bath'.

The Victorian ideal was soon lost, and in the early decades of the 20th century, the public were more accepting of photographs of real / contemporary women, who displayed less than bodily perfection, as living nude statues. By the 1940's the pin-up had arrived and there was no longer any need for such subterfuge methods. And today, the aesthetics battle openly with desire and wanton lust, for the right to be heard.

Erotica is erotica, shorn of any unnecessary pretensions to be something more cultured or socially acceptable. In this section, one can view the nude with neither symbolism nor strip lighting, and solely for the enjoyment of it. Erotica: Voyeuristic, celebratory or both?

Steve DT exhibited 'The Nude Laid Bare' originally as part of the Brighton Festival Fringe (May 2005).

Also several of the images were exhibited at the Guild's 'Sensual Seduction' exhibition in London the following year. Note: within the Exhibitions section, see the reviews of both shows . . . "it's delicious and delightful, . . . the carnality of life".

