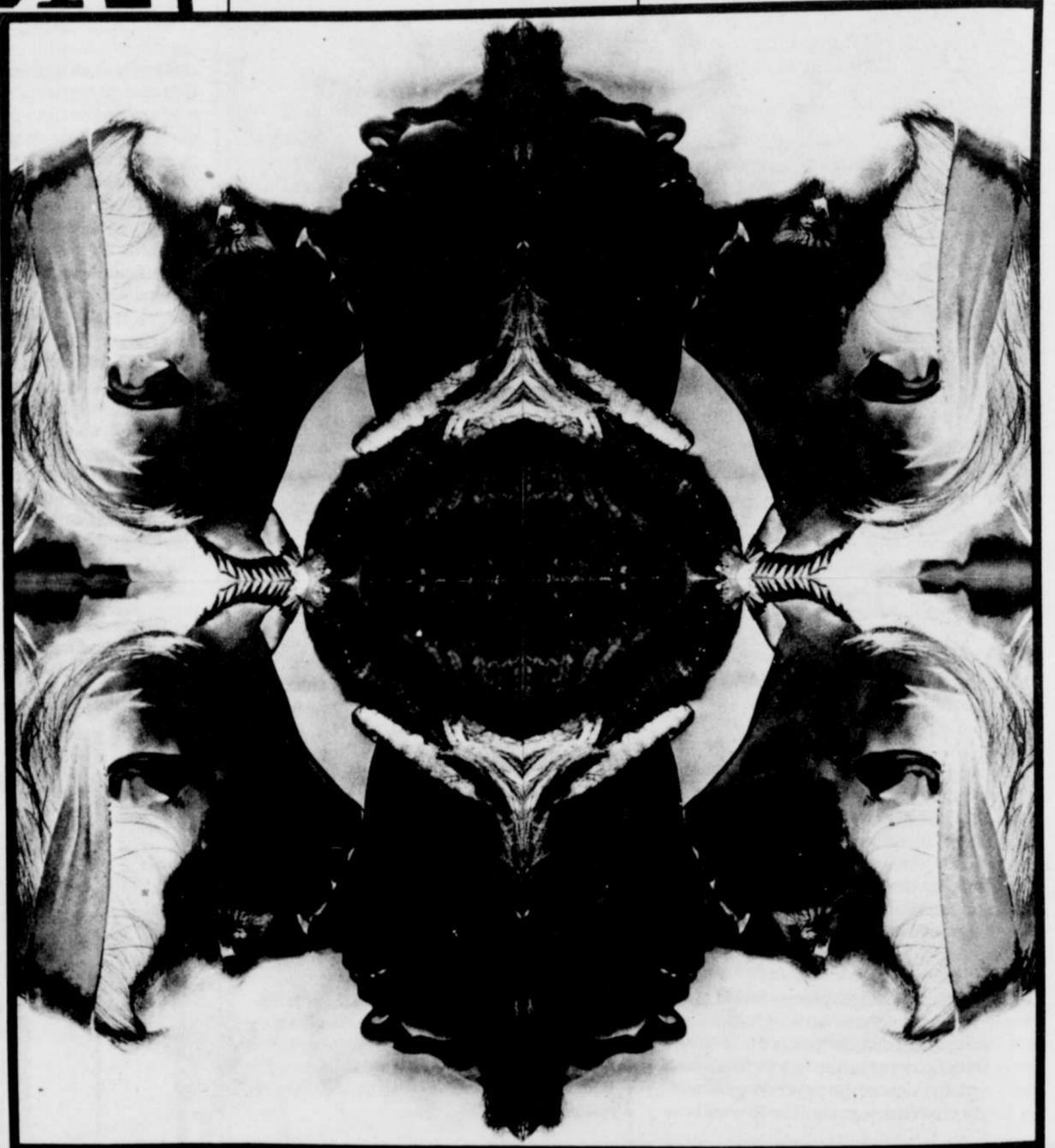


# CORINNE & STROUGH



## CORINNE

by Rosanne King

The forms bloom on the pages like black and white renditions of tropical flowers in blossom. Heads turn right, left, attempting to discern the type of foliage, even though the book's title gives that away. It's called *Labiaflowers*.

Tea Corinne has published four books, the last appearing in January. *Labiaflowers*, formerly *The Cunt Coloring Book*, was her first. She has done most covers for Naiad Press since 1977, illustrated *Sapphistry* by Pat Califa and has compiled a slide show entitled "Lesbian Sexual Imagery in the Fine Arts."

That slide show proved enlightening, at the very least. As Corinne mentioned during the presentation Jan. 21 at Metropolitan Community Church, she went through seven years of art school with virtually no exposure to the erotic depiction of Lesbians. Her MCC audience responded positively, with reactions ranging from laughter to murmurs of

appreciation and awe. Those responses are typical of audience response nearly everywhere, according to Corinne.

"There's a real hunger for this," she said. "We've seen over and over again in psychology that those things we don't have names or images for are those we consider evil. Labeling tells you what to do with an emotion. I'm working at it through images, rather than words."

"It's an affirmation of who we are now, that we've been around for a long time, that we've been sexual a long time," she said.

Corinne acknowledges her slide show and much of her work is "a hard-core presentation."

"I edit for oral sex," Corinne said. "If there's a romantic image of two women kissing and two women going down on each other, I will invariably pick the one of the two women having oral sex. I want it to be perfectly clear they're not just good friends."

There seems to be a wealth of the types of pictures Corinne edits for, if her slide show is a correct indicator. She agrees.

"It's much more available than people know about because it's so scattered," she said. Her presentation of the slide show began in 1976 with 75 slides and "very little information." Research began with a review of literature and investigation of "every erotic art book in the San Francisco library." Any artist depicting erotic contact between women in one instance merited a complete investigation of her/his work, Corinne said.

Artists represented are about half female, half male. The obscurity of much of the work featured in the show is not due to overt censorship, but "censorship by disinterest," Corinne said. She is currently seeking to compile the slides into a book to combat that disinterest. A publisher has rejected the first draft of that volume, but is considering a second.

Corinne's work in progress will also assist in the battle against obscurity. Underway are "In Search of a Lavender Muse," a study of Lesbian writers, and a series of posters illustrating Lesbians from history. Corinne is a printmaker and has compiled about 40 such posters which will be shown in an exhibit in the Bay Area in late spring or early summer.

The importance of Lesbian imagery in art, now and then, cannot be underestimated. According to Corinne, "Those who forget their histories are doomed to repeat it."

Copies of *Labiaflowers* and Corinne's other works, *Yantras of Womanlove*, *The Southern Oregon Women Writers' Group*, *Gourmet Eating Society and Chorus Picture Book*, and *Drawings 1983* are available through A Woman's Place Bookstore, 236-3609, 2349 SE Ankeny.