

Corinne could  
be more  
insightful

lesbians. *Surpassing the Love of Men* shows instances and depictions of women loving women which were often tolerated because men found them erotic, provided their own dominant position was not threatened.

Analysis of cultural context and content is necessary if we are to maintain a clear sense of our own beauty and autonomy. We cannot forget or ignore how and why images are created and marketed today as erotica, and accept anything suggesting lesbian love or fantasy as liberating without examining where it's coming from. I specifically object to Corinne's inclusion of photographs by David Hamilton: I am familiar enough with the body of Hamilton's work — that is, the female bodies in it, which are almost uniformly pubescent, blonde, and carefully undraped — to be more repulsed by its content than attracted by these forms, because I consider it to be romantically disguised child pornography. Not surprisingly, Hamilton is one of the few "artists" represented in Corinne's slideshow who is considered mainstream, hence respectable and "aesthetic" enough for coffee tables in straight and gay households alike. But I disagree with Corinne's view that this fact shows greater acceptance of lesbianism. I am sending this letter to Corinne, herself, in the hope that she will consider these issues, and also include more contemporary women artists in her show.

Eve Sicular

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