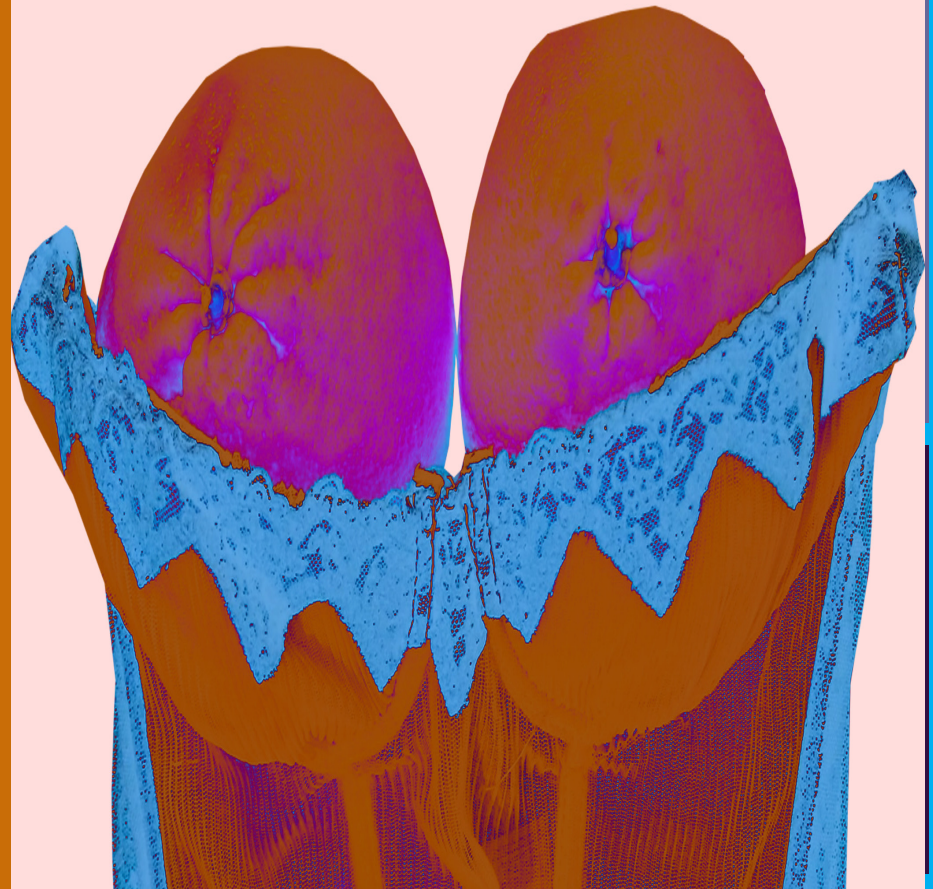


Series: “Sex: A Modern History”

Sex Work (17 February 2022)

Monogamy (17 March 2022)

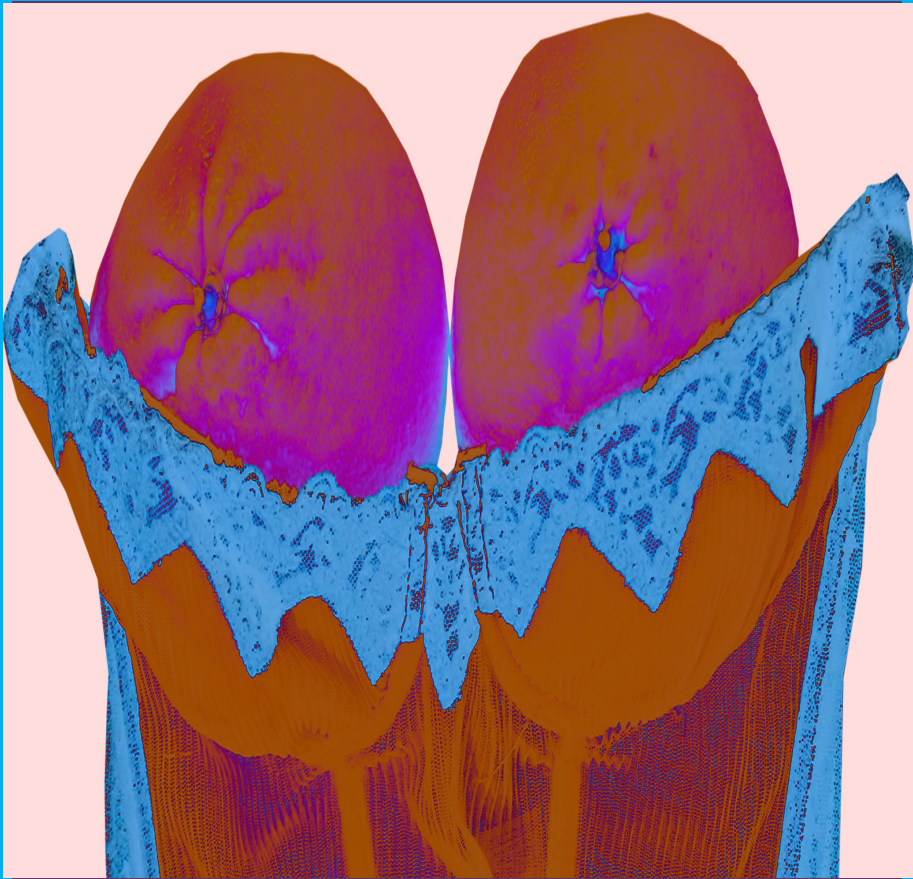
Abstinence (12 May 2022)



“Pornography”

Joanna Bourke, Gresham Professor of Rhetoric & Professor of History at Birkbeck

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and at shame.bbk.ac.uk**



Linda Lovelace
(1972):
pornographers
"treated me as if I
were a piece of
meat".

Robin Morgan
(1977):
"Pornography is
the theory; rape,
the practice".

Billie Eilish
(2021):
"I think it really
destroyed my
brain".

**Is pornography
objectifying or
liberating?**

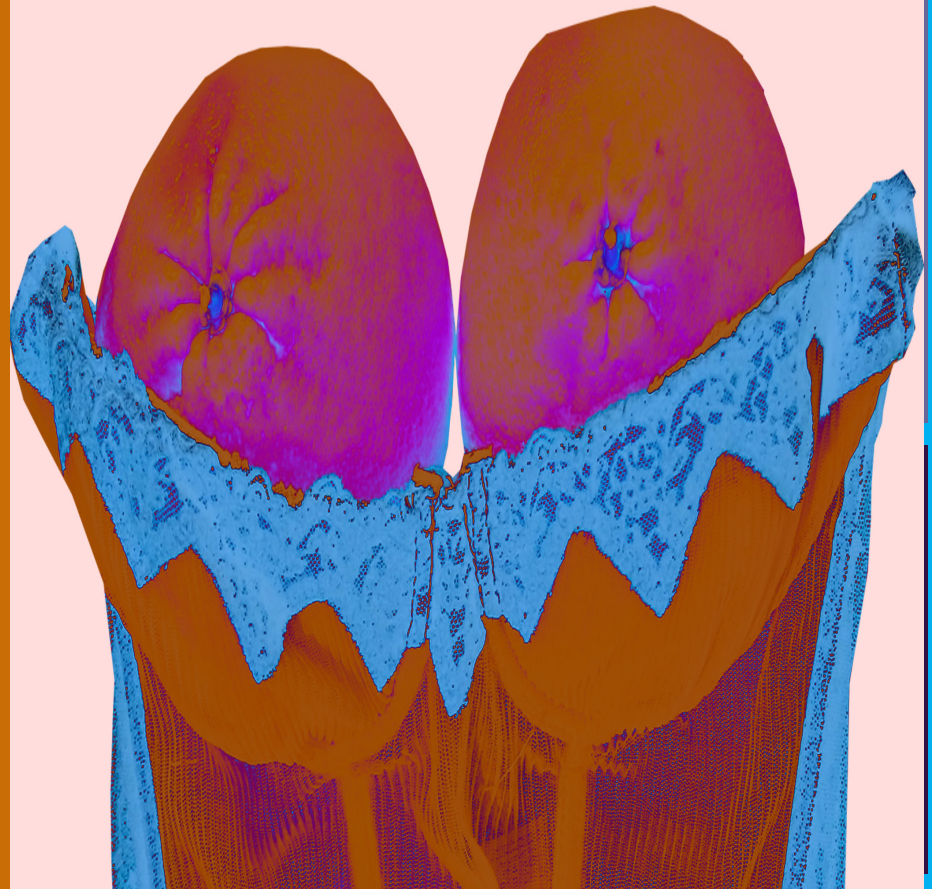
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Pornography is a cultural category that varies over historical time and place.

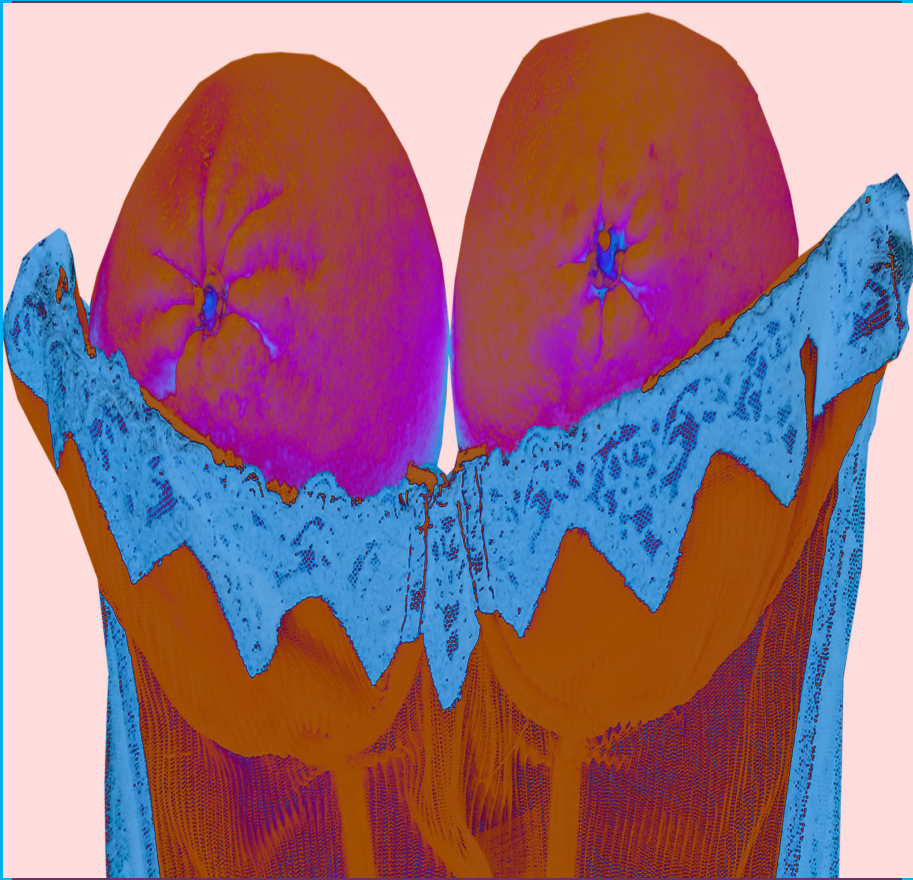
The feminist “porn wars” of the 1970s and 1980s assume that a *historically specific* form of pornography is the standard by which *all* pornography should be judged.



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**What is
pornography?**

Class

Race

**“Real” sexual
practices**

**Explicitly
political &
radical
pornography?**

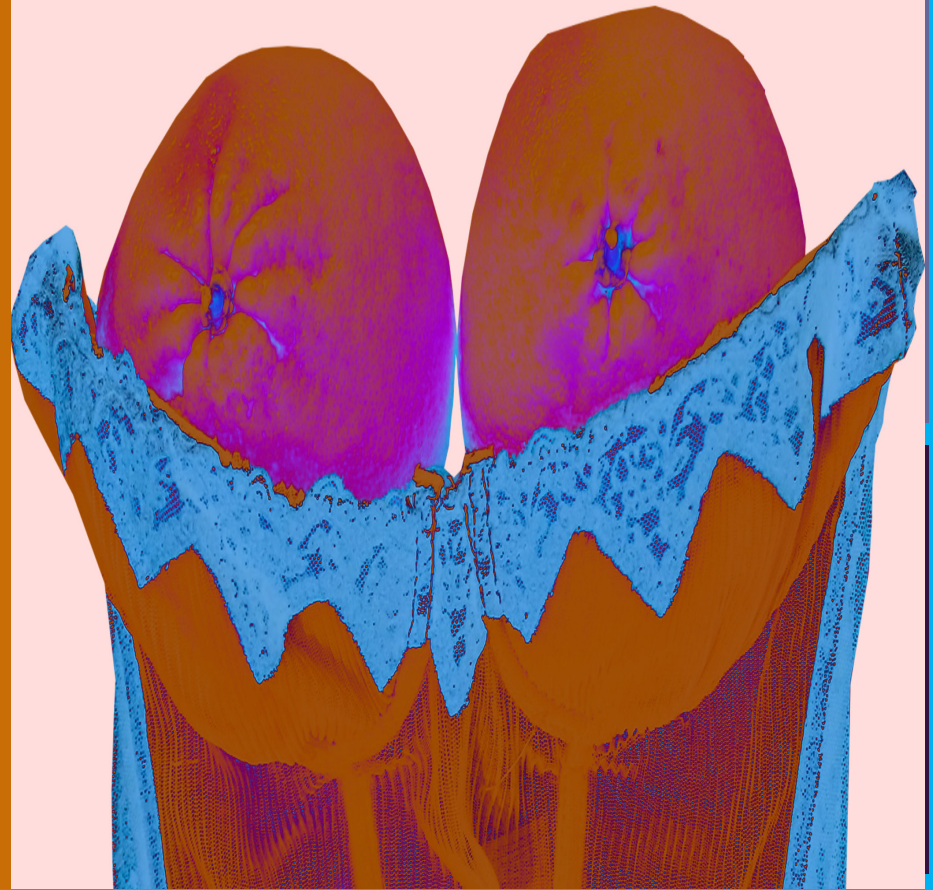
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Definition:

“Pornography is the explicit description or depiction of sexual organs and practices with the intention of arousing sexual feelings”.



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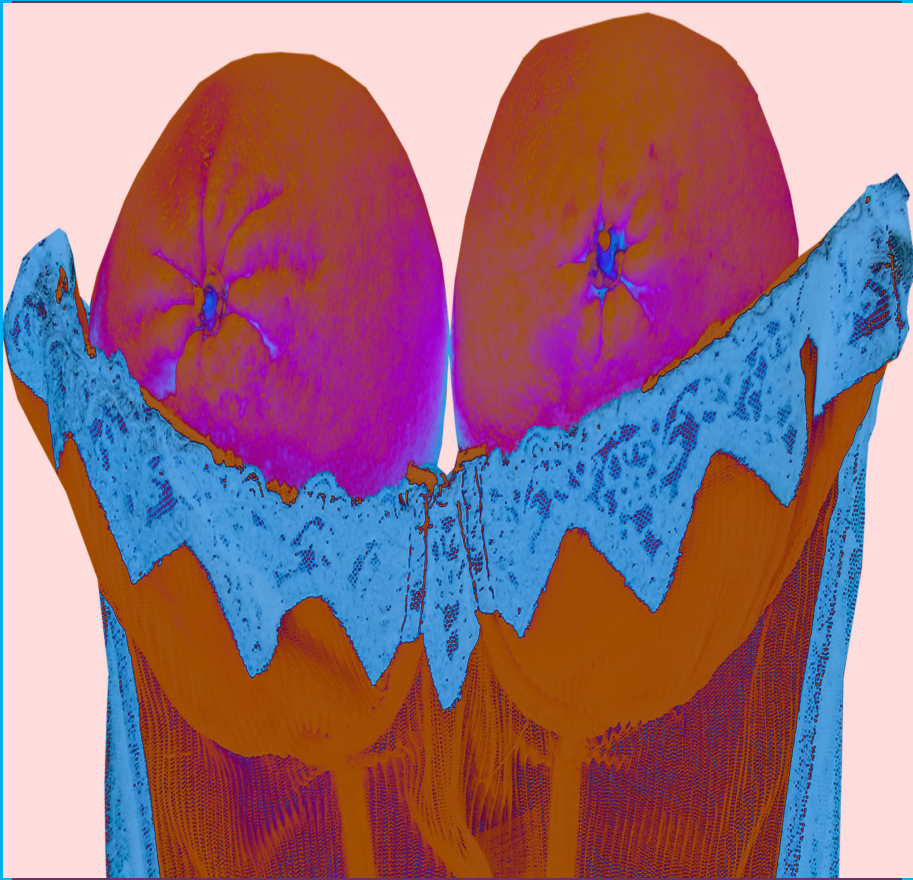
**(François Boucher’s
“Leda and the Swan” (c.1740)**



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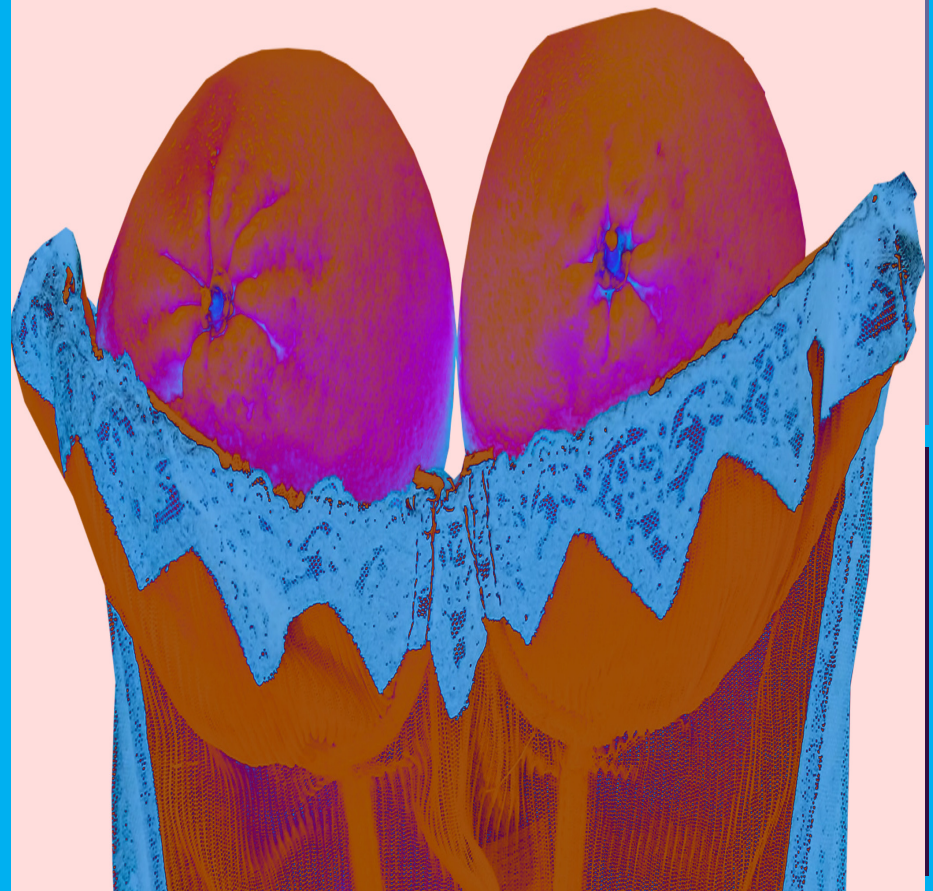
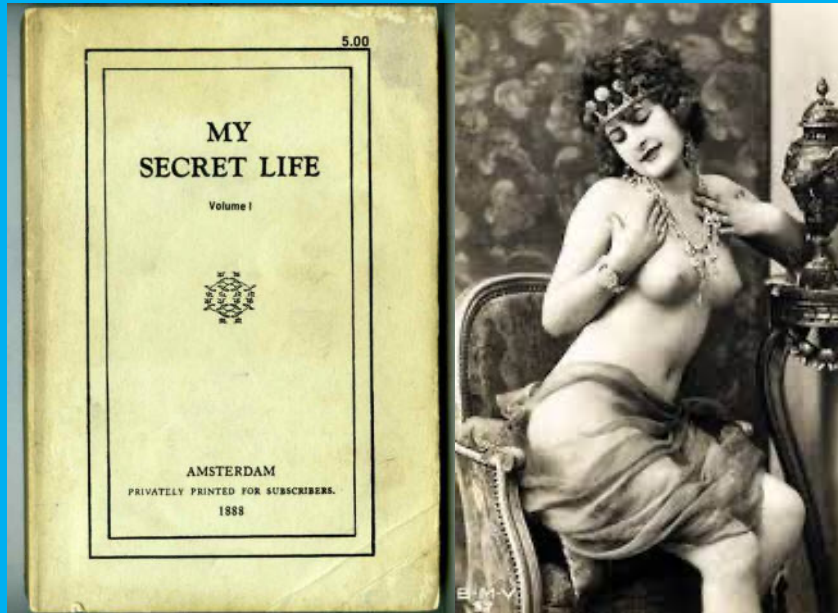
Diversity



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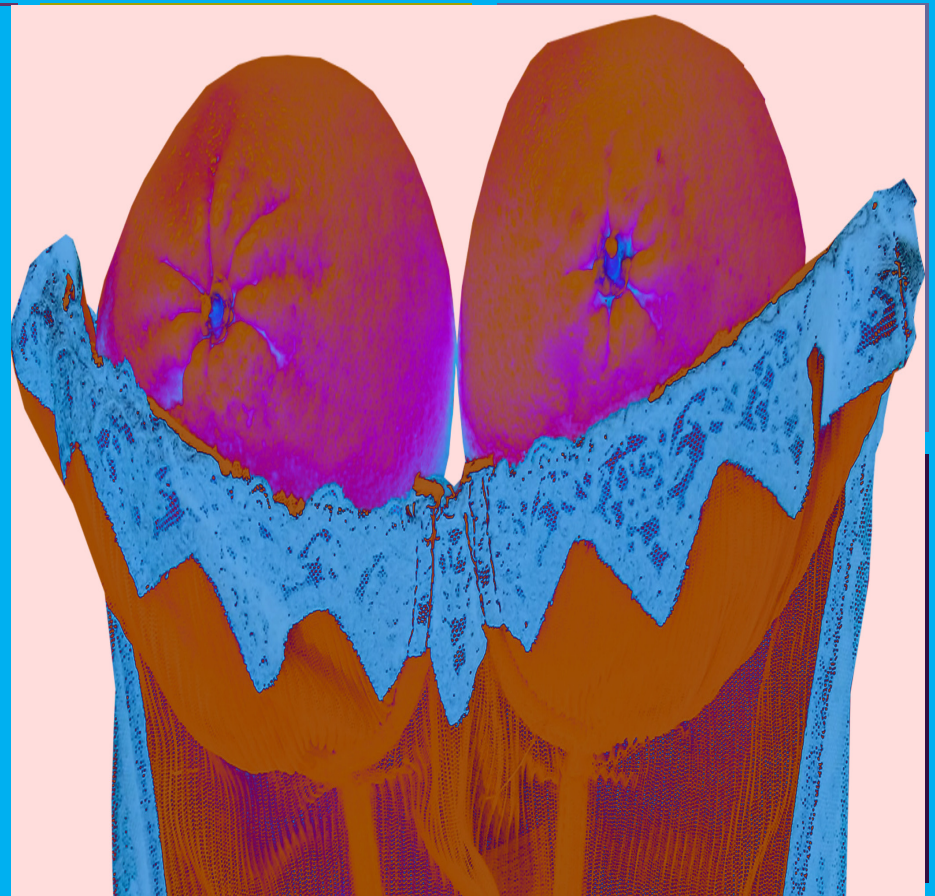
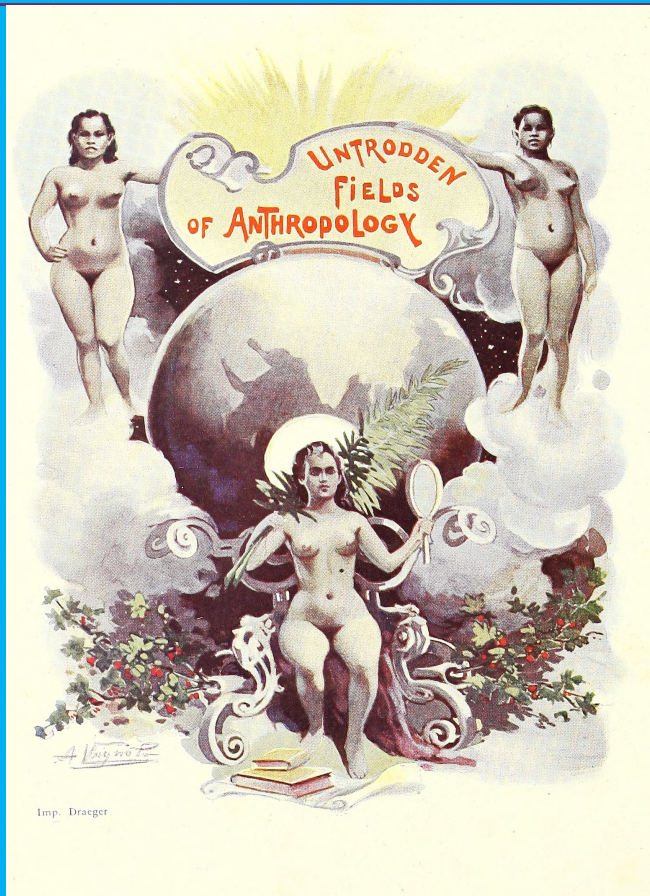
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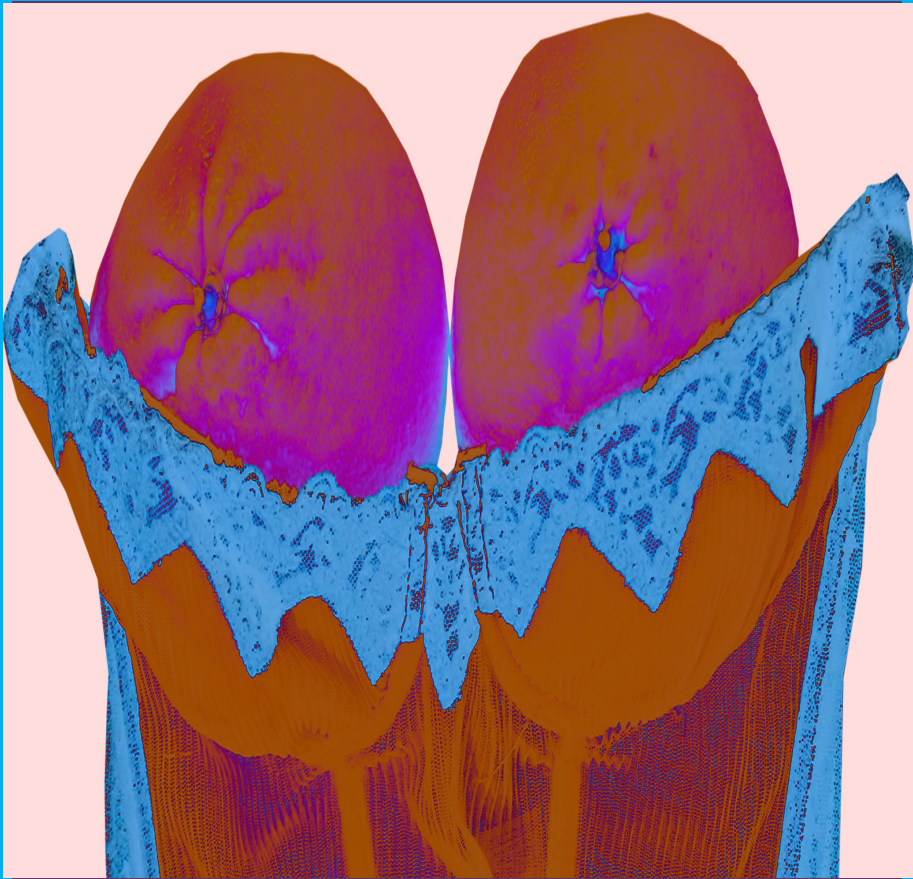
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**London
Anthropological
Society & The
Cannibal Club**

**Pornography =
imperial
"mission" of
"discovery"
(invasion)**

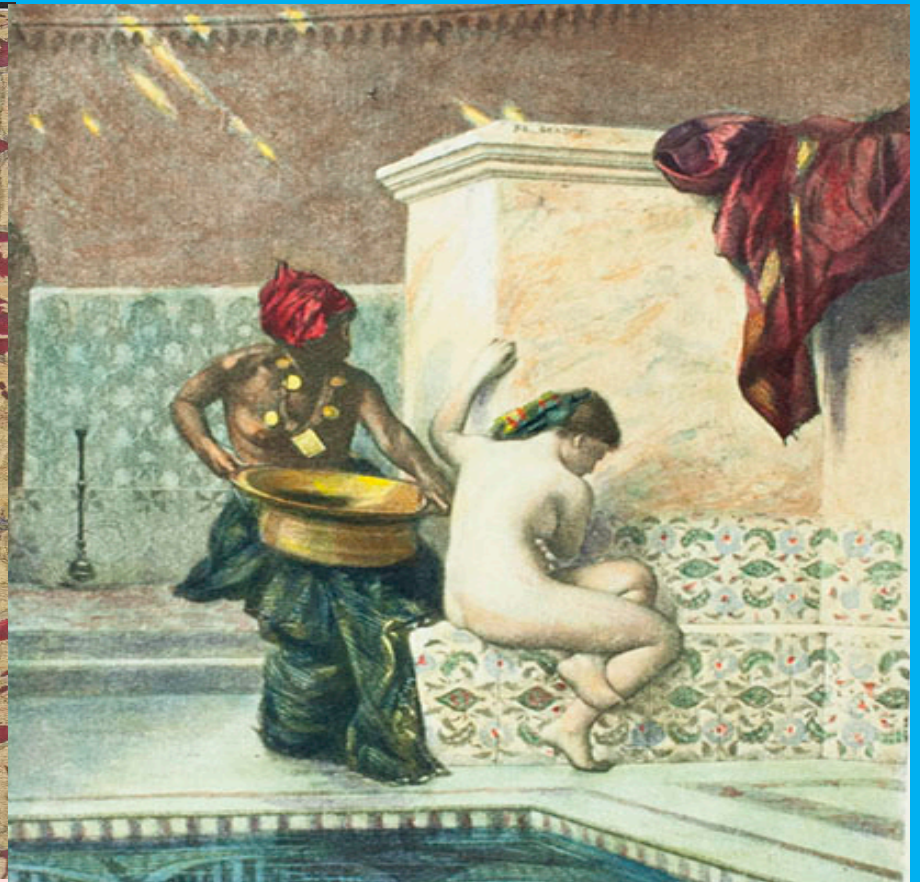
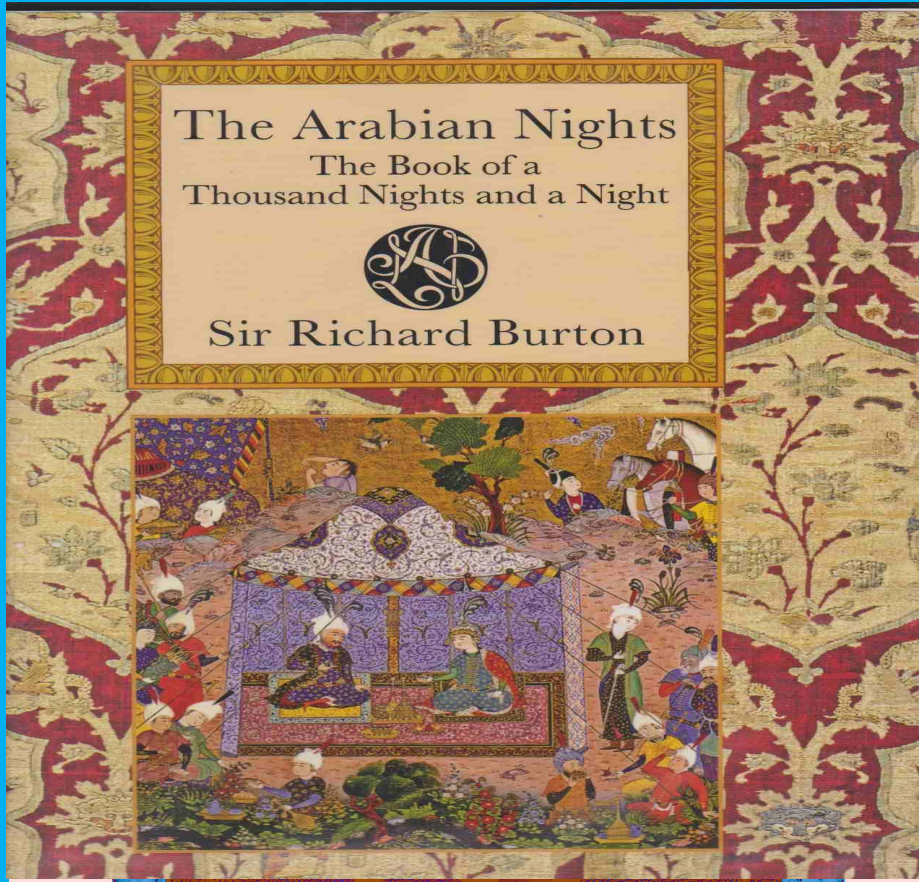
**Censorship:
Not if images
were of people
of colour**

**Exoticised
"Others"**

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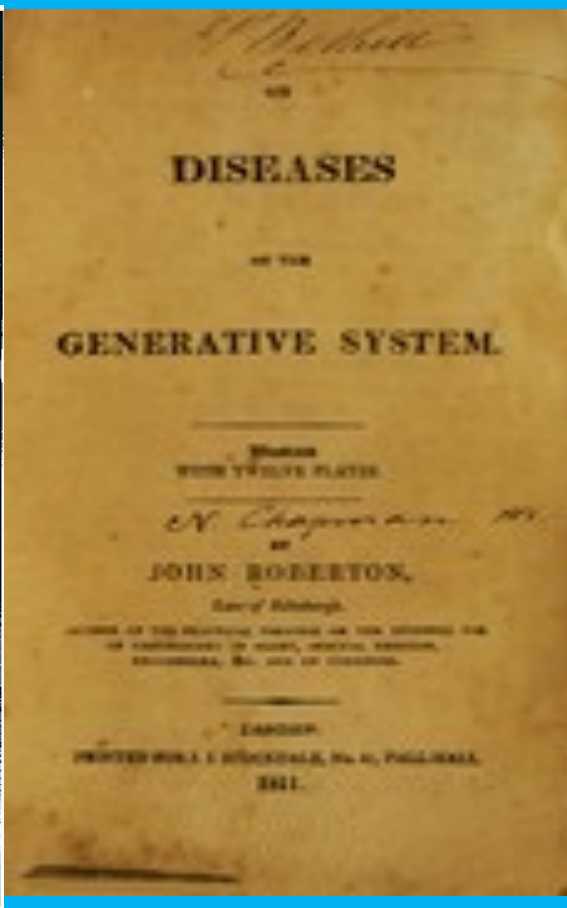
J. J. STOCKDALE, PRINTER,
21, Royal Arcade, Pall Mall,
LONDON.

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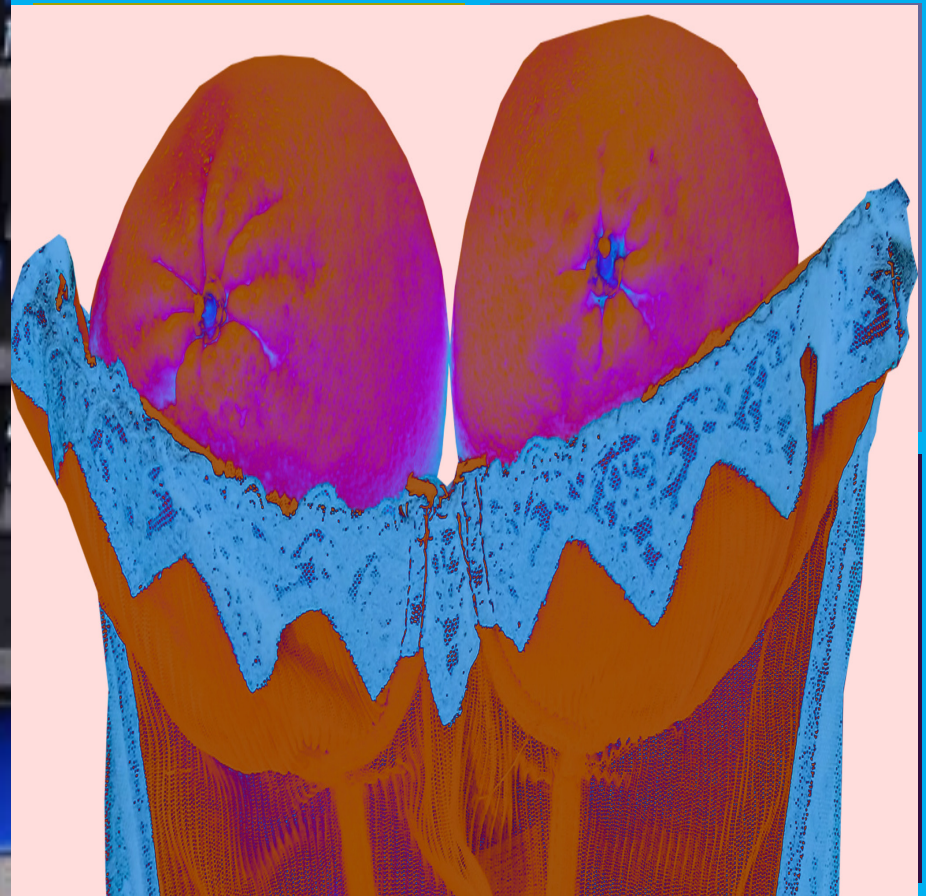
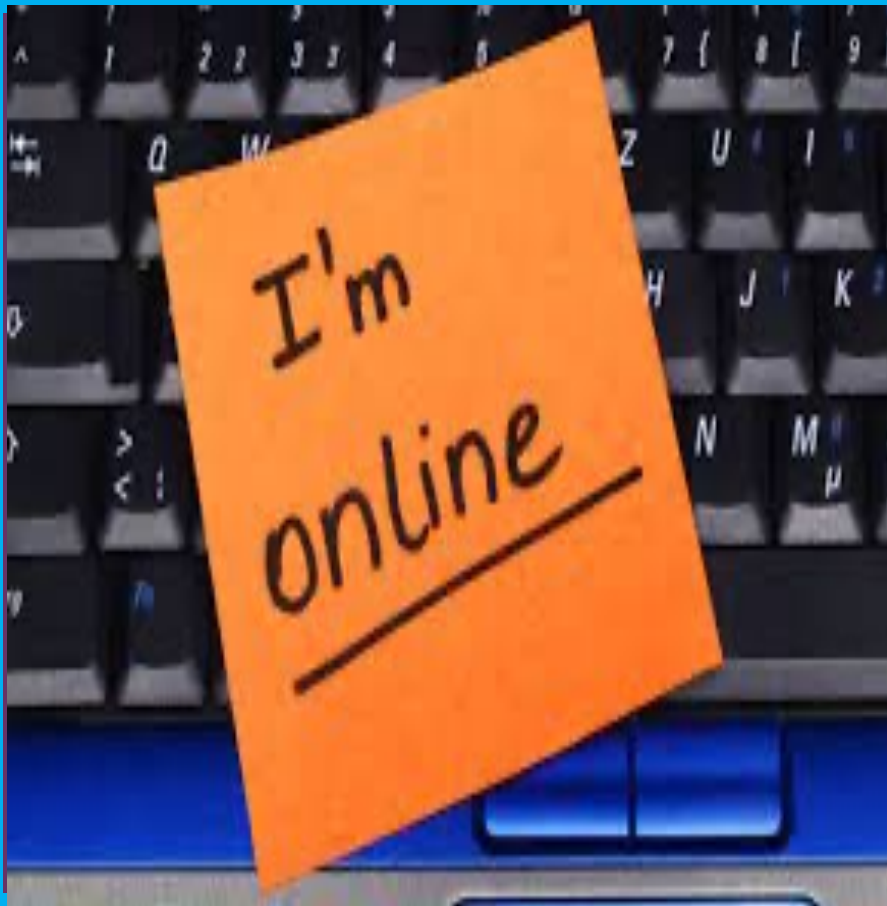


ARISTOTLE'S
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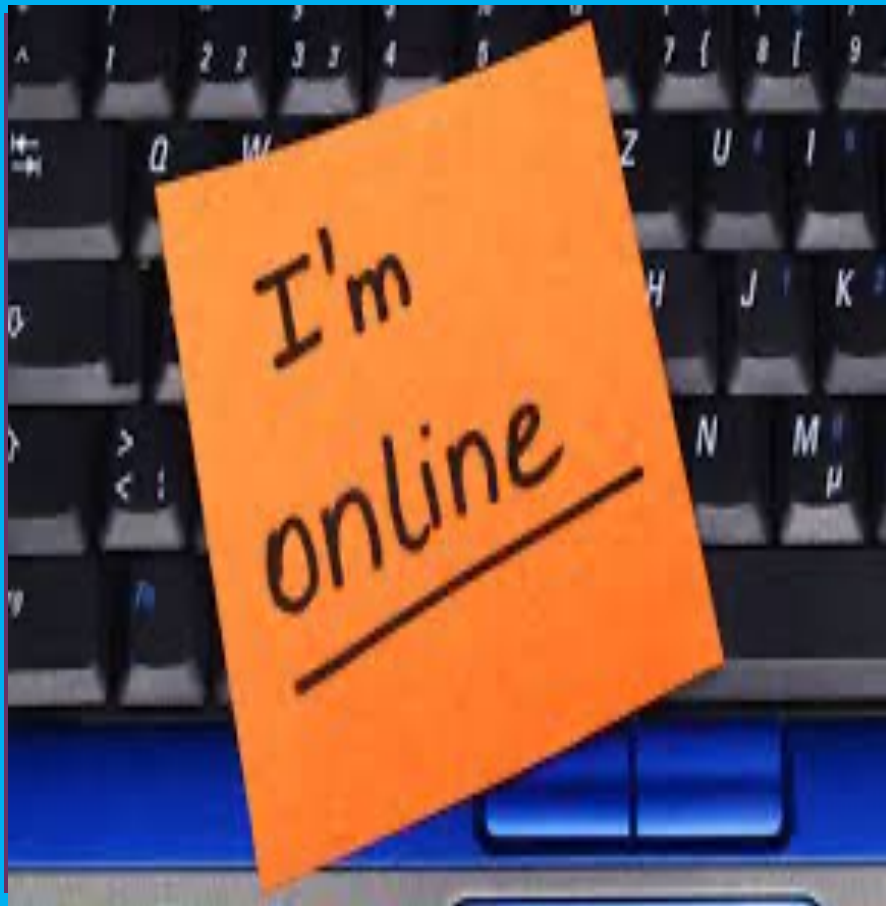
NEW YORK
PUBLISHED FOR THE PUBLISHERS
1844



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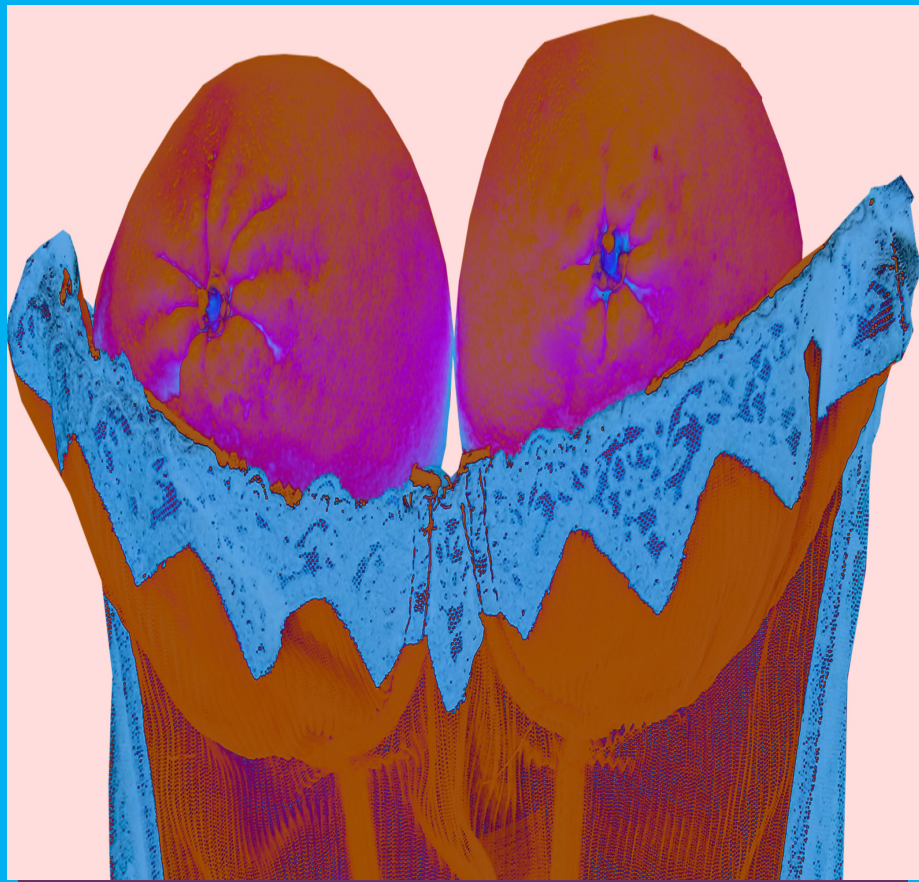
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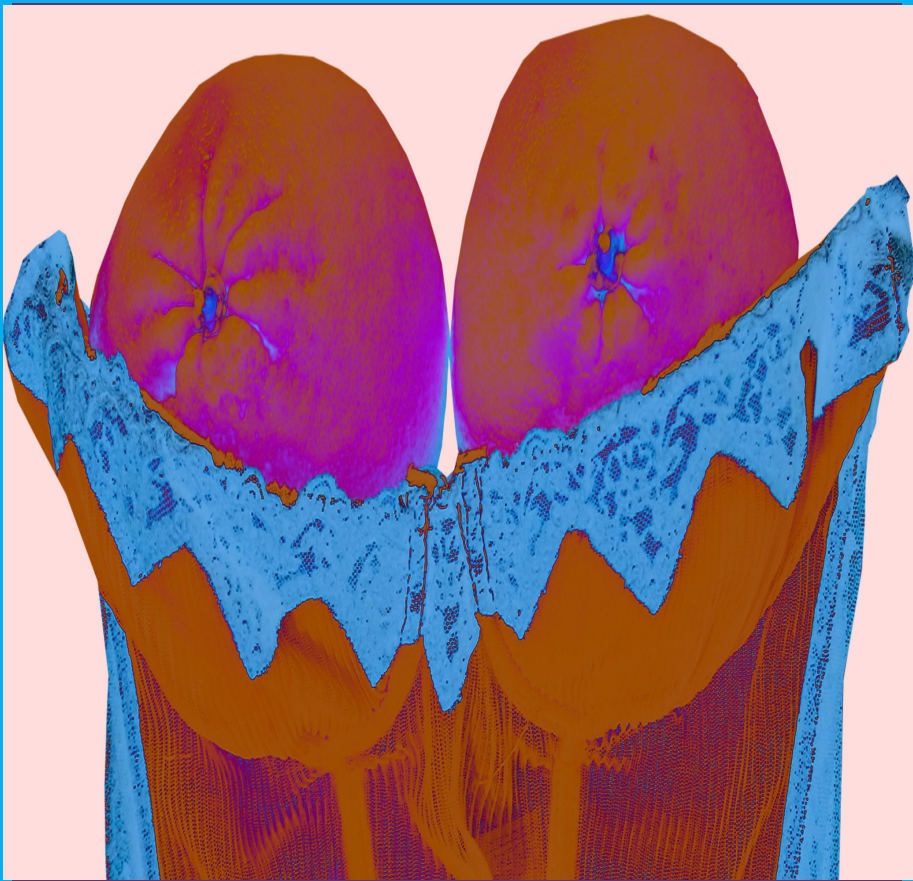
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**Wrong to
assume a
historically
specific form of
pornography....**

**....(i.e. one that
arose in 1970s) is
the standard by
which all
pornography
should be
judged.**

**Late C18th-
early C19th**

**1960s-
early 1970s**

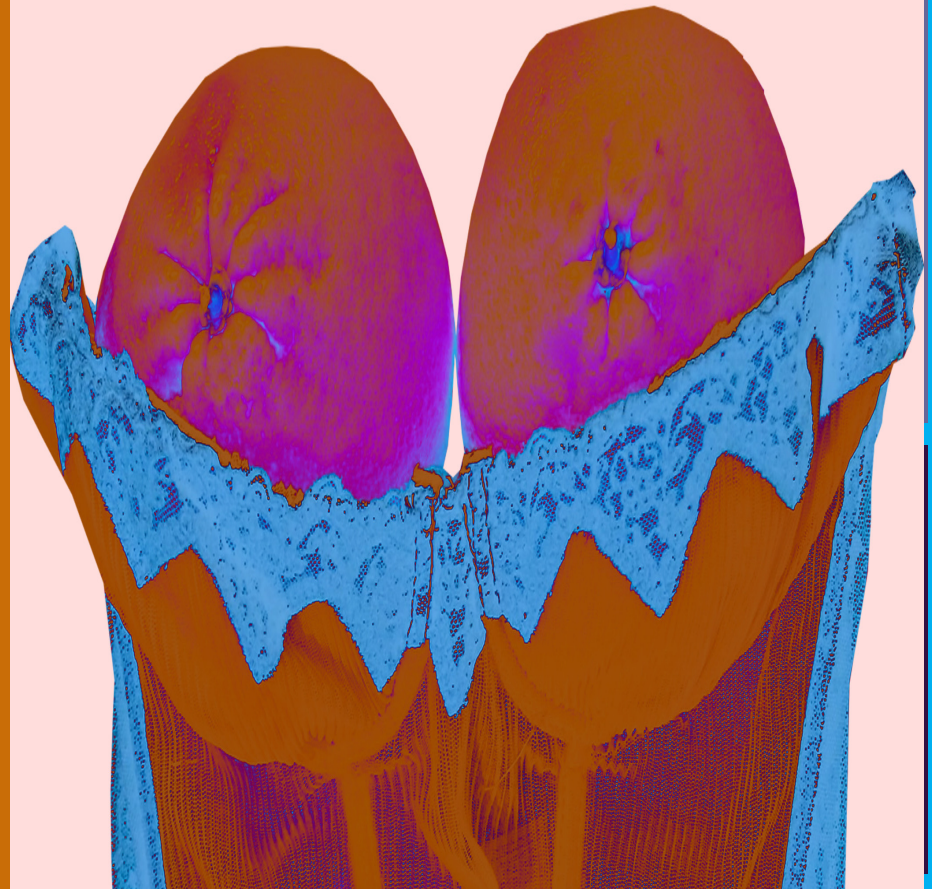
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C18th-C19th British pornographers were politically committed to using bawdiness and obscenity to convey explicitly political messages....

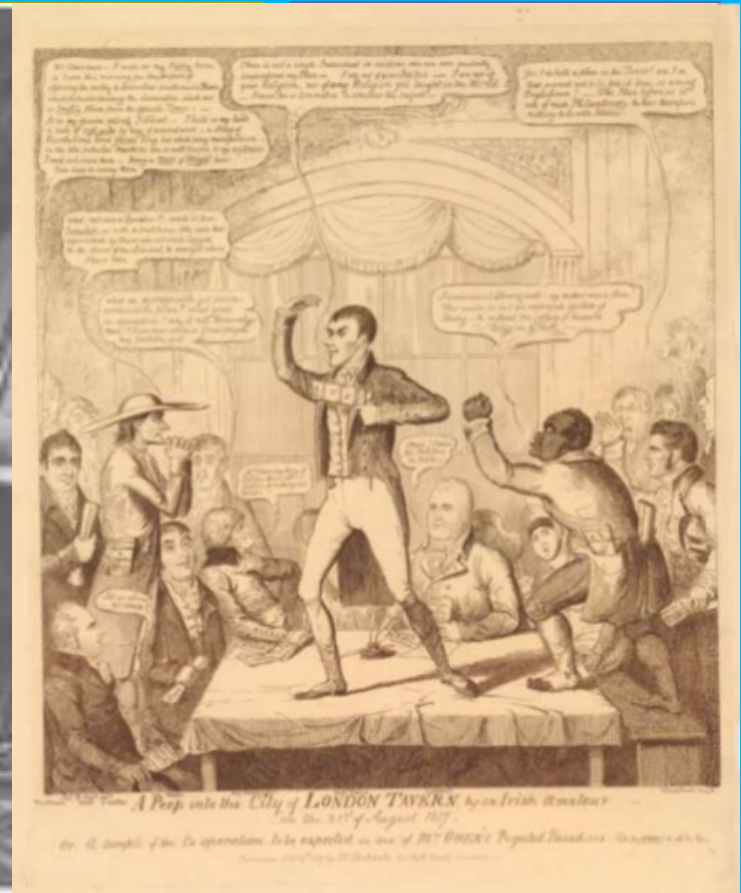
Mocking the Crown, Church, & State



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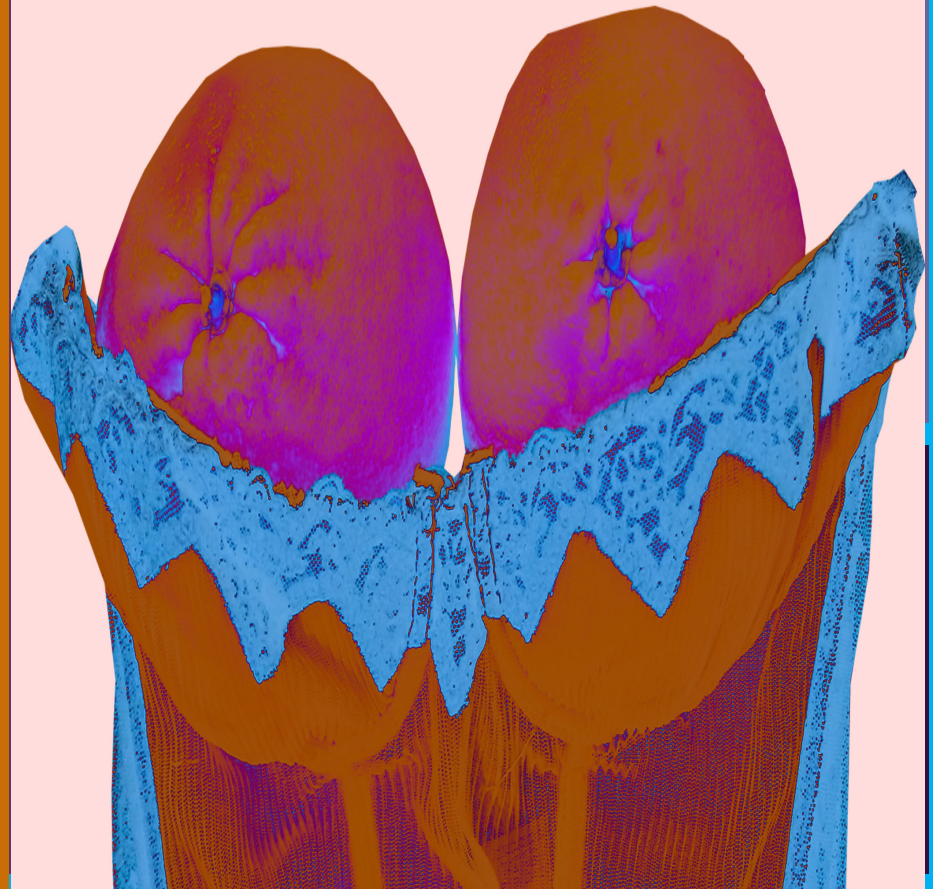


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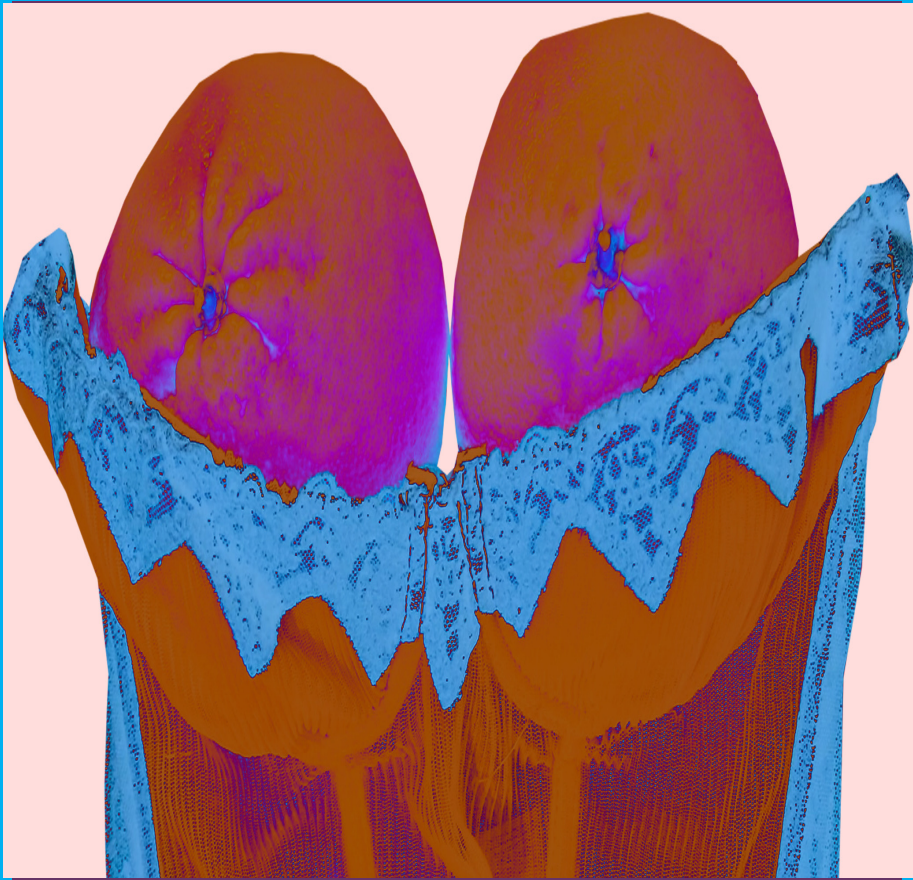
Pornography of this period was not only (or even primarily) about titillation or “arousing sexual feelings” (as in the C20th definition) but was explicitly radical, critiquing power structures.



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**Change from
bawdiness as
political – to
bawdiness as
*titillating***

Iain McCalman

Lynn Hunt

Lisa Z. Sigel

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THE
HISTORY
OF THE
HUMAN HEART:
OR, THE
ADVENTURES
OF A
YOUNG GENTLEMAN.



LONDON:
Printed for J. FREEMAN, near Ludgate.
MDCCXLIX.

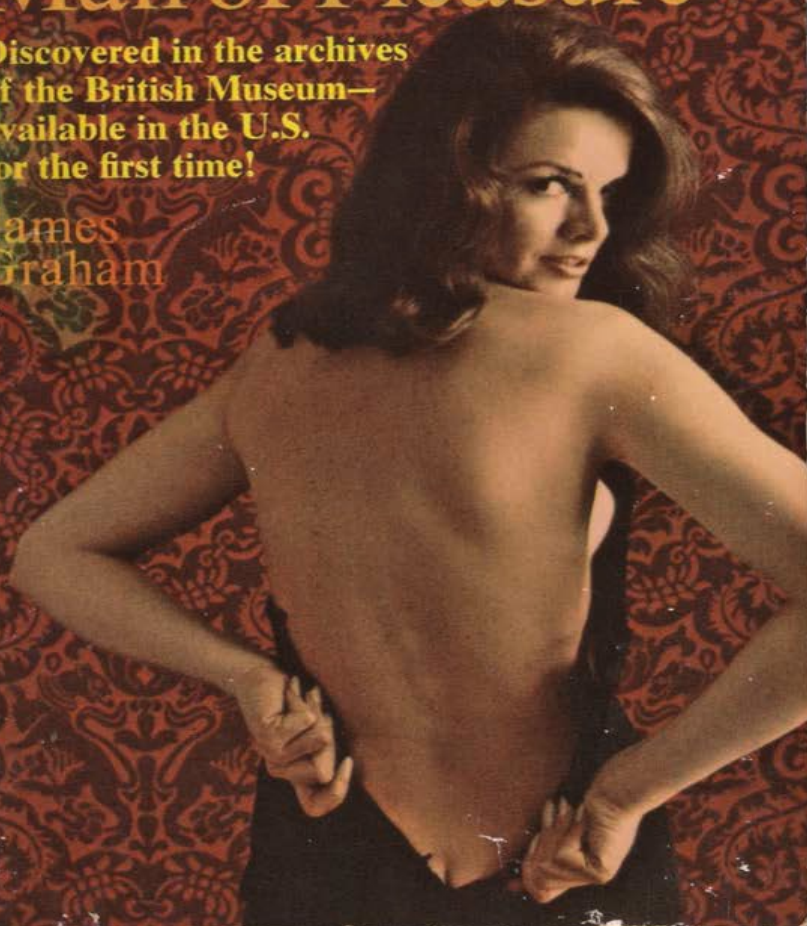
A AWARD BOOKS A420N K 956

AN 18TH-CENTURY EROTIC
CLASSIC, WIDER IN SCOPE
THAN *MY SECRET LIFE*—

Memoirs of a Man of Pleasure

Discovered in the archives
of the British Museum—
available in the U.S.
for the first time!

James
Graham



**Kathleen Lubey:
Shifts in 1749, 1844, & 1968 editions**

Female sexual pleasure curtailed;

**Women become objects,
not subjects
of pornographic narratives;**

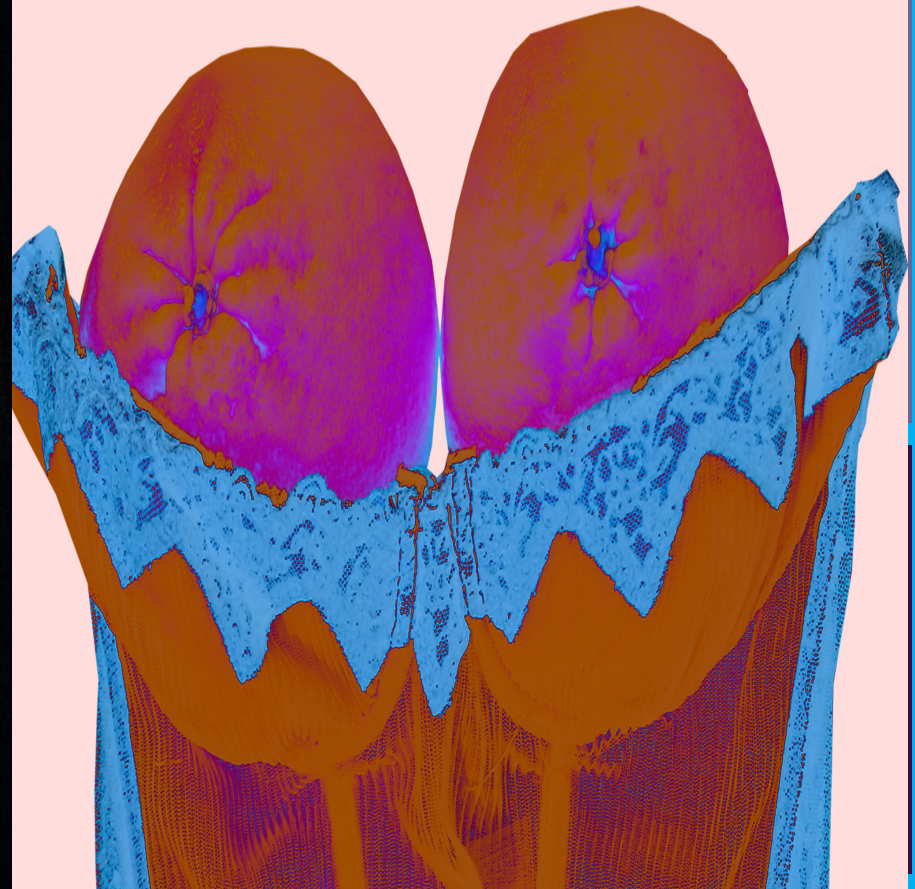
**The main thrust of the latter
editions is potent male
heterosexuality.**

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
HUMAN HEART:
OR, THE
ADVENTURES
OF A
YOUNG GENTLEMAN.



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"IT'S VERY BRACING HERE -
BUT WE FIND THE WIND
RATHER TROUBLESOME!"



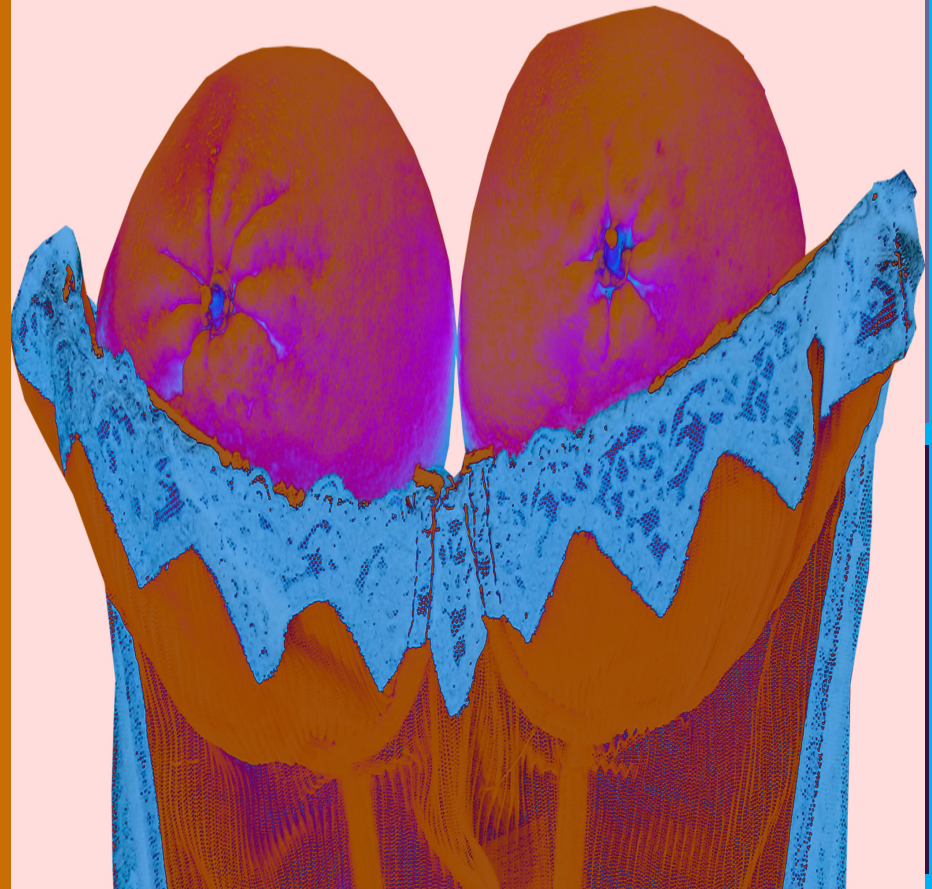
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1960s “new pornographers”:

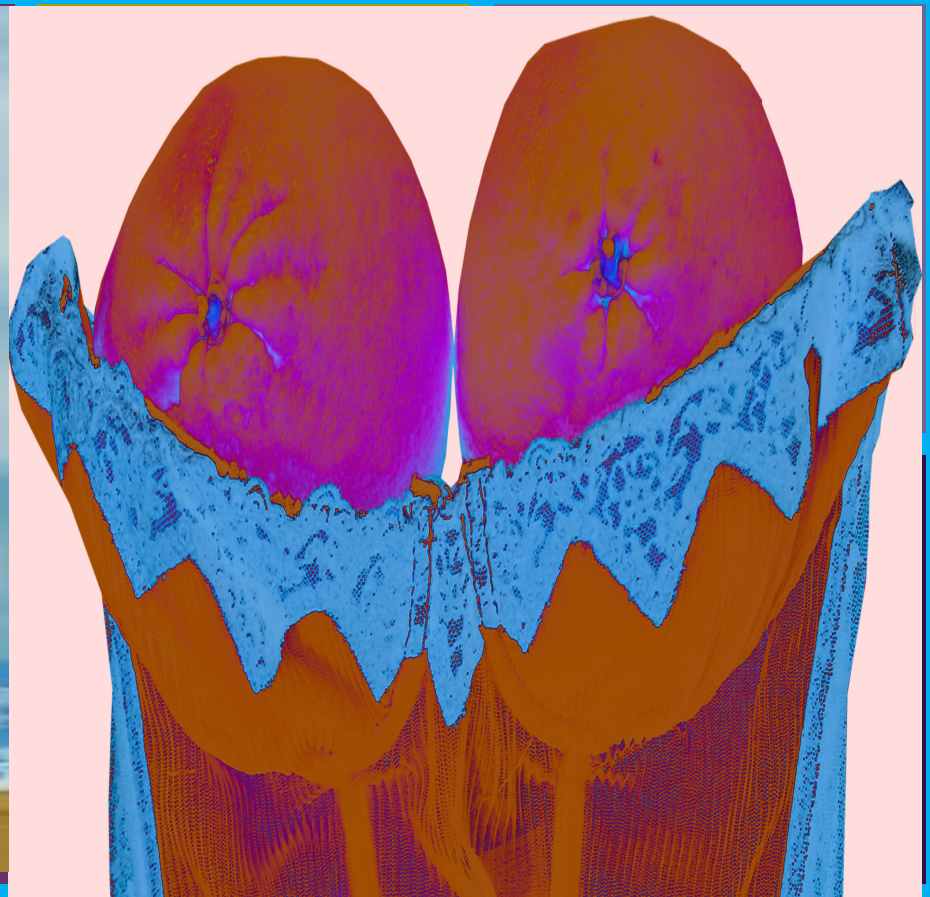
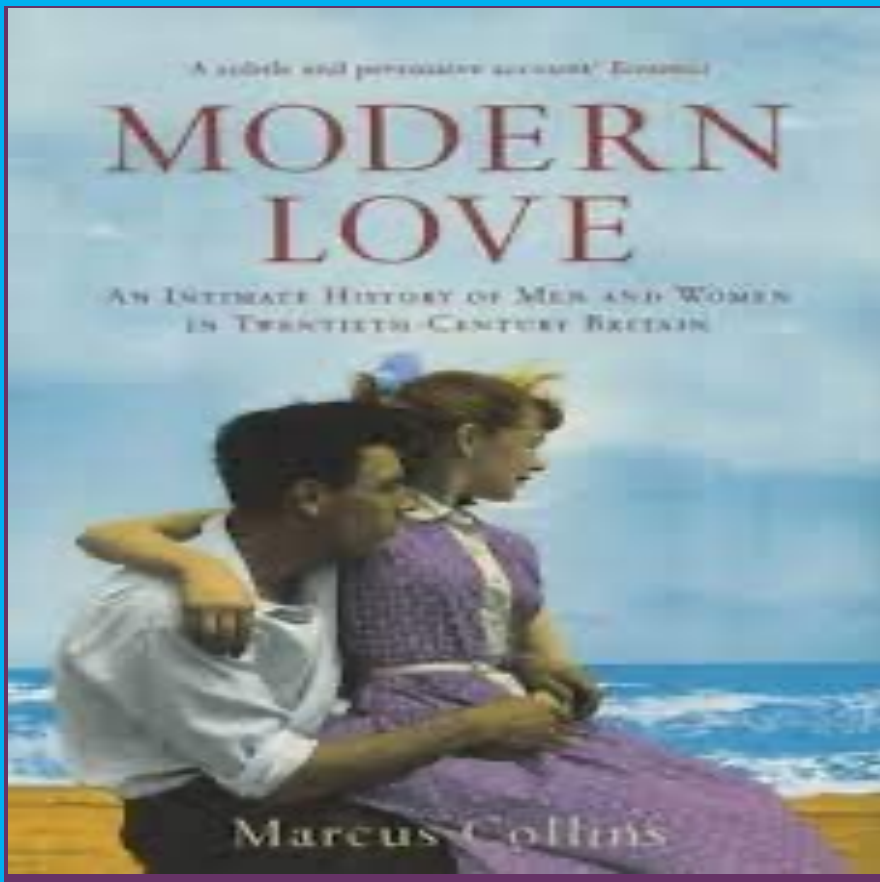
**Sex radicals, pornographers,
and feminists
were encouraged to believe
that they were engaged
in adjacent projects.**



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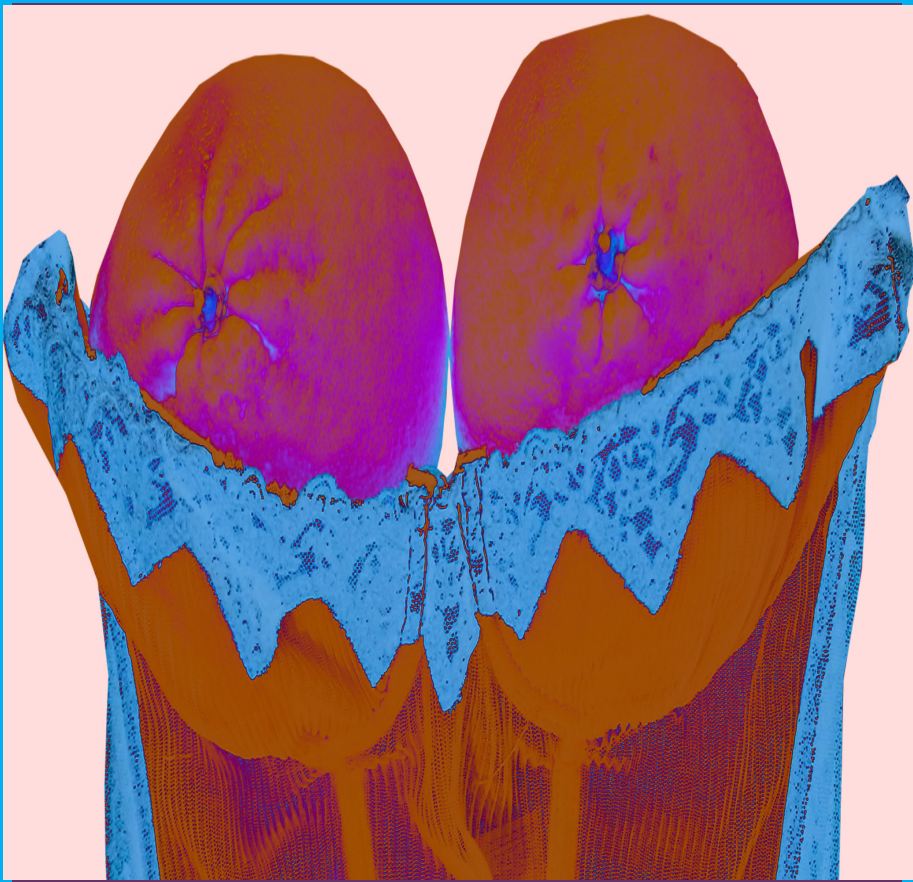
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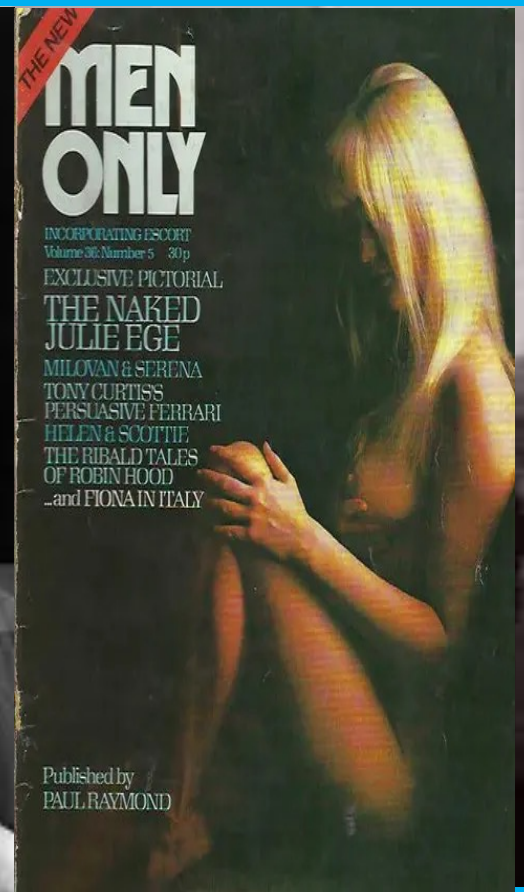
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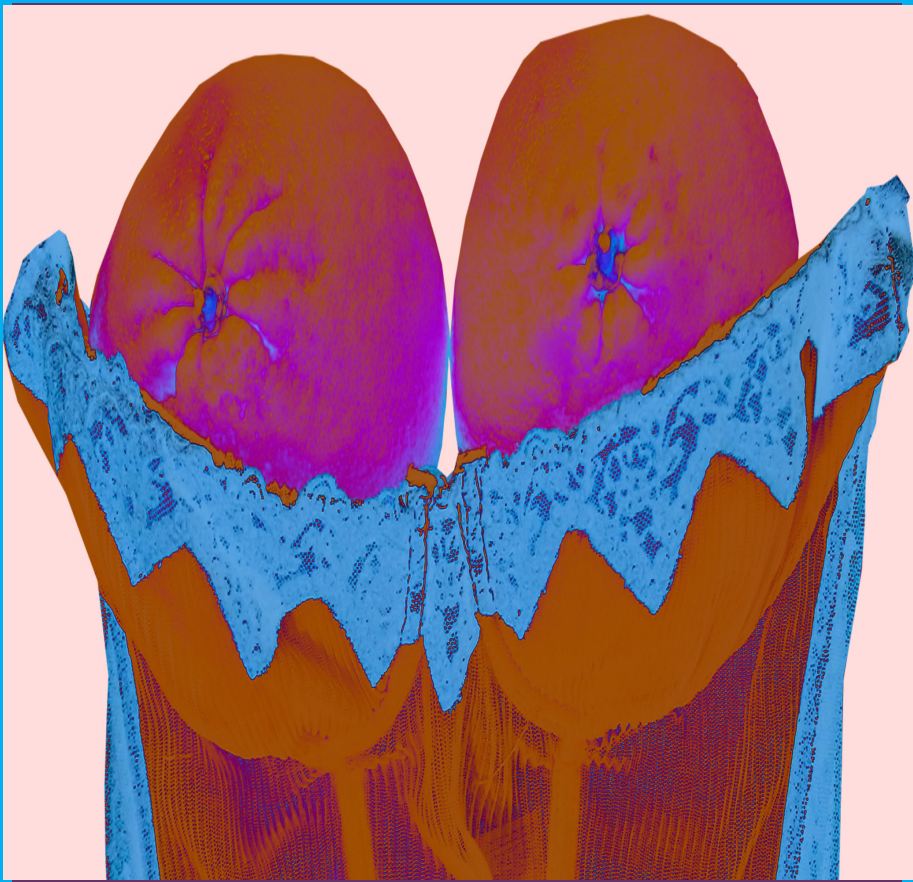
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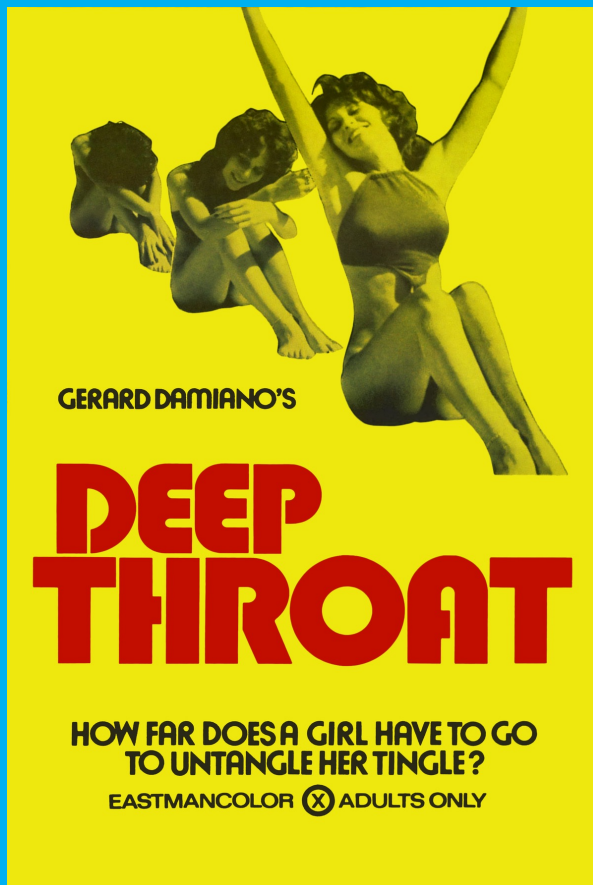
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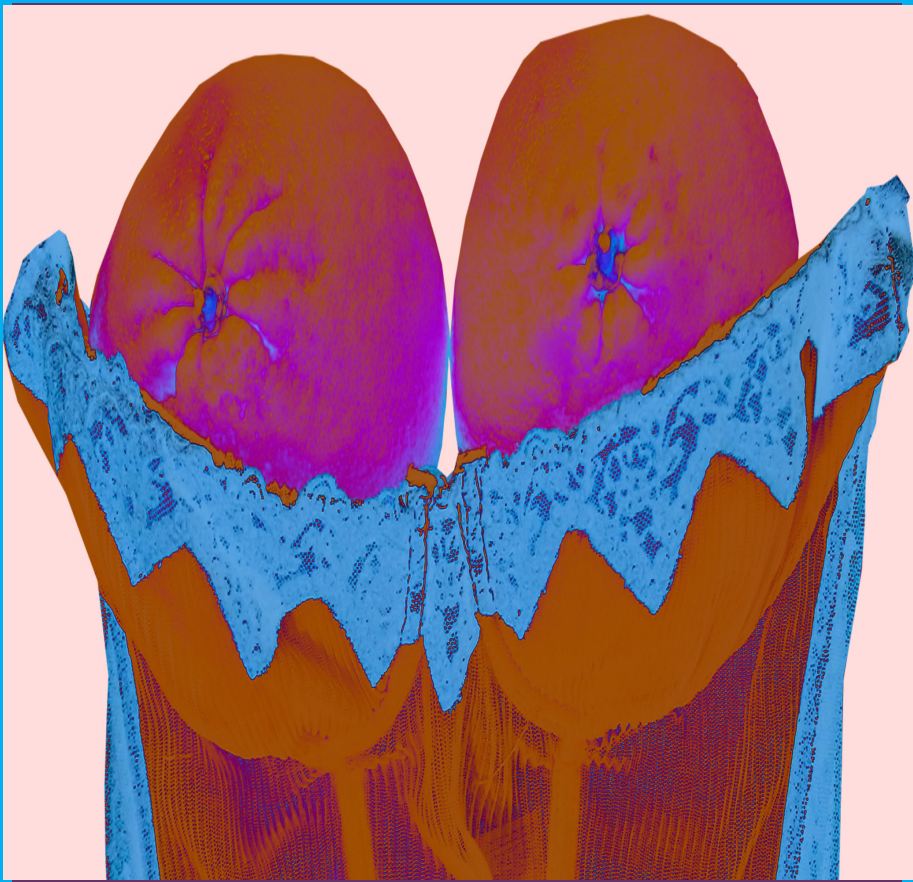
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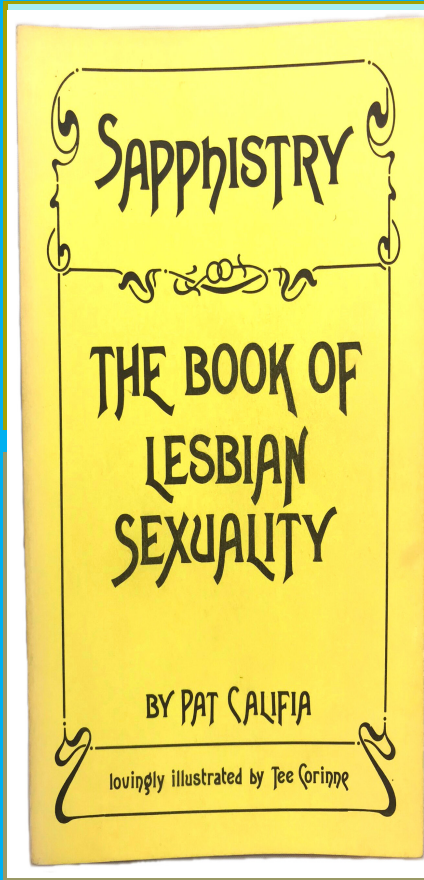
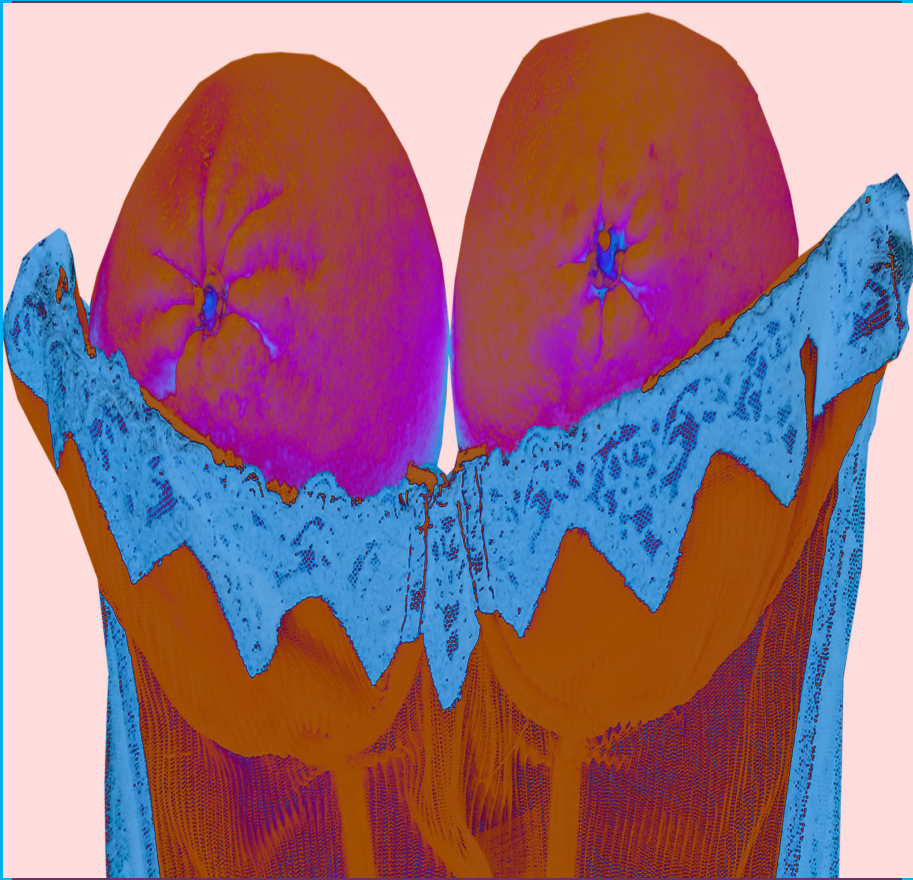
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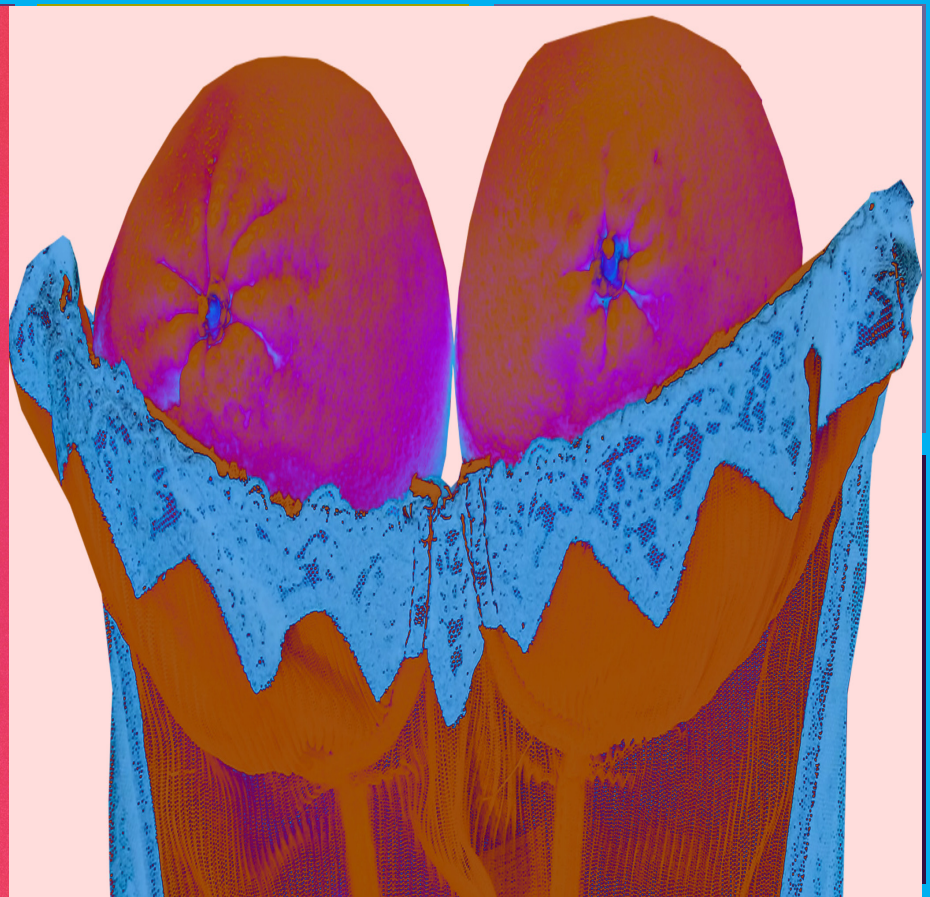
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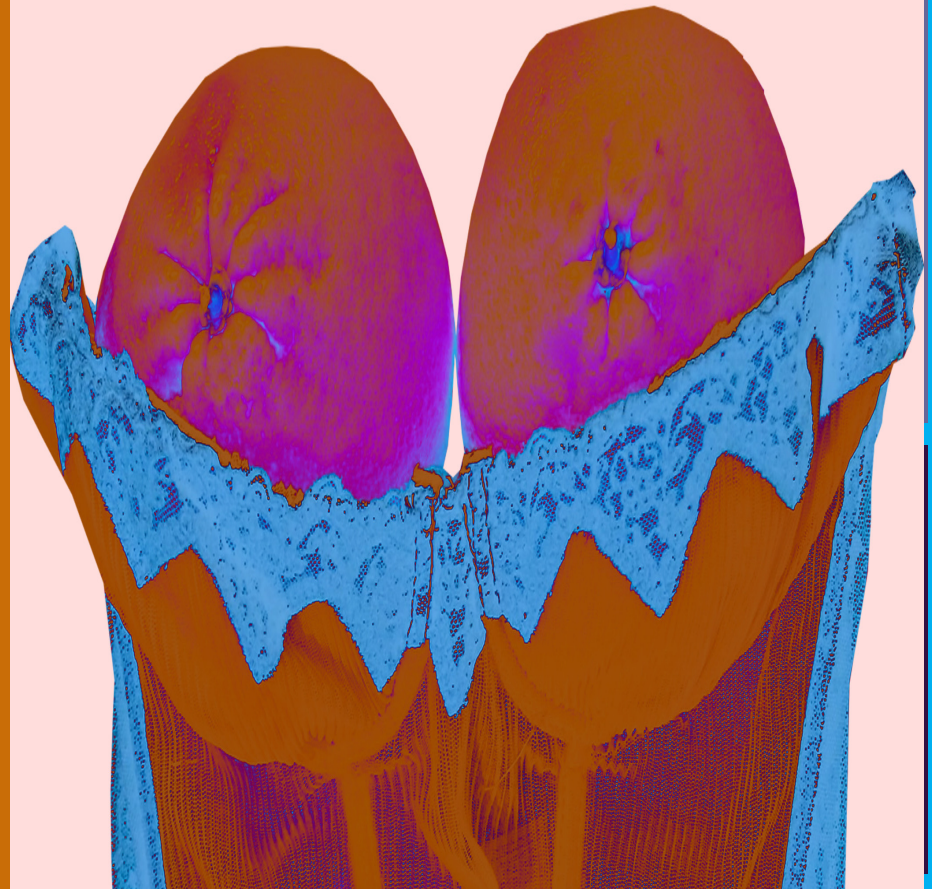
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**Pornography loves boundaries –
it requires transgression.**

**C18th-C19th pornographers:
Sought to change society and used
sex, sauciness, &
orgiastic revelry to do so.**



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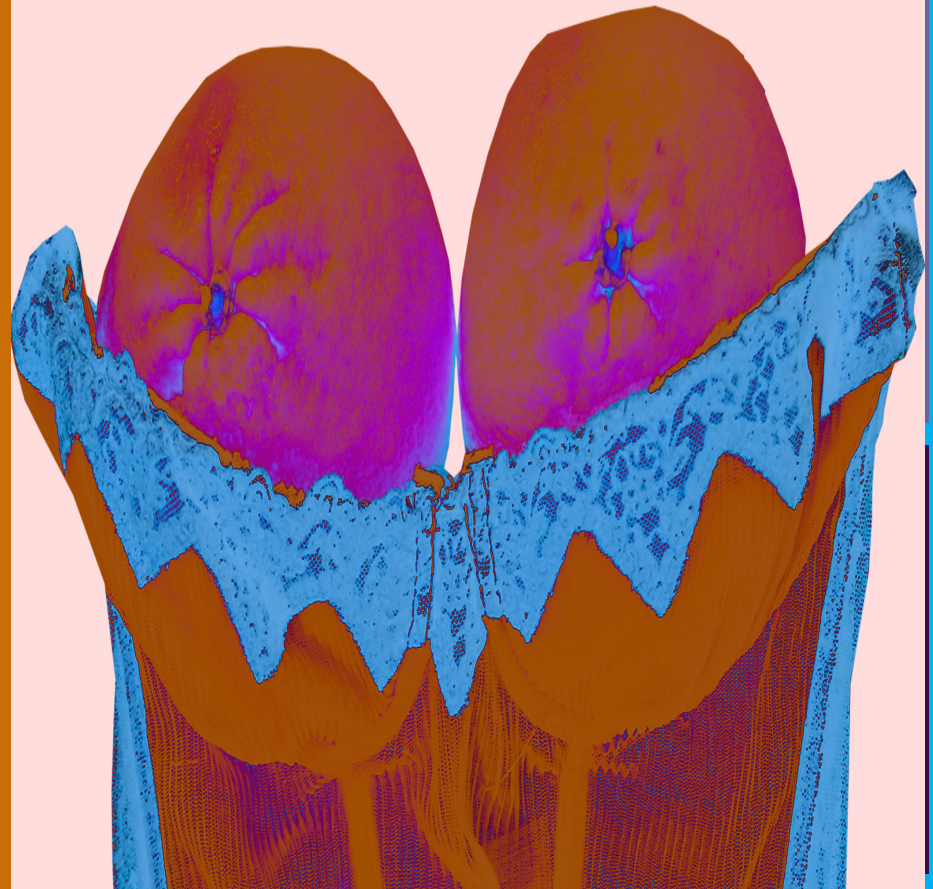
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Sex Work (17 February 2022)

Monogamy (17 March 2022)

Abstinence (12 May 2022)



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bell hooks (1952-Dec 2021)

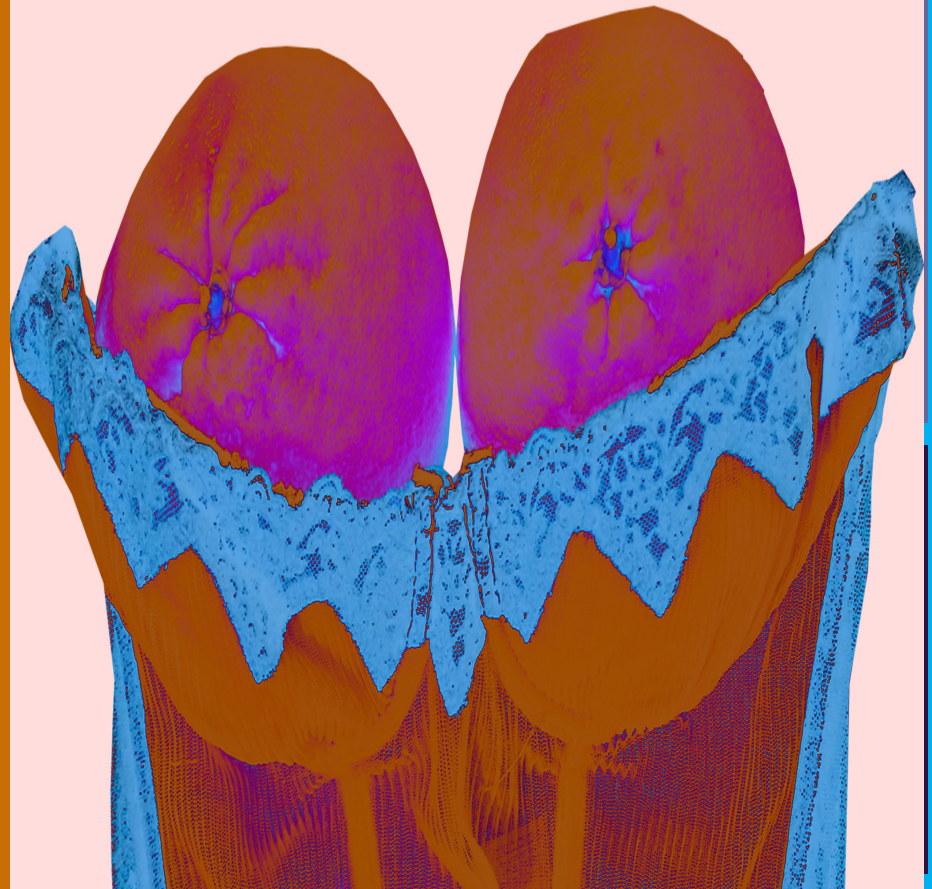
“Our desire for radical social change is ultimately linked with the desire to experience pleasure, erotic fulfilment, and a host of other passions”.

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