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# Gallery opens sex, AIDS exhibit

## Nunnery's museum offers link between religion, sensuality

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — In an unconventional art gallery, a new exhibit of daring oil paintings and sculptures explicitly depicts sexual acts and links them with religion.

It's a gallery run by Catholic nuns. Known as ReBarn — A Center For Spirituality and Art, the gallery is operated by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. Housed in a renovated, century-old barn, the gallery sits next to the nunnery's mother-house and retirement center.

The new exhibit by Houston artist Donell Hill titled "Spiritual, Sensual, Sexual" also includes a body of work called "Inner AIDS," depicting the plight of people with AIDS.

ReBarn director Sister Alice Holden said that the show is the "most upsetting" exhibit held at ReBarn since it opened about three years ago.

"It was upsetting to a couple of people," Sister Holden said. "It is explicit because it is the beautification of sexuality."

Among the exhibit pieces are flesh-colored clay sculptures of genitalia, embedded in flower-like formations and also oil paintings depicting sexual intercourse and other pas-

sionate expressions.

One painting, which Ms. Hill calls "Initiation," portrays an angel having intercourse at an altar.

Ms. Hill said that at a Valentine's Day art show in Houston, a show sponsor asked her to drape a cloth over her sculptures.

Sister Holden declined to say who connected with the San Antonio religious gallery has objected to the exhibit. She said one man told her, "God has nothing to do with sex."

**"It was upsetting to a couple of people. It is explicit because it is the beautification of sexuality."**

— Sister Holden, ReBarn director

"I said, 'How can that be?'" she recalled.

Sister Holden said she prayed about whether to hold the monthlong show at the gallery. She ultimately decided the exhibit needed to be displayed because it depicts sexuality in a spiritual way and calls attention to AIDS.

Monsignor Lawrence Stuebben, with the Archdiocese of San Antonio, said he was not aware of the exhibit and could not comment.

ReBarn board member Trinidad Sanchez said he and the rest of the board support the show. Previous exhibits at the gallery —

like one featuring the art of jail prisoners, have been just as "strong," he said.

Sister Holden said the Bible teaches "sexuality is a tremendous gift from God."

"I am very much opposed to pornography," she said. "Yet, I do not believe (the exhibit) is pornography. It's a sacred re-creation of the beauty of sexuality."

Sister Holden entered the convent in 1953. She became a school teacher and principal, worked in juvenile treatment centers and later studied Hinduism. These days, in addition to running ReBarn, she teaches a new version of tai chi.

Ms. Hill said she is not part of an organized religion, but she communicates with her "spirit."

She has shown her work with other artists in Houston and New York. The Hill's first solo show, and it is the debut of her "Inner AIDS" portraits.

Ms. Hill began the 11 AIDS works in January of this year.

She interviewed people with AIDS, videotaped the sessions and then tried to capture their struggles on canvas.

One portrait depicts a man burning a crucifix; another shows a woman with children next to a brick wall with syringes overhead; yet another is of a man sitting amid total darkness.

"There's a fine line between compassion and pity," the artist said. "This is not about being negative. It's about a sadness."

# Compaq introduces new ProLiant line

HOUSTON (AP) — Compaq Computer Corp., seeking a bigger piece of the corporate computing pie, today introduces a new line powered by up to four 100-megahertz Pentium processors.

The new members of its ProLiant family of servers also include the first fruits of Compaq's alliance with Oracle, a database software company.

The machines are aimed at businesses that must juggle, maintain and sift through large amounts of information, said Mary McDowell, Compaq's director of systems product marketing.

"A typical customer for this kind of computer would be, say, a company that does a lot of direct marketing," Ms. McDowell said.

Compaq, which has been expanding its line of servers to include more powerful machines, is moving further into territory long held by IBM and Digital Equipment Corp.

The new machines will run Intel's top-of-the-line Pentium processors, in either the 90-megahertz or 100-megahertz versions. The faster chips will not be available until the fourth quarter of 1994.

As many as four chips can be installed in one box, allowing the servers to conduct as many as 628 transactions per second. A transaction, Ms. McDowell explained, would be akin to a teller entering a deposit into a bank's database.

The servers also feature an optional device Compaq calls the "transaction blaster,"

a form of memory that dramatically speeds up the machine.

Estimated prices on the machines start at \$20,500 for a ProLiant 2000 model 590-1050, which would have a single 90-megahertz Pentium chip, 32 megabytes of random access memory and 1 gigabyte hard disk drive.

Each additional 90-megahertz Pentium chip will cost \$4,350 more, said Compaq spokeswoman Hedy Baker.

The systems include an update to Compaq's Insight Manager software, which lets systems administrator check on the computers' health.

There also is an easy set-up system for Oracle's database software, as well as Microsoft's SQL database program.

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