

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989)

Education: National Endowment for the Arts
and Humanities, Subject Files II (1962-1996)

1989

Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Speech 02

Hilton Kramer

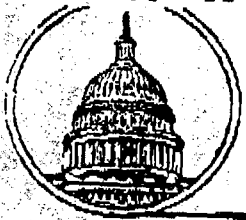
Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_II_59

Recommended Citation

Kramer, Hilton, "Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Speech 02" (1989). *Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989)*. Paper 16.

https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_II_59/16https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_II_59/16

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files II (1962-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.



News Release

by the National Republican Congressional Committee

320 First Street, SE • Washington, D.C. 20003 • 202-479-7070 • Contact: John Buckley

LOWEY VOTES IN FAVOR OF FEDERALLY SUBSIDIZED OBSCENITY

WASHINGTON -- July 14, 1989 -- Congresswoman Nita Lowey let down the taxpayers of New York when she voted to have Congress support sexually explicit and anti-religious works of art that are offensive to millions of Americans, NRCC Co-Chairman Ed Rollins charged today.

Said Rollins, "Four out of five Members of Congress voted to strip the appropriation for the National Endowment for the Arts because of its support for artwork considered obscene," Rollins said. "But Congresswoman Lowey joined with a tiny minority of the most liberal members of Congress to support using your tax dollars to subsidize such outrageously offensive artwork."

Rollins was referring to Congresswoman Lowey's vote against the Arney Amendment (Roll No. 134, Congressional Record, Page H3654, July 12, 1989). This measure stripped \$45,000 from the budget of the National Endowment for the Arts because it is the exact amount the NEA paid for the exhibition of such "artwork" as Andres Serrano's photograph of a Christ-figure submerged in a container of the artist's urine, as well as sexually explicit photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe.

Rollins said, "Some 332 Members of Congress stood up in protest against the NEA's using tax dollars for such offensive material. Yet, Congresswoman Lowey voted to continue the NEA's practice of using her District's taxpayers' hard-earned money to underwrite this kind of so-called artwork."

"Perhaps the people of the 20th District of New York will ask Congresswoman Lowey why she thinks they should pay for an artist to defile a Christ-image with urine. Perhaps it's time for her to tell the people of her District why they should subsidize what the Washington Post called 'homoerotic and sadomasochistic pictures.'"

"As Co-Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, I can guarantee that during the upcoming campaign, Congresswoman Lowey will be asked why she failed to register her outrage at such taxpayer-financed obscenity when she had her chance. The way she voted was truly obscene," Rollins concluded.

Hil Hor Kraus
Federal Ex