The "art" of Joel-Peter Witkin

Joel-Peter Witkin is typical of the "artists" supported by the NEA with our tax dollars. Mr. Witkin has received generous financial support from the NEA over the past several years. In 1980 he received $3,000; 1981, $12,500; 1986, $15,000; 1992, $20,000. Below are some examples of the "art" which Mr. Witkin has done. This is the kind of artist the NEA feels deserves tax dollars.

"Testicle Stretch with the Possibility of a Crushed Face" — The hooded man is laying inclined with string tied to his testicles. The other end of the string is threaded through a pulley which is attached to a set of barbell weights dangling directly over his face. The man, who served as babysitter for Mr. Witkin’s son, later died of AIDS.

"The Kiss" — A human head of an old man was sawed in half vertically and the two halves placed together in a kissing position. Mr. Witkin had a pathologist sever the head from an unclaimed body at a morgue.

"The Maquette for Crucifix" — A naked Christ is pictured on a crucifix with pictures of nude hermaphrodites (half-man/half woman) at each end of the cross. Other similar works by Mr. Witkin include Christ as a naked woman and actual crucified monkeys on either side of a naked male in the crucifix position.

"Portrait of the Holocaust" — The large reclining naked woman is holding three dead fetuses by their feet.