

1989

Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Correspondence 11

Monica Rex

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_II_60

Recommended Citation

Rex, Monica, "Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Correspondence 11" (1989). *Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989)*. Paper 37.
http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_II_60/37http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_II_60/37

This Correspondence 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.

AUGUST 7, 1989

89 AUG 16 AM 10:17

TO THOSE LISTED BELOW:

re: ART CENSORSHIP

NO ART CENSORSHIP BASED ON YOUR NARROW INTERPRETATION OF WORK IS ACCEPTABLE. WE DO NOT WANT AN EXTREMIST RIGHT WING SOCIETY. THAT IS NOT WHAT AMERICA IS ABOUT, REGARDLESS OF RECENT UNFORTUNATE TRENDS. WE WANT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, UNLIMITED AND FREE, AND THESE ARE INALIENABLE RIGHTS, NOT TO BE MANIPULATED BY PUNISHING "RADICAL/INNOVATIVE" THINKING AND EXPRESSION!

THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY ART YOU DEEM OFFENSIVE ARE GOOD REASONS TO EXPLORE WHAT IT IS ARTISTS ARE ACTUALLY SAYING ABOUT EXISTENCE AND SOCIETY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CREATOR OF "PISS CHRIST" SITES IT AS A SYMBOL OF EVANGELICAL EXPLOITATION, OF HOW THE SPIRITUAL VALUE OF THE CHRIST IMAGE HAS BEEN EXPOITED FOR MONEY AND EGO, ETC. A SLANG ENGLISH EXPRESSION FOR EXPLOITATION IS TO "PISS ON" SOMETHING. THAT MAY BE TOO STREET SMART FOR YOU, BUT IT IS NOT OFFENSIVE IN LIGHT OF THE PIECE'S REAL MEANING. CHRIST AS A PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN DEGRADED BY THE BORN-AGAIN SCAMMERS, NOT BY THIS ARTIST WHO WISHES TO EXPOSE THEM. THE DAMAGE TO CHRIST WAS DONE LONG BEFORE THIS ARTIST HAD THE WILL TO SAY SO. TODAY IN THE NEWS, A STUDY REVEALS THAT THE PUBLIC IS BEING TRAGICALLY RIPPED OFF BY "BORN AGAIN INVESTMENT SCAMS." THE ARTIST CHOSE A THEATRICAL WAY OF TELLING THE TRUTH. IT IS THE TRUTH THAT IN THE NAME OF RELIGION, AMERICANS ARE BEING SCAMMED AND "PISSSED ON." WHY IS A PHOTO CAUSING MORE OF AN UPROAR THAN THE REALITY? WHY HAVE RELIGIOUS CONS NOT BEEN STOPPED WHILE INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE RIPPED OFF FOR THEIR LIFE SAVINGS?

I DO NOT NEED FOR YOU TO "POLICE" MY ART APPRECIATION FOR ME. I AM QUITE CAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING THIS ARTIST. WE NEED TO LOOK AT THESE TRUTHS, NOT AVOID THEM, REGARDLESS OF HOW CONTROVERSIAL THAT TOPIC OR ANY TOPIC MAY BE TO YOU, IT NEEDS TO BE LOOKED AT. YOU ABUSE YOUR POSITION OF POWER BY REQUESTING CENSORSHIP. YOU ARE UN-AMERICAN.

THE ARTIST OBVIOUSLY WANTS TO DRAW ATTENTION TO, IN A POWERFUL WAY, HOW SPIRITUAL VALUES ARE CHEAPENED BY THIS "CHRIST-SELLING" AND UNETHICAL MANIPULATION OF MASS AUDIENCES. I CAN FIGURE THAT OUT FOR MYSELF, WITHOUT A NEED FOR "UN-IMAGINATIVE" CONGRESS MEMBERS TO "POLICE" WHAT ART IS SAYING TODAY. YOUR ACTION EXPOSES YOUR NARROW MINDEDNESS IN INTERPRETATION OF PHENOMENON.

THIS IS ONE PARTICULAR INCIDENT, BUT THE IMPLICATIONS GO MUCH DEEPER. YOU HAVE NO GOD-GIVEN RIGHT TO CENSOR THE EXPRESSION OF ANYONE IN THE UNITED STATES. ARTISTS WILL NOT BE OPPRESSED BY YOUR NARROW LITERAL THINKING. IT ALSO MAKES NO SENSE TO "PUNISH" ORGANIZATIONS WHO FOLLOWED FEDERAL GUIDLINES FOR EXHIBITS, AFTER

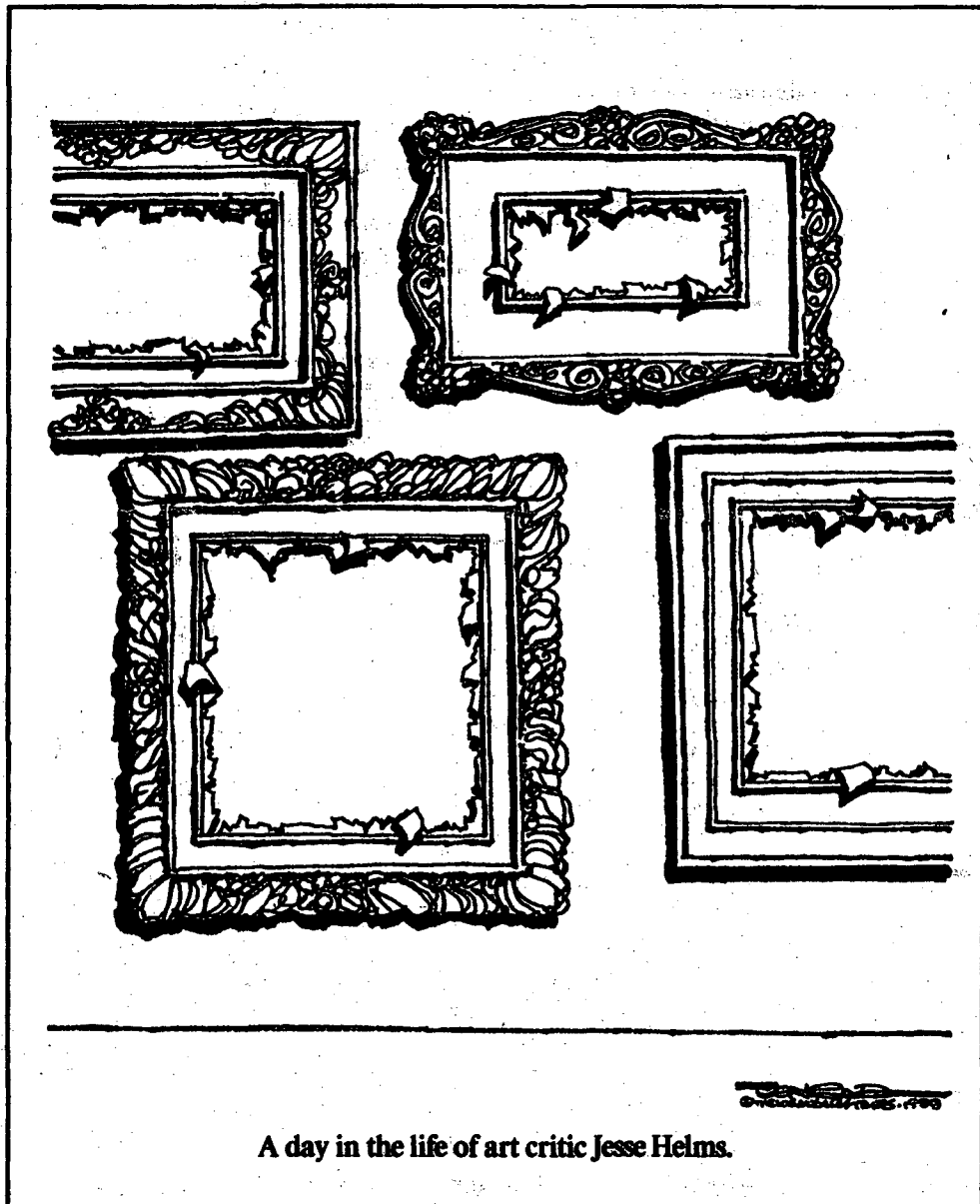
THE FACT. CONTROVERSY IS A CREATIVE MEANS OF EXPLORING DIFFICULT REALITIES. ART CANNOT BE FORCED TO BE MAINSTREAM IN ITS APPROACH, THAT IS CONTRARY TO CREATIVITY ITSELF. I AM ASHAMED OF CONGRESS ON THIS ONE. VERY ASHAMED.

SINCERELY,

Monica Rex
MONICA REX

*12766 Caswell Ave.
LA, Ca. 90066*

CC: JESSE HELMS, R-NC
CLAIBORNE PELL, D-RI
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
GEORGE BUSH
ALAN CRANSTON, D-CA



A day in the life of art critic Jesse Helms.

Sovi Pretext

By S. FRED

On Aug. 23, Lithuanians will celebrate the anniversary of the day that the Soviet Union, under the leadership of Josef Stalin, invaded the Soviet Union.

A year ago, on the anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Finland, it is being discussed.

But the same day, the Soviet Union assigned Finland to the Soviet Union. On Nov. 30, 1939, the Soviet Union attacked Finland and took possession of its territory, including the cities of Helsinki and Tampere. Both remain today.

Until now, it has been that Finland has been attacked by the Soviet Army. However, in June, 1941, the Soviet Union published a book, "The Soviet Union in the Second World War," in which the Soviet Union is described as the aggressor in the process by which it grabbed part of Finland.

Semiraga, however, has carefully prepared before the invasion upon to justify how Moscow refused to talk following the invasion. Commentator or may have been not of state in the 20th Century.