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Senate bars grants for pornographic art

By Mary Deibel
Scripps Howard News Service

Neither received endowment funds directly. But Philadelphia's Institute of Contemporary Art, which organized a traveling exhibit of Mr. Mapplethorpe's works, received $30,000 from the NEA, while the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, N.C., gave Mr. Serrano a $15,000 award from its federal grant money.

Mr. Helms said he didn't want to get specific about either artist's works. But shortly before debate began, he was seen on the Senate floor flipping through a catalog from the Mapplethorpe exhibit with Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd, West Virginia Democrat. Mr. Byrd quickly announced that Mr. Helms' amendment was acceptable to Senate Democrats.

The Senate also ordered the same $45,000 cut the House approved for the endowment next year and went on to forbid it from giving any money to the Philadelphia art institute or the Southeastern Center for five years.

The Senate also earmarked $100,000 of the NEA's budget for an independent review of how the agency awards its grants.

House and Senate negotiators must work out differences in the bill.