

Re. SB 2123

As a university level art educator one of the things I taught my students was how to accurately render a subject set before them. In order to teach this skill to others I had to have this ability myself. In order to perfect my own ability to accurately draw, I took two semesters of life drawing as an undergraduate and also attended workshops in Johnson, VT, Minneapolis, MN, and New Smyrna Beach, FL all of which were devoted entirely to drawing posed nude models. Later I hired a female model to pose nude for me in my home in order to continue to perfect my drawing skills.

Life drawing, that is drawing a living nude person who is posed in front of an artist or art students, has been part of Western visual art training for hundreds of years. Mistakes in proportion are more difficult to hide in a nude than in a clothed person. Actually when I taught university level art students I did not have them draw nude models because their skill level in drawing was not good enough to merit this. They all started drawing foreshortened geometric solids and once they got those proportions correct they could move on to more interesting subject matter such as a still life or clothed model.

Exemptions to the anti-pornography laws designed to protect minors were meant to protect the libraries from law suits initiated by the families of minors who, for example, got a hold of certain issues of *National Geographic*, or a text on Classical Greek or Roman sculpture. These legitimate exemptions were never meant to promote books advising children to pay for their porn, follow interviews with porn stars, engage in casual sex (oral, anal, or otherwise) with members of either sex, teach them to masturbate, sneak home with classmates to have sex when their parents weren't home, or whatever. My grandson is 11 years old and in the 6th grade. He skipped 1st grade because in kindergarten he was tested and read at the 5th grade level. He is an avid reader and is very sad about not wanting to go to the library anymore because of the "bad" books. In the past he used the library frequently and loved everything about it. He himself has made the decision to not use Valley City's public library. We buy books for him on the internet instead.