

# Museum recounts history of sex, sadism and sodomy

THE STUDY of anatomy takes on an acrobatic twist at Copenhagen's Museum Erotica. Plenty of flesh to see, but not touch.

This rather eccentric museum in the heart of the Danish capital is definitely an epicurean display of sadism, sodomy and just plain sex.

The 200-plus *objets d'art*, part of the curator's private collection, is a pictorial essay on sexual pleasure dating from ancient Greece to modern times.

The multimedia exhibit uses erotic paintings, postcards, films, magazine covers, sculptures, statues, life-like wax models and an array of sex toys to stimulate minds about our bodies.

What we quickly learn is that our forefathers (and mothers) had more colorful imaginations than we care to admit.

For instance, the 500 A.D. drawing of Dionysus balancing a wine cooler on his erection is worth a long stare. So is the first century wall painting of a Pompeian nobleman with a 7 ft erection.

Playboy pales in comparison to the painted scenes of pedophilia, Roman orgies, Victorian women performing fellatio and engaging in bestiality.

There's also some trivia to be learned. The first painting depicting necrophilia was documented in 425 B.C. and the



**Copenhagen's Museum Erotica: A feast for some eyes.**

largest penis on record belonged to a Sudanese, measuring 32 cm.

One room is devoted to the sex lives of famous people; it has write-ups on everyone from Somerset Maugham to W.C. Fields, who's quoted as saying, "Women are like elephants. You like to look at them, but not own one."

One feels almost voyeuristic walking through the display of scenes of sex; you graduate from the tame to homosexual and lesbian art, to a 4-ft gold lamé statue of a penis — to the screening room where 12 hard-

core porno flicks run simultaneously, all day long.

Yes, this display is about the joys of sex, but it tells much more than it shows, namely that the role of women in art has not changed much in 3,000 years. Whether their bodies are adorning Grecian urns or steaming up the screen in porno flicks, the nude woman always was and continues to be a great marketing device.

Museum Erotica is located at 24 Kobmagergade Street in Copenhagen, next to Illums department store, and is open six days a week.