

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Lemon
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Exclusively By Appointment

SORPHIA SPANKISLAV AT LEMON

SUPER-SIZED TOILET PAPER FOR BIG F★ ★ KING A★ ★ HOLES

Thursday, October 28 – Sunday, November 22, 2004

Reception for the artist: Thursday, October 28, 4:00 – 6:00PM

In a surprise entry to the fall season, Sorphia Spankislav - artist, actress and sexagenarian heartthrob – is exhibiting two new, large take-no-prisoner photographs at the new contemporary art gallery in Waikiki, Lemon. Scheduled to go on view Thursday, the exhibition will remain open thru the month of November.

The photographs, "Super-Sized Toilet Paper for Big F★ ★ king A★ ★ holes," were taken over the summer by Ms. Spankislav, 26, who wanted to show them before the Nov. 2 election. Described as a comedy with two characters, the seven-foot photographs each depict a gigantic, single roll of toilet paper.

In a telephone interview on Friday from Sorochintsi, Ukraine, the birthplace of Nikolai Gogol, Ms. Spankislav said that the photographs were "a takeoff on the Republican and Democratic situation, in a way," and that she thought it would be more pertinent if seen during the presidential campaign. "I mean, toilet paper is now our only hope, since all the politicians and political parties are so full of shit. True, I kind of wanted to get the show exhibited someplace important like Los Angeles or New York before the election, but Waikiki was the only place that responded quickly to my request" she said, adding somewhat sheepishly, "I'm not sure it matters where I show them, I mean Hawaii is supposed to be nice and all, so I figured I'd get them out there ASAP."



"Super-Sized Toilet Paper for Big F★ ★ king A★ ★ holes," by the artist Sorphia Spankislav, is one of two controversial large-scale photographs being exhibited at Lemon.

To that end Ms. Spankislav turned to an unlikely art director with a maverick gallery stretched to the limit: Lemon, which will show the photographs for four weeks beginning Oct. 28 in its 185 square foot gallery in Waikiki (at 2566 Lemon Road #3C, formerly the Ultra-Friendly Massage and Relaxation Center).

LG Williams, Co-Director and Janitor of Lemon, said he had first heard about the photographs in late June and was surprised to find out that it wasn't already booked.

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"A friend of mine in San Francisco, Charles Linder, said, 'Sorphia Spankislav has some new raging photographs and she can't find a gallery to show them,' " Mr. Williams recalled. "And I said, 'That's fucked up! We'll show them!' Get her ass on the phone!"

Ms. Spankislav said that she had originally intended to sell the photographs to the Museum of Modern Art in New York but that a miscommunication conflict had arisen. "The commie curators wouldn't return my calls! They said they couldn't afford to call long distance. But fuck, I know those bastards hate hard-biting, political art from smart, good-looking art school chicks. MOMA can't take anything below the 38th parallel!"

The photographs will be done on the cheap, Ms. Spankislav said, with the artist receiving little pay ("LG's interns will be able to assemble the large photographs," she said) with Lemon providing the space, marketing staff and publicity for nothing.

Ms. Spankislav said she had long wanted to take super-sized photographs of toilet paper, but hadn't found the way to make it work until recently, when she thought of a cheap way to do it. "I printed them out at work," she said.

Ms. Spankislav also said she aimed to take an active interest in the exhibition -- as best she could from the Ukraine -- while she also

buses tables at two local hotels to make ends meet. "This might be my last political art statement. It doesn't pay."

"Super-Sized Toilet Paper for Big F★king A★holes" includes a number of other somewhat veiled references to current events, including Bush and Kerry, the scandal at Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad and fears of ever-growing governmental power. But it is also much more overtly comedic than much of Ms. Spankislav's most famous work, a list that includes dysfunctional tragicomic artworks like "Vodka and/or Love" (due at Lemon next year) and "Lies of the Rich and Mindless."

Ms. Spankislav said she thought art in a gallery was the right approach because it is a form of expression with "an extraordinary capacity to bring people together. And, I just love that -- especially where its cold all year round."

"Moreover, at this point in time," she said, "I think these pictures are the only pictures that can actually show people on this planet all over the world the way. These photographs allow people to feel comfortable in this horrible moment in history. Tragedy: that's all you get from the newspapers and magazines. But I think there's another way to look the mess."

For more information, please contact the gallery.