Tom of Finland Foundation
Library

ARLIS Indianapolis 2009

Allison R. Schulte
Celebrating 25 years

The Tom of Finland Foundation was founded in 1984 by Durk Dehner and Tom of Finland (Touko Laakosonen). It began as an archive of Tom’s artwork and grew to serve as a safe haven for erotic art.
Erotic Art Fair 2009

We are a nonprofit organization which relies on support through donations, volunteers and fundraising events.
About the House

- Built in 1906.
- Art Nouveau accents
- Located in historic Echo Park (Los Angeles).
- Is home to Durk Dehner and friends.
- Accommodates many visiting artists and researchers.
• Entire house functions as a gallery and is host to a number of cultural events.
• The library has a sex and gender theory reading group that meets at the house monthly for a potluck and discussion.
The Library

• The library began as a combination of Mr. Dehner’s personal collection and donations from artists and publishers.

• Located in one main room but much of it is stored throughout the property, both inside and out.
Who was Tom of Finland?

- Born Touko Laakosonen, May 8, 1920 on the south coast of Finland
- Raised by two school teachers who immersed him in the arts
• Tom attended art school in Helsinki (1939) to study and pursue a career in advertising.

• When Stalin invaded Finland Tom was drafted into WWII. During the blackouts was when he finally got to explore his homosexual fantasies with other soldiers.
What’s kept at the foundation?

- The largest collection of Tom of Finland original artwork.
- Tom’s research notebooks & collages
- Photographic studies taken by Tom
- Tom’s WWII stamp collection
- Tom’s childhood drawings
- Tom’s WWII Uniform and leather jacket
And other cool stuff

- Wall to wall original erotic artwork in all forms of media
- Thousands of erotic art books
- Countless (and I mean *countless*) pieces of ephemera
MV AGUSTA 750 SPORT

MV Agusta 750 Sport.

[Image of a man on a motorcycle]

Si, si, professore, professore, si, si kohteen yhteyksissä koime on kuusi. Ja kuusi torvaa on voimin aina kuusi puhaltaja:
Soti katoelee San Antonioon Teksasossa kooperointia puolalla virrat halutessa ylläpitoon, jossa protestoivat
niinkalaisia vasten sitä ainoastaan tekemisessä senaattorikahdessa.
Tom’s influence on contemporary erotic art is huge to this day. Left is a Tom original and right is a piece by Etienne.
Tank’s beautifully rendered cowboys are my personal fave!
Jackal is another artist we represent (you’ll notice many of them take pseudo names to protect themselves against discrimination.)
PLAYGIRL TAKES A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT MEN'S CHEEKS
TURKISH WRESTLING

LAWRENCE GRECCO
CAT FIGHT!!
no. 3

a Mutrix Book

$5.
HARD
swallow
COMICS
JUSTIN HALL
DAVE DAVENPORT
ISSUE 1
spring 2005
$6.99

a Marginalized Publications/All Thumbs Press book
いい男
揃えました！

格闘技特集
『いい男』をさせてくれ！
あなたが選んだMr. G-men 2002

総力特集／創刊7周年慶念号
「大図鑑 02」

保存版！Part:1
東日本編
And of course, Tom’s new book!

29 x 40.5 cm, 666 pages and contains over 1,000 images.
In 1996, TOSCHEV introduced the world to the important art of TONY LANDERS with The Art of Flowers. This important book, known as a key work in the history of men's art, will be reissued as a limited edition. Tony Landers, known as a key figure in the history of men's art, will be reissued as a limited edition. The Art of Flowers shows his remarkable talent and deserves the following introductory note: Tony Landers will be the key figure in the history of men's art.

With thanks to Tom of Finland, TOSCHEV is pleased to announce the release of the complete work of TOSCHEV's Tony Landers. The complete work of TOSCHEV's Tony Landers will be published as a limited edition. This complete work of TOSCHEV's Tony Landers will be published as a limited edition.

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So who exactly is in charge of the library?

- Allison Schulte-Head Librarian
- Marti Pike-Cataloger
- Katie Herzog-Reading Group Coordinator
- Kelly Besser-Assistant Librarian

We all volunteer because we love the ToFF library and the warm community connected to the foundation.
Our hopes and goals...

- To respond to rampant discrimination against art and information that portrays sexual behavior or generates a sexual response.

- To educate the public in the cultural merits of erotic art and promote healthier, more tolerant attitudes about sexuality.

- To promote Tom's work along with other erotic archives so they receive the academic attention they deserve.
So what the are we doing all day at the ToFF library?

- Beginning a name authority file for the various collections (books, archives etc.)
- Contracting with OCLC to download records with CatExpress as a start to build the system (book info to search for records in an MS Access database)
- Setting up a Koha open source ILS...
• Building a subject thesaurus (any recommendations for GLBT thesauruses are welcome!).
• Working on fundraising techniques specific to the library
• Discussing ideas for exhibitions based on the archives
• Grant writing in hopes of funding a preservation and residency project...
• Building connections with libraries and librarians working with similar subjects
• Enjoying wonderful meals and parties in the beautiful house with our teammates and supporters.
• Please, join our Facebook Cause. Do a search for “Tom of Finland Foundation Library”

• Please email me if you have advice (especially about Koha or LGBT thesaurus).

Librarian@tomoffinlandfoundation.org
Sexy Stacks...

an online community listserv with the sole purpose of connecting information specialists, artists, curators and researchers who are specifically interested in gender theory, sexuality and erotica. Members are encouraged to post information on related art openings, research questions/advice, calls for artists or articles, guidance for libraries or special collections etc.