



## “The Bastion of Freedom”

*I have arrived at the bastion of freedom.  
Displayed here are the works of a man that didn't cower  
or inhibit himself in his expression of what was in his heart.  
He represents freedom for all of us.*

Such was the response by contemporary French artist Rachel Laurent when I asked her what evoked her look of enthusiastic pleasure at the Paris opening of a Tom of Finland retrospective. This traveling exhibition was in London and Madrid and is presently part of the Liverpool Biennial where it is receiving exceptional press and record numbers of visitors. Tom indeed represents freedom for all of us.

Tom of Finland is no longer with us, yet his legacy – his art – lives on and continues to find new audiences. Tom's work gives a message of approval to all that see his vision. Life offers more pleasure, and is more comfortable and less inhibiting, when we permit ourselves to embrace sexuality as it is expressed *naturally* through erotic art.

Homosexual contributions to the arts are abundant, with Tom of Finland being among the finest examples. Harvey Shipley Miller, Trustee of the Judith Rothschild Foundation stated, “Tom of Finland is one of the five most influential artists of the 20th century. As an artist he was superb, as an influence he was transcendent.” Mr. Miller gives a powerful acknowledgement, yet more time is needed to have a definitive and *permanent* effect in repressive societies.

The heightened level of visibility of erotic art evidences our cultural presence today. This accomplishment was two decades in the making. It will take much more of our collective efforts to cultivate solid roots of acceptance and to liberalize the standards within the fine arts that have suppressed sexual content. Even now, we are seeing a return to the less enlightened parameters of the past that neutralize our unique homosexual perspective. Censorship is rampant. The Tom of Finland Foundation's objective is to continue to resist and abate such trends. This is the very purpose of the Foundation.

For the past 25 years ToFF has played a pivotal role in creating a renaissance in the arts. This is best seen in how we have kept Tom of Finland's influence alive by keeping his work current in popular culture and furthering its acceptance into esteemed venues.

Fresh inspirations will come from a new breed of artists with their ears to the ground. We recognize them as our guides. We respect them as our future as they will represent our visibility. We value their gifts. Through them we gain a greater understanding of the complete natures of ourselves. Their talents not only reflect the world, but also contribute to it. The Foundation nurtures these artists.

I invite you to visit [TomOfFinlandFoundation.org](http://TomOfFinlandFoundation.org). Surf the area called "The World of Tom" and discover the impact we are making globally. Write me or post a comment on our current blog. Take in the beauty and diversity. See how you can become part of the preservation of our collections and of our heritage.

To date, funding for our important work has come from individuals like you. Unfortunately these donations have been steadily dropping since mid 2006. The Foundation, which Tom and I started, is now at a critical juncture. It is difficult for me to accept that we may not have the revenue to continue. Your memberships and donations are vital to keeping the Foundation open.

Join us in serving the cultural needs of the communities of the world. Please sign up or renew your membership today. Consider moving up to a higher membership level or adding an additional contribution. Together, we can all be guardians and ambassadors of the erotic arts and the thousands of artists that create it. Tom's legacy is *our* legacy.

Sincerely,



Durk Dehner  
President and Cofounder



TOM OF FINLAND FOUNDATION