Capla Kesting Fine Art

Daniel Edwards
“Presidential Bust of Hillary Rodham Clinton: First Woman President of the United States of America”
Show Dates - August 9 -September 20

Collector’s Catalog

Capla Kesting Fine Art - 121 Roebling Street - Brooklyn. NY 11211
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Gallery Press Release for Daniel Edwards

HILLARY TOPLESS - DOCUMENTARY UNCOVERS NUDE ORIGIN OF MUSEUM OF SEX'S 'PRESIDENTIAL BUST' OF SENATOR CLINTON NEW YORK, NY (July 26, 2006) -

The nude study of Senator Hillary Clinton used in creating her first portrait as U.S. President is featured in a documentary now viewable at YouTube.com, the net's leading video download site. "Hillary's Bust", an eight-minute short produced by Goodnight Film, reveals the sexy origins of a statue of the former First Lady planned for display at New York's Museum of Sex. The film contains the only footage taken of an unclothed preparatory study of Hillary Clinton's upper torso used for developing the heroic-scaled "Presidential Bust of Hillary Rodham Clinton: First Woman President of the United States of America".

The documentary reports Hollywood actor Sharon Stone's recent statements regarding Mrs. Clinton's potential White House bid as inspiration for her Presidential portrait. The bust's creator, Daniel Edwards, points out that during the promotion of her most recent Basic Instinct film, Stone sparked a sexual power debate with, " I think it is too soon for her to run. This may sound odd, but a woman should be past her sexuality when she runs. Hillary still has sexual power and I don't think people will accept that. It's too threatening."

"I've depicted Hillary Clinton in the traditional manner as befits the head of state - with head held high and face matured with wisdom," says Edwards, "but with unmistakable 'sexual power' as a nod to Sharon Stone." The bust prominently portrays Mrs. Clinton's cleavage spilling from a lacy, low-cut inaugural gown with her bare shoulders enhanced by a "delicate" nape.

The film reveals the bust is the second Presidential portrait by Edwards. "Richard Nixon made a rare stop in my hometown when I was a young sketch artist for the local newspaper. I drew him during a speech." Edwards' other political portraits include presidential aspirant George C. Wallace ailing in his Alabama sickbed shortly before his death.

"Hillary's Bust" is the first 'political' film for Argentine born director, A.D. Calvo. "I'm typically more drawn to macabre stories," says Calvo. "I share Edwards' beliefs on the importance of promoting the image of a woman president. We both have young daughters. They need to grow up believing anything is possible for them in America - even becoming president someday."

"Hillary's Bust" will be available on YouTube.com and the newly redesigned Triggerstreet.com, actor Kevin Spacey's online community for burgeoning filmmakers, from now through the six-week engagement of Hillary Clinton's Presidential Bust display at the Museum of Sex that starts August 9th.

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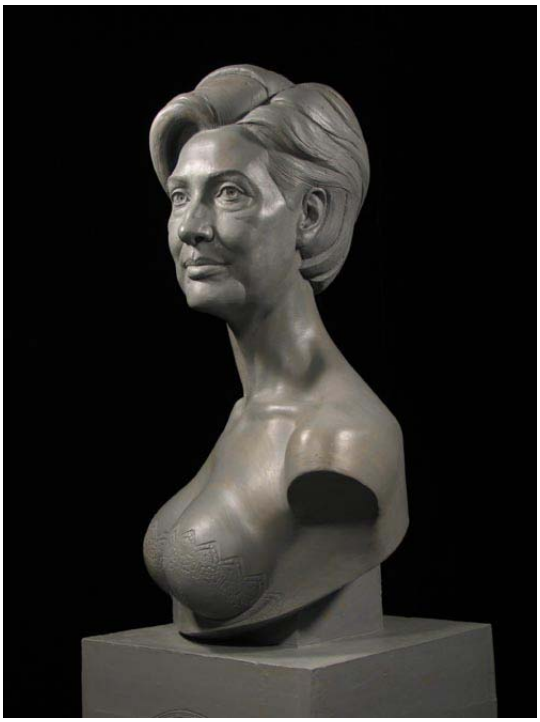

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Cleavage-baring Clinton depicted in 'presidential bust'
Last Updated Thu, 10 Aug 2006 11:59:03 EDT

CBC Arts

A so-called presidential bust of U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton, who is portrayed in a cleavage-revealing evening gown, has been unveiled at New York's Museum of Sex.

The so-called "presidential bust" of Hillary Rodham Clinton features the former First Lady and current New York senator dressed in a lacy, low-cut gown. (Daniel Edwards)

Cast in resin and bearing a mimicked presidential seal, the Clinton bust is the latest work of sculptor Daniel Edwards, who made headlines this spring for his life-size nude sculpture of pop singer Britney Spears giving birth on a bear-skin rug.

Unveiled on Wednesday, *The Presidential Bust of Hillary Rodham Clinton: The First Woman President of the United States of America* is scheduled for a limited six-week run at the Fifth Avenue museum.

Edwards has said that his intent was to show the 59-year-old New York senator "not as a covered up person, but as a woman."

Recognizes senator's wrinkles

Though Edwards has sculpted Clinton in a lacy, low-cut gown and displays what he claims is her anatomically correct bosom (based on public photos), the sculptor did not refrain from portraying her facial wrinkles.

He has described his depiction as Clinton "with her head held high, a youthful spirit and a face matured by wisdom."

Edwards was inspired to create the piece after reading statements by actress Sharon Stone in Hollywood Life magazine in March. Asked about challenges Clinton might face if she attempted a presidential run, Stone proclaimed it "too soon" for Clinton to attempt a run for the U.S. presidency.

"A woman should be past her sexuality when she runs. Hillary still has sexual power and I don't think people will accept that. It's too threatening," Stone said.

Sets up sculpture debate

Museum director Daniel Gluck has said he hopes the sculpture will spark debates about gender, politics and sexuality.

"The artist's portrayal of Hillary Clinton as a president who also happens to be a sexual being conveys the message that a woman need not squelch her sexuality in order to succeed as leader of the free world."

Clinton's office has made no comment on the sculpture.

Aside from the Spears sculpture, Edwards has courted controversy with a sculpture depicting the head of baseball great Ted Williams (whose body, after his death in 2002, was placed in cryonic suspension in hopes that medical science could possibly revive him in the future).

Hillary's Sex Appeal

Seriously…
By Louis Wittig

New York, NY — There was a sharp, mischievous article in this. It just wasn't materializing.

Everything started out great. I arrived early for the press conference at the Museum of Sex where sculptor Daniel Edwards was unveiling his latest piece, *The Presidential Bust of Hillary Rodham Clinton.* I talked to Bob Kunst, founder of HillaryNow.com, a grassroots pro-Hillary website / organization, who was standing outside the museum entrance holding up a hand drawn "Hillary in '08" sign for a dozen reporters and cameramen. I had quotes before I even went inside.

And the bust, how could I not write something clever about the bust? Pure absurdity. Hillary — cast in ashy resin — shoulders angled for a three-quarters view. Strong cheeks. Sagacious eyes. Topless.

Well, not technically topless. Edwards, whose canon includes sculptures of Britney Spears giving birth on a bear skin rug and slugger Ted Williams's cryogenically frozen head, mingled with the press, explaining how he'd etched the lacework of an inaugural gown into what is fundamentally exposed cleavage.

Edwards had been inspired when he read a quote by actress Sharon Stone to the effect that Hillary couldn't win the presidency because she was too sexy, and thus too intimidating to voters. When he spoke about the reply he was making with his bust, Edwards talked in that airy, vaguely evasive language of artists: verbs like "explore" and "investigate."

And so my article took mirage-like form. If Edwards wasn't giving too many answers, I would, to questions like: Does Hillary Clinton have sex appeal? Really? How much? What's that mean for 2008? I could wring 1,200 words from this.

GOING BUST

I called the senator's press office and left a message on their machine asking for comment. They knew what I was talking about. A few weeks earlier, Clinton's office politely declined an invitation to appear at the bust's unveiling. They didn't call back, even after another two messages.

Fair enough. No serious person in Washington wants to get drawn into an on-the-record discussion of their boss's semi-nude figure. It was just as well too. My mind had stalled as I tried to formulate intelligent questions for them. All I could come up with were mushy half-questions that sounded like non-sequiturs.

It dawned on me about then that I could be chasing a ghost. While female politicians may potentially be sexy, and in that event, said sexiness might work on voters' minds in this or that way, it was equally likely that no significant number of people happened to find Hillary attractive, and thus there was no issue.

I posted an ad on Craigslist soliciting America's anonymous thoughts on Hillary Clinton's sex

appeal. It drew exactly three responses. A sampling: “I would love to be here White Hosue Intern,” “I wish I was her boyfriend, I would make her happy” (phone number included) and “she has kankles.” It seems premature to drawn any conclusions here.

Standing outside the Museum of Sex that day, Hillary partisan Bob Kunst acknowledged an attraction (and added the only bit of political sex appeal strategizing I got.) “She’s a very good looking woman…that may be a problem…women are jealous…the country may not be ready for someone who’s attractive and smart.” Then he quickly changed the subject to Clinton’s national security credentials.

To try and add some scientific heft to Kunst’s appreciation, I downloaded an unlabeled, amateur-taken picture of Hillary from the web and posted it on Hot or Not.com — leader of a small pack of teen-tilted websites that allows visitors to scroll through pictures of strangers and rate their hotness on a scale of 1 to 10. Over 1,000 voters rated Hillary, judging her a 6.6 (according to the site’s metrics, hotter than 62 percent of the women on the site) before Hot or Not moderators took the picture down for violating their “no pictures of famous people” rule.

Armed with something like proof that I was not imagining this whole topic, I e-mailed a few journalists and experts for their thoughts. None replied.

I contacted the press people at several well-respected D.C. political consulting firms. One laughed when I told him what I was working on and said he would call me back, then did not call me back. Another laughed and said it was an interesting topic that he could not help me with. Another said it would be hard to get anyone who works in political image making to say anything that wasn’t bland and respectful, just because she was too powerful. There was a deeper hesitation in his voice.

I considered calling Mary Carey, the porn actress who ran in the 2003 California recall race. She would probably talk about anything. Then I thought what she might say. Then I decided it would be safer not to pursue that or, well, her.

TOO HOT FOR THE TALKERS?

Three trenchant facts: In two years, Hillary Clinton may be the first female president in the history of the United States. At least some subset of the electorate finds Hillary Clinton sexually attractive. Very few, including those admittedly sweet on Hillary or who can speak about it with professional distance, are eager to talk about any possible connection between facts one and two.

It’s tempting to dismiss fact two and tie off an imprecise and uncomfortable mental conversation before it gets started. In fact, for almost two pantsuit-and-sensible-hairstyle-filled decades, dismissing Hillary Clinton’s sex appeal and its potential implications seems to have been Hillary Clinton’s goal.

A thought experiment: about the same time Clinton’s presidential bust was unveiled in New York, paparazzi in France snapped a photo of that country’s next, first female president, Segolene Royal, sunbathing in a bikini. It was splashed across the tabloids, along with flattering commentary on Royal’s physique (“And to think she’s 53!”)

Now try to imagine Hillary Clinton even putting on a bikini, more or less wearing it to any place where she might conceivably be photographed.

If this idea does not compute, consider it some sort of evidence of how successful Clinton has been in steering the public to think of her as a woman to whom the normal physics of sex appeal do not apply. The fact that she has cultivated this impression suggests there’s something to the topic of her sexiness worth discussing.

Since the subject is (so far) half-baked, it’s only possible to construct half-baked theories about

why no one wants to talk about the electoral implications of Hillary Clinton's cleavage. Mine, currently, is that whether you are strongly anti-Hillary or pro-Hillary, if you acknowledge that she has a certain sexual charisma and that it might influence voters, then you have to consider that your own opinions of her are at least in part based on your conscious or unconscious perceptions of her sexiness. That raises the possibility that your political opinions could be a good deal shallower than you'd thought. The political superego must avoid this conclusion, so pulls the plug on the entire idea.

The first presidential bust of Hillary Rodham Clinton will be on public display until mid-September; time enough to contemplate whether it's as silly as it first seems. I'm inclined to look at it a little more seriously. It was something Daniel Edwards said as his sculpture's press conference was breaking up. He was musing on the supposed irreverence of his work.

"By being playful," he said, "sometimes you acknowledge something that [otherwise] goes unacknowledged."

— *Louis Wittig is a writer in New York.*

AUGUST 09, 2006

Hillary Clinton Must Be Proud

On the same week that a young and rowdy drug-abusing Hollywood actress announced that she is planning a trip to Iraq with New York Senator Hillary Clinton, a Big Apple sex museum honored the senator with a sculpture of her breasts.

The sculpture, called The Presidential Bust of Hillary Rodham Clinton, made its debut today at the Museum of Sex in New York. The artist says he was inspired to make the piece after actress Sharon Stone said Clinton could never be president because she is a sexual being. No word on whether the former First Lady actually posed for the artist.

The trip to Iraq is supposedly to entertain U.S. troops, much like Marilyn Monroe did in Korea in 1954. The show's star will be 20-year-old actress Lindsay Lohan, who aspires to be a sex kitten pinup and is notorious for her party girl image and cocaine use, not to mention her revealing tight outfits.

This is not exactly the best company for a senator and presidential hopeful to keep. Perhaps that is why Clinton's camp is trying to distance her from the actress after it became public that they plan to form a team.

Hillary Clinton on display at NY's Museum of Sex

Wed Aug 9, 2006 2:13pm ET

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A "Presidential Bust" of U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton was unveiled on Wednesday at New York's Museum of Sex, where sculptor Daniel Edwards hopes it will spark discussion about sex, politics and celebrity.

Edwards, the artist who also created a life-size nude of Britney Spears giving birth on a bear-skin rug, said he wanted to capture Clinton's age and femininity in the sculpture.

Clinton's office had no immediate comment.

Edwards said his work features soft "presidential smile" and wrinkles framing her eyes. A floral pattern runs across her breasts, part of Edwards' effort to present Clinton "as a woman -- not a covered up person, but as a woman."

"I didn't want to give her a face lift or change her age," he said of his work.

"The key was to reveal her chest a little bit. She usually covers herself up, but I don't think that's necessary."

AHN All Headline News

Museum Of Sex Features Bust Of Hillary Clinton

August 9, 2006 8:45 p.m. EST

Yvonne Lee - All Headline News Staff Reporter

New York, NY (AHN) - New York's Museum of Sex is featuring a bust of Sen. Hillary Clinton that reveals "her chest a little bit."

Sculptor Daniel Edwards hopes the "Presidential Bust" will lead to conversations about sex, politics and celebrity.

The sculpture shows wrinkles around Clinton's eyes, as well as a floral pattern across her breasts. Edwards says he wants to show the senator "as a woman -- not a covered up person, but as a woman."

He tells Reuters, "I didn't want to give her a face lift or change her age."

He adds, "The key was to reveal her chest a little bit. She usually covers herself up, but I don't think that's necessary."

Edwards also made a life-size nude of singer Britney Spears delivering a baby on a bearskin rug.