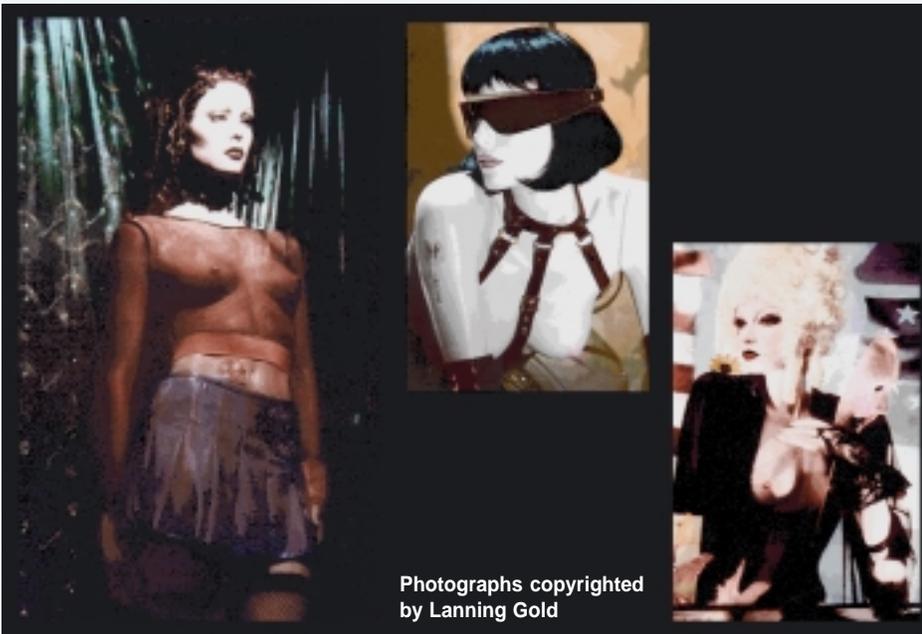


Pillow Talk:

interview

LANNING GOLD INTERVIEW: “Dolls in Glass Houses”

by William Dean
(3/28/01)



Sexy frozen models -- in elegant and trashy fashions -- have been around forever. The early queens of Europe used them to select the finest new styles from Florence or Vienna. The mannequin has a long history. But far from the sedate Mary Poppins in the Sears window, in this season's business suit stand the window sluts of Frederick's and Trashy Lingerie boutiques in Los Angeles. Hot and cruel fetishes are symbolically thrust at the viewer by the sensual and bold mannequins of 2001; draped in chain, leather, synthetic skin, and perfect makeup, these are the truest ladies of the night in the City of Lost Angels. A man goes out in those nights. He takes photographs. Of the mannequins. Some he thinks of as Nice Girls. The others are Naughty Girls. The man's name is Lanning Gold.

Clean Sheets What is it about mannequins that turns us on so much? Is it the frozen perfection of the pose? The Galatea myth where a statue comes to life? What?

Lanning Gold There is something about chiseled perfection that people love. When I see a figure with a striking pose and a certain gaze in their eyes, I think back to a romantic time in my past where

Poseurs for all Time

Mannequins are exhibitionistic sirens of the store and the store window. Perfect manifestations of stilled erotic reality. Their smooth poreless skin is desirable and bewitching. Their fashion-and-fetish world is a captured and transformed fantasy.

The mannequin has ancient roots -- as usual in ancient Egypt and Greece -- and became popular again among the kings, queens, courtesans, and courtiers of the Old World during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. They were perfect models on which to drape the latest fashions and send to royal cousins in the country. New World -- but old century -- New Yorkers were scandalized when bloomers were displayed in the windows of Bloomingdale's, but now trashy lingerie and studded leather lie, undressing, on today's new generation of mannequins.

The industry of mannequin making shares space with the Art. With almost-anatomical precision, the modern poseur evolves steadily into tomorrow's erotically-responsive cyberdroid.

The Hot Stuff

[Mannequinland](#). Of course! Featuring poseable, bendable models.

Check out the latest [fashion model mannequins](#).

[Hyper Realistic mannequins](#) by Guy Louis-XVI

I saw that look before. I think it has something to do with freezing a golden moment in time and a sense of remembering the feelings you felt when that moment occurred.

CS You've done a series of Naughty Girls and another of Nice Girls. For the doll in the window, what's the difference? Is it just fashion?

LG The "naughty girls" are obviously more provocative, more sensuous, and downright sexy. The "nice girls" represent more of the fashion images we see on the runways and in magazines and newspapers.

CS What makes a window slut? Are there aesthetic standards at work here?

LG Some windows are very provocative. I found that lingerie stores will sometimes push the "slut" envelope in their windows by portraying mannequins in titillating fashions -- in see-through clothing where firm nipples are exposed and long legs with thigh-high stockings with garter belts. Usually, lots of legs, nipples, and cleavage can make or break a "sexy" display. Also lighting is very important. Shadow and spotlights can accentuate the cleavage and the demure look of a figure. This is true for shooting both mannequins and real women.

CS These are obviously not the ladies we see standing in the windows at Nordstrom or Chez Jer, so who's fronting such erotic displays?

LG Lingerie stores (especially in L.A. have great windows: Especially Fredricks of Hollywood, Dream Dresser, and Trashy Lingerie) have great and very sexy window displays. I've even witnessed car accidents from the sidewalk, where cars are checking out the windows at the wrong time as they crash into the car in front of them, checking out the sexy displays!

CS There seems to be some artistic award for just about every art and design category. Is there some official recognition for erotic window dressing?

LG None that I know of. If there was, that would be real cool!

CS Here's my deceptively simple question. What goes through the mind and senses of Lanning Gold when he's photographing mannequins who look ready to fuck?

LG I'm interested in the same things I see in real women. Something provocative and alluring. Let's face it. It all boils down to fashion and sex appeal and the best window displays are not much different from the best magazine covers. It seems we all want to see cleavage, long

legs, nice shoulders, beautiful eyes and lips, great cheek bones, a great pouty look, and a little nipple piercing through the clothing won't hurt.

CS Apart from Lesbian Lite, there didn't appear to be any overt sexual acts portrayed even by the Naughty Girls. Is a Kama Sutra-inspired exhibit too much? Would a hip, edgy guy-boutique display gay leather sex?

LG It could happen in my future art pieces. So stay tuned!

CS Future perfect question: What if they suddenly perfected something like the androids from Blade Runner or Terminator? If you had a studio with posable and responsive erotic androids as your new Naughty Girls what would happen? What about the Nice Girls?

LG I think operational "Blade Runner" androids would be great. The "Naughty" one would obviously be more popular than the "Nice" one but who could afford them? And let's face it, nothing and I mean nothing can replace the warmth, the soft touch, and sensual feelings of a real woman! Mannequins and window displays only represent the fantasy world that we wish we could live out (and sometimes do).

CS What's the next erotic project you're involved in?

LG I'm currently using some of the mannequins I've acquired and shooting them as lovers. Some in a disco club, getting close and affectionate, and some already in bed on top of satin sheets.

CS Where can we get copies of your photographs?

LG I have a line of greeting cards that can be found in love boutiques like The Pleasure Chest in Hollywood and I try to have two or three art exhibitions of new work per year. My work can always be viewed at my [Web site](#) .

©2001 by William Dean

http://cleansheets.com/articles/goldint_03.28.01.shtml

[Reader Comments](#)

Lanning Gold is an artistic photographer based in Los Angeles.

William Dean is a longtime media professional and producer. He writes erotica under the pen name Count of Shadows, and has published extensively online. His work is included in two erotica anthologies, Tears on Black Roses, and Desires. He also writes the monthly column Into the Erotik for the Erotica Readers Association.