

with my partner...

Candida: Films that have inspired my erotic film sensibilities are *Body Heat*, *The Hunger* with David Bowie, Bertolucci's *Last Tango In Paris* and Claude Le Louch's *A Man And A Woman*. I also adored *Enchanted April*, one of my all-time favourite movies. It wasn't overtly sexual but it was all about awakenings and sensuality.

Maria: Modern dance, nature and horticulture, animals, Japanese new wave film movement

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(such as Shohei Imamura, Nagisa Oshima, Seijun Suzuki, Teshigahara), Robert Mapplethorpe, Irving Penn, the French Decadents, Hans Belmar, Louise Bourgeois, Weimar Berlin, German Expressionists, Surrealists...

Anja: A magazine compared my toys from the edition *Elements* with art by Joan Miró and Hans Arp. This comparison made me proud!

Forum: What have been the hardest trials and tribulations in your life within the adult industry?

Anja: It is hard for me to find the ideal balance between the many jobs I have to juggle as an independent entrepreneur. I have a lot of sleepless nights. But until now I have managed well due to the support of my friends.

Maria: Not many. I remain positive and focused on the work and not focus on the bumps along the way. I protect the time and energy for the creative process. People have been more than supportive towards me and my work(s) than not.

Emily: The expectation that as a sex writer I must be a slut is challenging. There are still too many assumptions made: if you're sexual, you must be 'easy'; if you're open about sex, you must be 'damaged'. However, it's a good 'wooding' mechanism that separates the men from the boys. And generally it's been a much nicer industry to work in than either music or marketing, the industries I was in before I became a sex writer.

Candida: My work has been so well received,

my detractors few, so it really hasn't been so difficult. But I would say that it is frustrating to see the continuing proliferation of course, low-quality porn that does nothing to elevate explicit film artistically but rather perpetuates the perception of it as a marginalised negative film product. The glut of cheaply made and now even free porn everywhere is making it even more difficult to get the budgets I need for the kind of work I do. The low fees we receive for VOD delivery in the US also threatens to put filmmakers like myself out of business.

Forum: What do you think the future will hold for the adult entertainment industry and where will pornographic art in its many variations from and for women go from here?

Emily: It's getting ever more extreme, but there will probably be a backlash soon as it's beginning to get to ridiculous levels. However, pornographic art and literature for women is becoming more mainstream so with any luck there will be a broader scope of material avail-



able. Obviously, the Internet is a driving force, and the amount of female sex bloggers out there is certainly extending the range of what's available.

Maria: Sex sells and always will so the adult entertainment industry will continue to be trail blazers with marketing and technology. The possibilities are endless for women creating porn and the visibility will only get stronger as technology becomes more and more accessible to everyone. People have the power!

Candida: The adult industry is going through a difficult time due to all the free porn on the Internet and low revenues from VOD viewings. There's going to be a shake-up and it remains

to be seen who and what survives, but my bet is on the movies that stand out and rise to the top of the garbage heap, and directors whose work creates a loyal following. Women's porn will emerge a winner but that, too, will have to work itself out. I see that a lot of 'women's porn' is merely in name rather than content. Too many of the young women being given the opportunity to direct are also being told what to do by the large porn companies who demand the 'formula' complete with formulaic sex, monster close-ups of boring, mechanical sex and 'money shots'. Without women who are true to their own unique vision, 'porn for women' will be so only in words, not in sub-