

## SEX-WORKER

Linda M. Ford

When I began graduate school, I also began working in the sex industry as a way to finance my education without having to work full-time. During the three years of developing my work while under the intensive supervision of the institution, I recognized more and more within myself a conflict raging between my “public body” and my “private body”. I became preoccupied with the definition of prostitution as making public, something that is usually kept private. I began to question the conflict apparent in the making public of “naked” bodies in the sex industry but “nude figures” in the art world, “illicit” sexual desires in the sex industry but “legitimate” fantasies or artistic creations in the art world, and “aberrant” sexual bodies in the porn industry but “normalized” sexual bodies in the corporate world of advertising.

My internal conflicts also pushed me to revisit questions about the value and legitimacy given to certain kinds of "work" over others. I am interested in these struggles for legitimacy and how they are played out socially, culturally and economically.

(wurk) **n.** **1** physical or mental effort exerted to do or make something; purposeful activity; labor; toil...**3** occupation, profession, business, trade, craft...**5** something that has been made or done; result of a specific kind of activity...*f*) WORK OF ART

