

CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

UNTITLED

Lithograph over paper
Herrig (signed), 20th cent.
MAH R2013.756

The eroticism has always been there, in the history of civilisation, since the classic antiquity until our days, not just in art but also in the literature.

And it was not considered to be immoral or infamous, as it can be proven by reading a lot of Christian authors in the West and observing many artworks decorating religious temples in the East that are part of its material and spiritual culture.

Authors that use the eroticism in their works are, doubtless, expressing more their private ghosts than real experiences and, in such delusions, they deform and exaggerate the true chances of sex, which is not surprising in the sense that a large part of the human sexuality was always fed by the imaginary.

The permanent issue here, notably in times of fundamentalisms and supposedly correct behaviours, is to find out if the free circulation of erotic materials can become corrupting itself and a stimulator of dissoluteness and perversion, what has been in the origin of its proscription in first place.

The goal of Culture is to obtain larger and better knowledge. To get there, man must be prepared to read and see it all, although it does not mean that everything is acceptable or allowed. It is the wish for the truth that is behind lucidity while human respect and good common sense are the ingredients for a free mind.

This gravure, of a clear erotic character, is part of the MAH's graphic documents collection and belonged to the private collection of Manuel Coelho Baptista de Lima; it should be appreciated accordingly to the above mentioned principles.