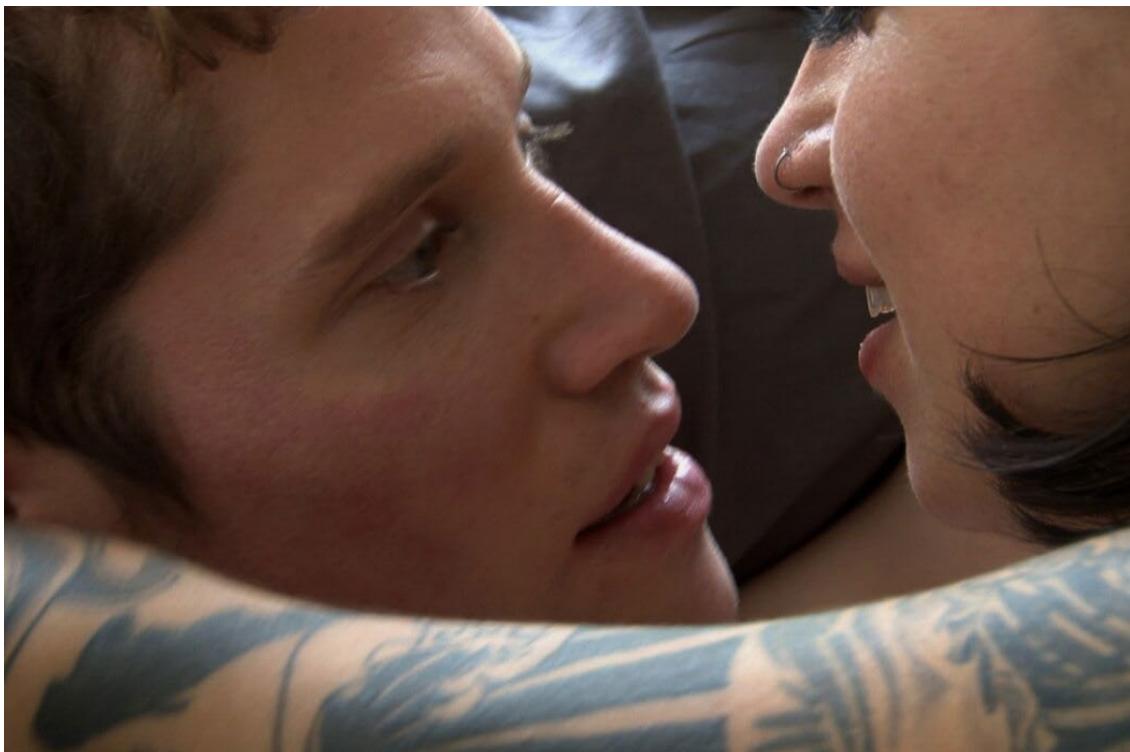


SLOW PORN: SILVER SHOES BY JENNIFER LYON BELL



Porno for women? To be fair, I've never been able to relate to that label too well. "Women's porn" always kinda sounds like rose petals, champagne and strawberries... and then they'll all get married in the end, obviously.

Almost as lame as stupid clichés: gendering things.

While writing the whole of my thesis, I got increasingly angry about the fact that books written by women are considered women's literature, while a man's books is just... literature. Personally, I'm of the weird opinion that vagina-owners are also capable of producing stuff that's common sense to everyone.

And that's the same with "women's porn". This label and what it stands for has some pretty good stuff in there – and men like it too! The cool ones, anyway.

What do you enjoy when watching porn? Movies with loads of great sex scenes that have more going on than the usual wham-bam, thank you ma'am? Human connections and interaction by actors who obviously enjoy themselves? Real orgasms, shown through facial expressions rather than cumshots? But that kind of thing's just for women right?

Yeah, I didn't think so, either...

Time for a new label! My suggestion is **Slow Porn**, a term which I first heard the through the awesome Sensate Films and their statement about the porn industry:

The mass-production mentality of the adult industry draws producers into its 'more, faster!' mindset and mode of production. This often sacrifices both the quality of the product and the experience of its creation. Our response to this is to slow down. This gives us the time and presence to pay attention to those details that the mainstream so often misses; the quality of a breath, the words in a whisper. It gives our contributors the time to make choices about their representation, and also to take their time, to indulge themselves, to respond to the process of being documented. We are holding ourselves to the standards of other 'slow' movements and focussing on the wider impact of our work on our contributors, our audience, and ourselves. We value sustainability of energies and ethics in what we create. In so doing, we hope to generate change in the way that erotic imagery is experienced.

Yeah baby, that's pretty much exactly it, right?

One such example is Jennifer Lyon Bell, who's doing a great (and slow) job as a film director. Her label Blue Artichoke Films stands for **erotic film for people who love film**. This arthouse approach (paired with authentic, hot sex scenes) is what makes here oeuvre so special, and her new movie, Silver Shoes, is no exception.

It just came out and has already received tons of awards – and rightly so – it's amazing! The loose plot deals with sexual fluidity and the erotic connotation of clothing. Bell studied in Harvard, and she's not afraid to put some brains into her movies . Nothing wrong with that – and then you get to lean back and enjoy watching beautiful human beings doing sexy things in three different scenarios. The femme who likes to wear men's underwear, the housesitter who gets overwhelmed by her emotions and the new gay friend who's not that gay after all...

This is slow porn for you, ladies and (dare I say it) gentlemen! Sexual fantasies that appeal to your intellect and intimate areas in equal measures... whether the actors get married in the end or not.

Theresa Lachner

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