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FLOWERS – SYMBOLS OF FEMALE SEXUALITY IN THE ART

Abstract

For a long time there has been a strong link between flowers and sexuality. Flowers are complex symbols and they certainly did not always have salacious meanings; lilies, for example, are associated with the image of the Virgin Mary. There are stricter and more reserved symbols in East Asian and Islamic decorative arts, or in the Netherlands, where tulips had a higher price and value than paintings. The research of this paper will show the rich history of using flowers and its symbolic meaning related to female sexuality through many examples. The aim is to show how this symbolism has existed since ancient times and pervaded history all the way to our times.

Keywords: symbols; art; flowers; woman; sexuality