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Living & arts



**HELEN
KOHEN**

ART

On Collins Avenue

It's not often that art with a social agenda gets its message across with the force and clarity of Ed Massey's *Morality/Mortality*. His subject is rape, a brutal act that is brutally expressed in this Los Angeles artist's arresting installation in the corner window

Collins Ave., Miami Beach.

It's a public, even a national artwork, one Massey cloned for simultaneous showings in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and Washington. In each case the work is purposely placed where people live and work, where rape, in fact, happens. As artworks go, this ensemble of realistic human bodies couldn't be more graphic, less likely to be ignored.

The victim lies scarred, bewildered on the ground, while above, in what Massey calls the "phantasmagoric" portion of the piece, two ghostly, ghostly males are upended, hanging by their now inoperative sexual organs, dead. For all that, *Morality/Mortality*, which has been privately financed, is a world less offensive than the crime whose emotional aftermath it denounces.