

## Crime and Punishment

*SM anti-rape  
exhibit draws  
praise, jeers*

By Tom Jennings  
STAFF WRITER

Two figures of men hanging by their genitals in a Santa Monica office building window are stopping traffic, stunning pedestrians and stirring debate on whether the anti-rape art display is too graphic for a public street.

The "Morality Mortality" exhibit was unveiled Monday in the window of a vacant building at the southeast corner of 15th Street and Wilshire Boulevard. By Tuesday afternoon, people were lining up to see it.

"It's violent and gross and very upsetting," said Diane Citron, a microbiologist at nearby Santa Monica Hospital Medical Center. "It may be a statement that needs to be said, but I don't think it should be said at the corner of 15th and Wilshire."

### 5-city exhibit

The exhibit by Los Angeles artist Ed Massey, 31, opened in five cities Monday — Chicago, New York, Miami, Santa Monica and Washington, D.C. Each display is on heavily traveled streets and is intended to draw attention to sexual assault on women.

"Few people outside law enforcement ever see the immediate aftermath of sexual assault," Massey wrote in a booklet for the exhibit. "I hope the parallel national exhibitions of this work generate vigorous and widespread discussion on the brutal crime of rape and society's responses to it."

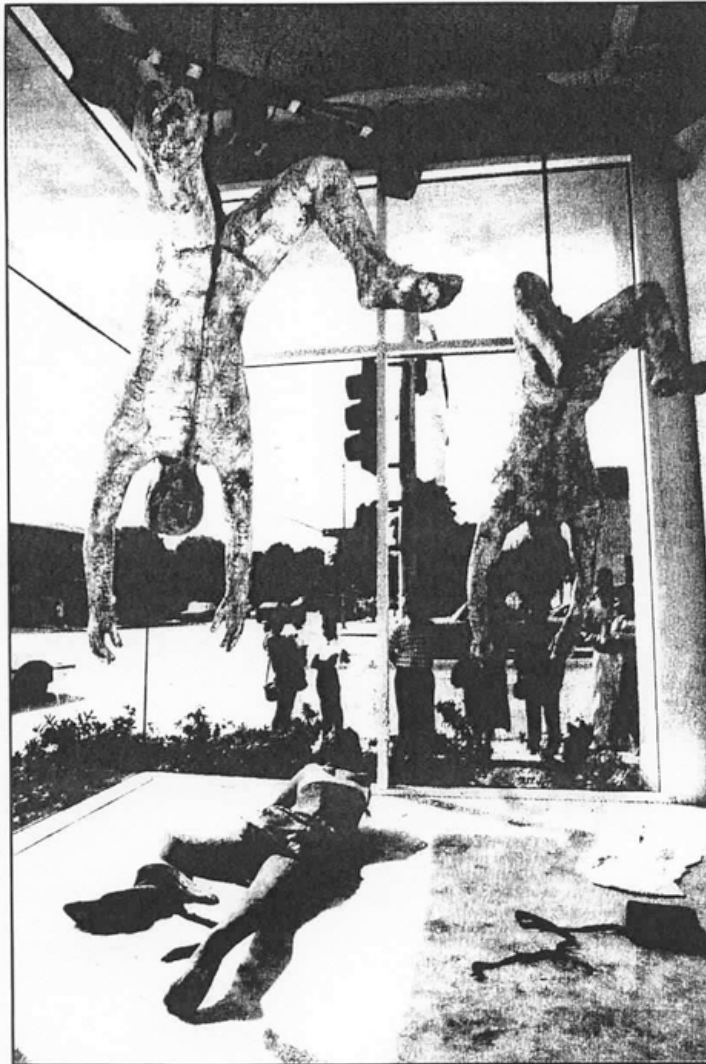
The exhibit is scheduled to be in the window through the end of May.

The work also shows the sculpted figure of a woman sprawled on the floor, her purse and briefcase thrown to the side, her panties and nylons ripped down around her ankles. The woman's head hangs low in anguish.

Above her, the two nude male figures are suspended from the ceiling by ropes wrapped tightly around their genitals. The men's facial features are indistinguishable, except their mouths that hang open as if in a silent scream.

"It definitely makes a statement," said Christine Ma after going to the Bank of America across the street. "I don't know if this is the right place, though."

Santa Monica city officials  
EXHIBIT/A10



RICHARD N. LEVINE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The "Morality Mortality" exhibit is in the east corner of 15th Street and Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica.

### Sculpture is shocking, powerful comment

By Marlena Donohue  
SPECIAL TO THE OUTLOOK

Santa Monica is a funny place — part screenwriter paradise with seven-digit home prices; part avant-garde, faddist haven for the hip; part sleepy land of retirement.

All the faces of Santa Monica were united in a collective gasp at 3 p.m. Monday when a sculptural art work depicting the aftermath of a rape was installed and unveiled in a

### CRITIQUE

highly visible window at 15th Street and Wilshire Boulevard.

People talked, pointed, frowned. A couple of doctors in surgical greens from nearby Santa Monica Hospital Medical Center nodded approvingly, elderly women showed dismay and construction workers drove by yelling "Ouch" loudly from pickup trucks.

If you go to the large window at 15th and Wilshire you will see two life-size sculptures of nude men suspended from the ceiling.

They are cast from ceramic with hollow gaping eyes and open mouths and they have been painted all over in chalky whites with rusty, blood-red undertones to look like phantoms visiting from our worst nightmares. These specters

SCULPTURE/A10