

Dr. Thomas
HUM 390
Images of Eroticism

Study Questions on *Pornography: The Secret History of Civilization* and Walter Kendrick's *The Secret Museum*

Based on the Kendrick reading, the film *Pornography*, and the course lectures/discussions, you should now be able to:

- 1) Discuss the origin of the term “pornography” and identify what the documentary referred to as the paradox of this definition.
- 2) Question how we continue to live in the shadow of this peculiarly modern concept of pornography (i.e. how we recreate the paradox of pornography in our ways of speaking about and seeing something we call “porn”).
- 3) Begin to challenge our common sense assumptions about what pornography “is”—not an unproblematic “thing” that we can assume we all, already know, but a contested concept—by learning where our shared assumptions, usages, and relations to this term have come from.