

T H E V E N U S S U I T

When something is repressed, it manifests itself in another form. Pushed down here, it pops up there. Pushed down there, it pops up somewhere else...

The business person bustling from office to office, tower to tower, city to city is forced by the nature of the work to repress personal expression and conform in dress and action in order to support the status quo. They themselves do not know why they conform in dress specifically beyond an understanding of business dress code.

Because of constant exposure to the business environment, certain physical and mental reactions occur. These are the result of demands such as the constant readjustment of the individual's internal clock mechanism (jet-lag), altered dietary habits (eating on the run, fast food), and environmental changes such as recirculated air and modification of human physical responses to natural seasonal rhythms. The business world does not conform to human needs. It requires instead that individuals alter their needs to its structure.

As a result, certain symbols have manifested themselves in the business environment. These symbols have evolved unconsciously to fulfill an important function necessary for the survival of the individual. This function is the reintegration, through identification, of the self with nature. An integration and identification denied in the business environment.

An identification with nature in its most primary and positive form. SEXUAL POWER.

This sexual power must be represented in such a way as to be constantly visible,



yet it may not take obvious form. It must be camouflaged. If it did take an obvious form it would expose the conflict of personal vs. business needs, which must remain subconscious in order for both to mutually co-exist.

The manifestation of this sexual power in the business environment, highly visible yet completely subliminal, is represented in the evolved style of the standard business dress; THE BUSINESS SUIT.

The symbolic representation manifested in the business suit is an enlarged, three dimensional representation of an OPEN VAGINA, the primary creative sexual symbol.

This is represented in the THREE PIECE SUIT AND TIE. The JACKET LAPELS represent the VULVA LIPS, the VEST representing the INNER LABIA (minora). The TIE symbolises the VAGINAL OPENING with the TIE KNOT as CLITORIS. The HANDKERCHIEF or CARNATION near the LAPEL represent SEXUAL JUICES and/or BLOOD.

The TIE has also another function, that of an exaggerated PHALLIC SYMBOL. The TIE is an oversized penis shape in relation to true human scale, but small in comparison to the vaginal symbol represented in the rest of the suit.

It is of interest to note that during early fetal development, the primary genitalia of both pre-males and pre-females are identical, later to develop into either a penial shaft with penis head or an opening with a clitoris. At one point both penis head and clitoris are one and the SAME. (The tie as shaft with head and/or opening with clitoris).

Next, a phallic shape in scale with the large vaginal symbol manifest in the suit front, is found in the man's head protruding up, out of the stiff shirt collar.

And finally, the head coming up out of the suit has also a dual function, that (as mentioned) of a phallus, but also, if the whole arrangement is inverted (suit and man, viewed upside down), the man's head coming out of the suit becomes a symbol of the birth process, of a newborn's head coming out of an open vagina.

ANDREW 01

The Venus Suit; 1985; installation. Photo: courtesy Garnet Press

Garnet Press

580 Richmond St. W., Toronto, Ontario, (416)366-5012