

THE SQUICK-OR-SQUEE CAST



Félicien Rops, *L'idole* (1882)

A prospectus for
a new podcast
to be created by
Iago Faustus.

Who is Iago Faustus?

Iago Faustus is the pseudonym for a long-time creator, publisher, and curator of dark erotic content at his website eroticmadscience.com, including the long-running adult comics series *Tales of Gnosis* *College* and graphic stories and novellas such as *Bait*, *Beware the Asylum*, *We Must Boost the Signal*, "In the Kitchen with Dolcetta," "Gel Girl Genesis," and, most recently the screenplay/storyboard sequence *Auto-Icon*.



Dark Erotic Art: *Lights, Camera, Peril*. A "pulp recreation" commissioned by Faustus and done by Frans Mensink

Faustus has also over the past ten years commissioned a large number of pieces of

the sort of "dark erotic art" which will be the subject of *The Squick or Squee Cast*, working and developing relationships with artists on five continents to create material for publication at eroticmadscience.com.

Faustus has made numerous guest podcast appearances on the *Grindbin Podcast*, *The Bloodybits Horror Show*, and *The Mustachioed Podcastio*. *The Squick-or-Squee Cast*, will be Faustus's first as principal and host.

What is the subject of this podcast?

We will be discussing "dark erotic art" with the people who create it.

Dark erotic art might be described as melding of erotic representation and *Théâtre du Grand-Guignol*. It is an elastic category of representations of unusual fetishes and fantasies that many "normal" people would find disturbing, because they involve elements such as erotic horror, extreme body transformations, erotic encounters with supernatural entities, and in at least some cases even the deaths of one or more of the characters the artist depicts. Fantasies of alluring bodies that melt into liquid or harden into stone, intimate encounters with bizarre and horny monsters, risk to or outright sacrifice of one's life in pursuit of an ultimate (in at least two senses of the word!) erotic experience, all these things are subjects of dark erotic art, the area is by no means limited to them.

As an aside, many – by no means all! – creators of dark erotic art would be inclined to agree with Edgar Allan Poe that "The death...of a beautiful woman is unquestionably the most poetical topic in the world..."

That's disturbing. Isn't some of this material dangerous? Or at least problematic and disgusting?

The intended audience for *The Squick or Squee Podcast* consists only of adults who are interested in material *about* adults. We take the view that adults can distinguish between fantasy and reality. Furthermore, we trust that if adults don't like what they're hearing, they can turn it off. The following disclaimer, some version of which will accompany the podcast, expresses our philosophy about the matter:

The material discussed on the "Squick or Squee Podcast" is sexual in nature and may also include depictions of suffering and violence. This material is definitely not suitable for minors, so if you are not of legal age to be listening to material like this in the jurisdiction where you live, please turn this podcast off now. We'll be happy to have you back in a few years when this material is appropriate for you. This particular podcast will also discuss matters of [fill in for particular podcast]. If such discussions are likely to undermine your mental health or well-being we likewise urge you to please turn this podcast off now. For everyone else, who we presume are all adults with a desire to hear this material, we are proceeding on the assumption that you have an adult understanding of the distinction between fantasy and reality. In fantasy, the inspiring play of which does so much to help us

through the misery of day-to-day existence, you may imagine what you like, without regard to whether what you imagine conforms to social norms of appropriate behavior. In reality, we insist that every human being deserves to be treated with decency, compassion, and respect. We do not advocate or condone any form of mistreatment or violence against anyone whomsoever, and we expect that our interviewees and anyone else associated with this podcast will share this point of view. Thank you, and now on with the podcast.



Dark Erotic Art: A page from *Beware the Asylum*, a graphic novella written by Faustus and illustrated by Rafael Suzarte.

What sort of guests are expected on the podcast?

The most common guests will be creators of dark erotic art in their own right. We would guess that at first most of these will be visual artists or writers, but in

principle dark erotic art might be created in any medium and of course we would welcome composers, choreographers, sculptors, dramatists, filmmakers or video-game designers, anyone! We would also be interested in interviewing critics and curators of dark erotic art.



Dark Erotic Art: A page from "Gel Girl Genesis," a graphic story written by Faustus and illustrated by ICUDhara

If I appear on *Squick-or-Squeecast*, what sort of questions should I expect?

They might vary a fair amount, especially since we would like to encourage conversations on the podcast (and given the nature of the material, those might go *anywhere*), but typical questions might include the following:

- How would describe the art you are creating?
- When did you begin making it?
- Was it something that you consciously set out to do, or did it evolve from something else less controversial?
- How old were you when you began thinking about images or stories of the kind you make. Was it in childhood? Adolescence? Later?
- What art influenced you? Are there antecedents in popular or "mainstream" culture (like movies, broadcast television, books or magazines put out by so-called "respectable" publishers) that are sources of your art?
- How about not-mainstream culture, like art at places like DeviantArt or Hentai Foundry or outright porn?
- What role does the art play in your mental life? Is it a source of erotic pleasure or satisfaction to you? Do you share it with partners? What other roles do you think it plays – is it a release from personal frustrations? An expression of your anger at something? Does it express a political or philosophical or even a spiritual point of view?
- An inverse version of the previous question: what would be missing from your life if making dark erotic art were not a possibility for you?
- If your art expresses an erotic fantasy, do you see yourself

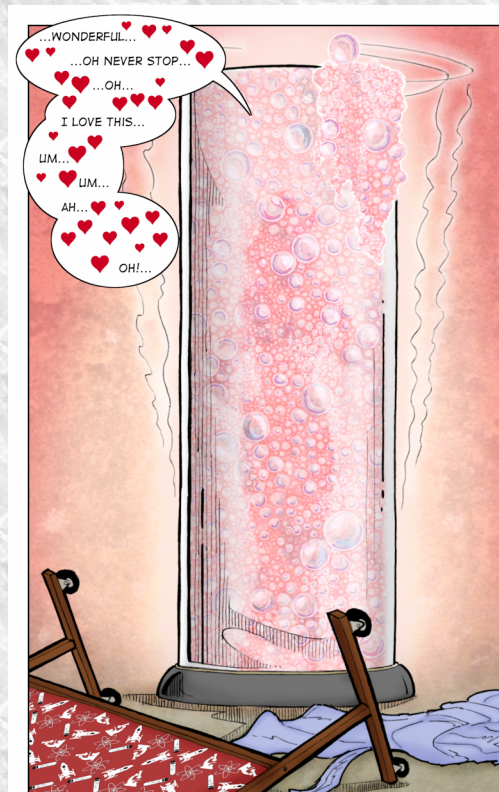
occupying any particular places in that fantasy? (Example: for an artist that creates vore art, does she imagine herself as the eater, or as the eaten, or perhaps as just a third-party observer of the scenes she creates?)

- Let's talk about particular favorite pieces of your art. You pick one of yours and I'll also pick one of yours, and let's discuss what we like most about them.
- Where do you see your projects going in the future? Are you working on something now that you feel that you can tell us about?
- Other than yourself (maybe), who is your favorite creator of dark erotic art? What is it about his/her/their art that you find the most appealing?
- For people who might be fans of your art, who else if anyone would you recommend?
- Do you accept commissions now? If yes, how can interested fans reach you? If no, do you think you might do so in the future?
- The fantasy question: If a mad tycoon gave you a billion dollars subject only to the condition that you would use it to make dark erotic art, what would you make?

If an interviewee has anything they want to plug on the podcast, they are of course welcome to do so.

I think I would be a good guest for your podcast, but don't feel entirely comfortable with spoken English. Is there any way I can appear?

Yes. For exceptional interviewees who for whatever reason do not feel comfortable doing an in-person real-time interview, we will consider taking written submissions to questions which, once subject to reasonable follow-up and editing, can compiled as a dialogic script and then enacted by a counterpart voice actor to Faustus, but only if the interviewee is comfortable with this arrangement.



Dark Erotic Art: A page from *Bubbles*, written and commissioned by Faustus and done by Erosarts.



Dark Erotic Art: a page from *Toozie's Fantasy*, a silent comic spun off of *Auto-Icon* and illustrated by Dark Vasili

Can I be interviewed under a pseudonym?

Of course! Because dark erotic content is highly (and wrongly) stigmatized in many societies, pseudonyms are a necessary condition of allowing many artists and writers to work without suffering harassment and worse. Faustus will take all reasonable and lawful steps to keep the real-world identities of interviewees confidential. Interviewees who wish to avail themselves of voice modulation technology in their interviews will be allowed to do so, to the extent such technology is feasible. Re-enacted

conversations (see the discussion of limited-English interviewees above) may also be made available as an option for interviewees with a strong need to preserve the confidentiality of their real-world identities.

How frequently do you expect to podcast?

We are hoping for either a weekly or a biweekly show; the exact frequency will depend in large part on interviewee interest.

How long do you expect episodes to Run?

It's a guess, but probably 30 to 60 minutes. Faustus is open to much longer for guests with a lot to say!

Will *Squick-or-Squeecast* be monetized?

At present there are no plans to attempt to monetize the podcast (e.g. through advertising or establishing a Patreon account on its behalf) and all content will be offered for free. Faustus reserves the right to attempt to monetize the podcast in the future should his professional or occupational situation change.

Where do you get a weird name like "*Squick-or-Squeecast*," anyway?

For many years Faustus ran a Halloween-week art series. The individuals works featured had the property that some

people would be turned off by them ("squick") while others would be turned on ("squee"). Faustus called this little festival "squick or squee" week, and the name just sort of transfers over.

Overall, what do you hope to achieve from *Squick-or-Squeecast*?

There are a number of objectives. They include

- Highlighting the work of deserving artists and helping them find both fans and clients, enhancing their ability to make a decent living from their art.
- Bringing interesting work to the attention of people who did not know of its existence before, and thus providing them with new sources of entertainment, diversion, and joy.
- Achieving enlightenment and self-knowledge on the part of podcast participants and listeners, by giving people an opportunity to talk frankly about themselves, their interests, and their histories and compare these with other people who might be like them.
- Promoting social tolerance and lessening the stigma against dark erotic art by presenting to the world the stories of real creators told by the creators themselves, challenging people to realize that even the most unusual of creators

are human beings with lives and stories, just like themselves.

- Having fun and making friends.

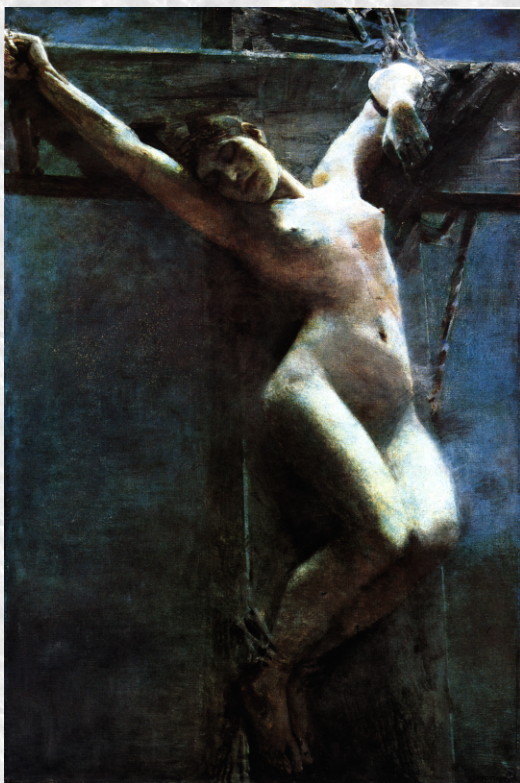


Dark Erotic Art: Page from "In the Kitchen with Dolcetta," a short comic written by Faustus and illustrated by Dark Vanessa

I'm sold! How can I be on *Squick-or-Squeecast*?

Faustus's contact information is on the back of this prospectus brochure. Get in touch! If you're a creator, curator, or critic of dark erotic art, Faustus very much would like to hear from you.

THE SQUICK-OR-SQUEE CAST



Albert von Keller, *Im Mondschein* (1894)

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