

bitchmedia

re: publica / "No one shall dictate to us what porn is and what art!"

By CINDY MICHEL

What is the difference between Nudes and noodz, nudity in the analog and the digital world? The want Jillian York and Addie Wagenknecht at the re: publica discuss in Berlin. WIRED has previously taken the two feminists and talked to them about art, censorship, breasts and the white man of the Silicon Valley.

What we are allowed to post and what not, determine large companies. Photos that show nudity are largely prohibited on social media platforms, if they are not categorized as art. And therein lies the problem: what is art and what is pornography? Who has the right to decide? "No one, and especially not big companies" is the clear answer of net activists Addie Wagenknecht and Jillian York .

Nudes and noodz - how to deal with nudity in the offline and the online world: an issue that is before the two feminists long. How online censorship affects the modern canon of art? Why should social media define art?



Jillian York

The wish York, Head of International Freedom of Expression in the non-profit organization Electronic Frontier Foundation, and Addie Wagenknecht, artist and founder of the social research labs Deep Lab, at the re: publica in Berlin elicited. The two spoke on Tuesday, May 3rd 14:15 to 14:45 on Stage L of the conference.



Addie Wagenknecht

Preliminary they spoke with WIRED about where the apparent prudery in Silicon Valley comes why "sex sells" is still valid and how large companies can not only spread fear online, but now and then dictate the art world of

New York.

WIRED: breasts in the museum are okay, breasts to not Facebook. Sex is a problem that creaking and violence are not. The American Way of Life? **Jillian York:** Or completely obscure splitting of violence and sex in American art. As dealt with it, is something of outdated and backward-looking.

WIRED: Have you ever tried to scrape this prudish layer to see what lies beneath? **York:** Yes, repeatedly. Eventually I tried to see the subject through the lens of Christianity. Lo and behold, under this focus give the weird ideas suddenly makes sense: With violence there is a cultural consensus. Sexuality, however, is perceived as highly immoral. **Addie Wagenknecht:** For me, it runs on a centralization of culture beyond that is omnipresent. A simple example: We post something on Instagram. Instagram belongs to the group on Facebook and Facebook for many the Internet. The believe at least 97 percent of the world population .

WIRED: would make the Facebook for Culture God seen through the Christian glasses. **Wagenknecht:** Sort of. It is obvious that Facebook would be the benchmark for our cultural common property. Still and secretly controls the platform now how this should look.



Are Bea Arthur's breasts in oil art or pornography? Facebook was not sure and put first Jillian York Post with the work

WIRED: How 2015 as Jillian a photo of the artwork Bea Arthur Naked posted on Facebook and it was censored. Only after repeated items and some correspondence with Facebook, the image was accepted. Addie, you have also researched and elicited how Facebook responds to different types of nudity. **Wagenknecht:** Yes, that was when we in the projects about four years ago brbxoxo (Editor's note .: In this project Addie Wagenknecht showed and her.. partner Pablo Garcia empty sets of online Sexcams) and Cam Venus (n. d. Red .: Sexcam performers featured iconic artworks by) worked. I wanted to test the various censorship models of social media companies and posted for photos known paintings, statues and other works of art that showed naked bodies of men and women. The result was sobering. While only about 20 percent of the images were taken down with naked male bodies, there were almost 90 percent in the female bodies. This result shows once again the deep-seated stigma and Hypersexualisierung of female figures that seem only to exist to satisfy male needs.



WIRED: If companies restrict freedom of users by censor posts, destroy all cultural movements, thus leaving huge gaps in the modern canon of art - this is one of your theses for the re: publica. But honestly, the problem of art censorship existed but long before the breasts of the Venus de Milo were ever set in stone. **York:** That's right. Art censorship is a timeless phenomenon. But what makes it so horrible in this current case: the network was for a short while, an open space. Some of us have grown up with this seemingly free Internet until it was destroyed by children as Mark Zuckerberg, who embody some of the worst stereotypes of the white man. **Wagenknecht:** Three years ago I was invited to New York, one of the supposedly liberal cities the United States, about my art project Venus webcam to show at an exhibition. The screen for my work was placed directly opposite a piece of Google. As the Google-man saw that Venus Webcam public shows trans women and breasts, he knocked out that my project will be removed immediately. The organizers did not want to annoy Google and has no criticism to reflect who made request sequence. That's a nice example of how fear the Internet both online and offline commands.



WIRED: You're both part of the Deep Lab , Abbie even founder, a group of Cyberfeminists. **York:** I do not like this word actually, it is not up to date. That's so early 90s.

WIRED: How you describe you but even on the homepage of Deep Lab. **York:** It is true, too, but it just seems a bit dowdy. Cyberfeminists are feminists, who are interested in technology. And I do not know any feminist who nowadays is not interested in technology. Perhaps it is simply that I do not like the word cyber. Except it is irony used then already.

WIRED: All right. Deep Lab is a group of feminists, artists, researchers and many other activists who are interested in technology and study the culture of the present. Actually, the Internet was supposed to be a place where gender plays no role. Is that so? **York:** From equality no trace. However, if that is not already the case in the real world? But it is not just about us women: The Internet is and will remain a dominated by white men room. Only times Google, Twitter and Facebook You have to look - these are all companies that deal primarily white males. In Silicon Valley, it is similar. **Wagenknecht:** The net is actually a place where the white man there. They are surrounded by their teams, who could be their clones. You write the code, which then formed the infrastructure for these huge companies. Meanwhile that changes, there are various movements outside

the centralized network, but even then we are confronted with the same problem. Crypto about is a totally elitist technology of white men, if you are a n00b, so a novice, it is not easy to get in there.

WIRED: It is there, put groups like Deep Lab at? **Wagenknecht:** Exactly. We try especially people of color, women and LGBT groups in our workshops on topics such Coding, Crypto or Net Security through. The only way to demystify this fabled technical things. The people who study with us, can their expertise back to others and so on. And so, ladies and gentlemen, it rewrites history - by being designed itself!

WIRED: Not only in social media realms is violence accepted as sex, but also in games. Only recently published the Streaming Portal Twitch a list of games that are on their index. Lo and behold, according to motherboard seems even with Twitch to be accepted as a sex violence. **Wagenknecht:** That was earlier so when I was still a lot of locales. Violence was always accepted, but once a sex scene appears in a game, it was immediately labeled as pornography and banned in the US for young people. And, although all female game characters were always shown hypersexualisiert. Sure, zap other and blow up is fine, but if even a hint of a nipple emerges is already game over for most parents.

WIRED: If anything makes the mere sight of a nipple Game Over, then it can only be quite unhealthy prudery which drives the blush and the CEOs in Silicon Valley at the sight of unchaste Posts. Like the Pilgrims, the first European settlers in North America were indeed faith-technical reasons scary prude. But the image of the strict Calvinists does not fit as to the seemingly young and modern entrepreneur from Silicon Valley, right? **York:** This is a really good question. Of course, there are institutions in the United States - such as the MPAA, the federation of the six major production companies America - in whose leadership Riegen you might expect older, conservative churchgoers. Alone due to their long tradition. But in Silicon Valley that's not the case. Nor do I believe that the single men who work there have such a setting per se, I think rather that they have so deeply rooted in American society, so that they remain. Driven by capitalism, legal liability and the White-Knight mentality.

WIRED: What is the White-Knight mentality? **York:** An example: The prohibition of images showing bared body, founded Facebook with its global user shaft. The Company believes that some users with nudity might have a problem that might feel uncomfortable. For me, does that sound to paternalism. But for Facebook, which would save the world, probably not.

WIRED: How censorship of sexualised images in the analog world is different to a virtual in the? **York:** If content is censored by a government, we learn the most. The procedure is more public. If a post is deleted by a company disappears simply. Mostly no one finds out, unless the affected person complains about the network. **Wagenknecht:** It is a hundred times more difficult to get excited about censored content when a company deletes or blocks your account. That is often the case with Facebook or Instagram. So it's not only lost the post office, but all it has uploaded to the page. Ultimately, we are landed again at the centralization and the widespread misconception that people still believe theirs what they upload to Facebook or Instagram. It's like Netflix or Amazon: content that may not like it, will be deleted. And sometimes you will give yourself away.

The scale, start the private companies, ostensibly to filter sexualized images is archaic and of men invented – Addie Wagenknecht

WIRED: While ostensibly sexualized images of social media forums are deleted, the slogan "Sex sells" is not with Don Draper and his Mad Men disappeared from the world of advertising. Large companies such as small, hip as alternative - the skateboard industry - they all promote its goods remains with ads that stylize the woman the object of male desire. **York:** Absolutely. Twitter, for example, has a number of displays of a national campaign to prevent teen pregnancy censored because the condoms are presented as supposedly to "sexy". You have to imagine this, at the same time, there are a number of sexualized advertising campaigns for products, as just from the skateboard industry, which are regarded as perfectly acceptable. That's so disrespectful of women.

WIRED: We have talked a lot about nudity, the online as the offline world. But the longer we talk, the more

the boundaries between Nudes and noodz. Where exactly is because for you the difference between nudity on the net and in the real world? **Wagenknecht:** For me it's a question of content and context. The Venus de Milo is not pornography because that was specified in the Western canon of art like this. The Playboy however, already, because he is in the porn corner kiosk. It is also not care that women like to show a lot of skin. Also do not care that the Playboy Models will certainly not staged their own shots. The scale, start the private companies, ostensibly to filter sexualized images invented archaic and of men. What is pornography and what art is a highly subjective and personal decision that has not allowed us none and remove a company. **York:** This is exactly our intention: For us there is no real difference. Some like Michelangelo's David deem quite banal, but feel an advertisement with naked bodies of Marc Jacobs or Prada as the pinnacle of beauty. Anyway, Facebook is to be allowed to dictate to us definitely in no position, what is art and what is not. No company may that and no other person.