

## Should You Be in Pictures?

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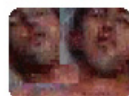
**Editor's Note:** The photo gallery that accompanies this piece and some websites linked to in the story contain adult material and are not suitable for viewing at work. All links of this nature will be noted with "NSFW" after them.

### Story Images

Click thumbnails for full-size image:



Show-n-tell: well we european male: this? jar: sorry i can't liste BIG DAWG: love to nib and down her neck Show-n-tell: works a space



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### See also

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Sex Drive

Have you ever participated in an adult chat room? If so, you probably agreed to something like the terms above -- possibly without reading them. And if that's the case, you

copy of the new book [webAffairs](#) (NSFW), published by Eighteen Publications, as soon as possible to see whether you're in it.

To describe *webAffairs* as one woman's journey into adult cyberspace is like describing Elvis as a singer. It's true, but it hardly conveys the full impact of the art. The author, who goes by her handle, "Show-n-tell," is an artist and a professor at an art school in Boston. *WebAffairs* is not just a book -- it's part of a larger installation, opening Nov. 17 at [The Erotic Museum](#) (NSFW) in Hollywood.

The book is a large hardback, printed on heavy paper, each page a meticulously designed collage of webcam windows, chat excerpts, the author's narrative and snippets of conversation between the author and her husband. It raises questions of privacy in public spaces, of fidelity, of emotional and sexual involvement with lovers onscreen and off.

And it truly captures what it means to belong to an adult online community. In fact, it's the best window to cyber relationships -- and their effect on offline relationships -- I've seen.

"One of the interesting aspects of this project is the idea that virtual space is undefined," Show-n-tell says. "It blurs the line between public

and private space as we understand it."

One community regular, who appears in the book as "married man," says he likes Show-n-tell and considers her a friend. He's one of only three people she has shared her real name with. But when she tells him she is creating a book about webcam chat, he panics: "You smacked me with this," he writes.

When she tells him her screenshots of the chat room are like a photographer taking pictures in a public street, he replies, "I understand what you are saying, I know ... but I am at home. lol."

Married man confesses he does things in the chat room that he wouldn't do elsewhere, because he feels "safe" there. But not everyone shares his worry about the book.

"The response changed depending on the person's culture," she says. "One French guy said, 'Sure, put me on the cover!' But almost all of the Americans would just freak out."