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JONATHAN JONES
ON ART
BLOG

The top 10 female nudes in art

From the ravishing Venus of Urbino, past Ingres's sensual Odalisque, to the feminist riposte of the Guerrilla Girls, the female nude has inspired, enraptured and enraged

Hannah Wilke – SOS Starification Object Series (Back) (1974)

Wilke exhibits herself as a "starification object", her body marked by the stigmata of voyeurism. In a world ruled by the male gaze, she seems to have sprouted surreal vagina-like growths under the pressure of relentlessly being stared at. This feminist perspective on the oppression of looking turns the ancient tradition of the nude in art inside out to display the pain of being gazed at.