



The Berkeley Film Seminar presents

Linda Williams (UC Berkeley)
Hard Core Eroticism: *In the Realm of the Senses*

Thursday, February 23rd, 2006
5pm, Nestrick Room, 142 Dwinelle Hall

Sex was once the great unmentionable (and unshowable) of moving picture art. In American movies before the sixties, kisses and embraces were the only visible sex acts. In the short space of a decade, however, the movies "grew up." Since the sixties, explicit sex acts have become increasingly visible. We now expect to learn something from the movies about the quality and kind of sex that characters experience. In this chapter from her book, *Screening Sex*, Linda Williams will explore Nagisa Oshima's remarkable conjoining of art film with graphic sex, *In the Realm of the Senses* (1976)--the only example of feature-length narrative cinema anywhere in the world to succeed as both art and pornography.

Linda Williams is Professor of Film and Rhetoric at Berkeley. She teaches courses on popular moving-image genres (pornography, melodrama, and "body genres" of all sorts) and is currently working on a study of sex in cinema and new media since the sixties. Her books include *Hard Core: Power, Pleasure, and the "Frenzy of the Visible"* and *Playing the Race Card: Melodramas of Black and White, from Uncle Tom to O.J. Simpson*. She has also recently edited a collection of essays on pornography, *Porn Studies*.

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