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## Wigging Out



pubic wigs. Twenty-three artists from around the world created 37 merkins made from a variety of materials ranging from velvet and silk to pine cone scales and lichen. Some are beautiful, some witty, some aggressive. Who knows—soon merkins may become the fashion accessories of the year. Soon we may see high-end merkins from Prada, budget merkins from Kohl's, and novelty merkins with an imbedded chip that plays "Touch Me" when it's poked. For more information about this possible harbinger of an exhibit, visit the gallery's website at [PiArtGallery.com](http://PiArtGallery.com).



Throughout human history, people have been funny about their hair. The ancient Egyptians, for example, hated hair. To show their disdain for it, they shaved it off. All of it—eyebrows, the whole deal. But that wasn't enough. To further display their loathing, they began wearing wigs and fake goatees, the phonier-looking, the better. The worse the hair looked, the more clear was the wearer's contempt.

In our culture today, there is a fashion among women for a closely barbered, if not completely depilated pudendum (See All Roads Lead to Brazil, by Sloane Crosley, in our August 2006 issue.) But in the way that nature abhors a vacuum, many people dislike open space. They want to fill it.

Which brings us, unexpectedly enough, to Kansas City, Missouri, where the Pi Gallery this month is presenting an exhibit called Intimate Apparel. Intimate, indeed. It is an exhibit of merkins—

