

**By:**

Agnes Costello, at 85 years old and a grandmother 9 times over, has recently gained fame as one of the country's premier erotic photographers. Her unique erotic eye as well as her self-proclaimed status as the No. 1 Grandma in the World has rocketed her to fame. This interviewer caught up with her in her Florida condo, chatting over Tang and animal crackers.

Q. Ok, Grandma Costello, let's get right down to it. Not unlike Grandma Moses, you did not find your art until in your later years. How did you come across erotic photography?

A: It's a funny story, actually. My good friend Ruth was looking for ways to spice up her 65-year marriage. She was interested in having some racy--but tasteful--photos taken of herself, but was unsure of where to go. We've been friends since we were W.A.C.S. together and I thought I'd give it a go. Well the pictures turned out so well--Clarence told me he wasn't even aware that his wife could be "such a sweet piece of ass"--that word got around town, and here I am today.

Q. What are some of your responsibilities as the World's Greatest Grandma?

A: It's not something you can work at, it's something you just are. You've either got it, or you don't, and I've got it, baby.

Q: You don't think your job as an erotic photographer clashes with your World's Greatest Grandma title?

A: No, I think it makes me a better grandma. Not only do I provide the grandmotherly quota of comfort, affection, prayer cards and hard candies, I also bring more hot love to this world and increase people's self esteem by bringing out the horny, dirty sluts and masterfully hung beasts that reside within.

Q. There is no doubt regarding your expertise as an erotic photographer, but there is some controversy over your assertion that you are, in fact, the world's greatest grandma.

A. I don't see why. I've got the sweatshirt, coffee mug, and fanny pack to back it up.

Q. Um, don't you think that there might be other grandmothers out there with coffee mugs that say the same thing?

A. No.

Q: Uh, okay. What's one of the biggest misconceptions about you?

A: That I'm a sweet little granny all the time. Catch me on a day where I didn't get my insulin shot, or the squirrels have been bothering me, or I

didn't solve the jumble, and I can make your life a living hell. One hour with me will feel like a year. But, you know, I think that's just a part of my passionate side.

Q: What makes you such a great erotic photographer?

A: As a grandma, I know my pictures. Think about it! Grandparents are surrounded by photos of their family, friends, and cut-outs from magazines. For my friends in nursing homes, they're raison d'etre. Plus, I always know when to say "smile with your mouth open," or "tilt up your head, dearie&Mac226;" or "squeeze your tits together." It's just common sense and a good eye.

Q. How do you go about making your subjects comfortable? Having nude pictures taken of oneself can be a nerve-wracking experience. Having it done by an 85-year-old-woman can be especially so, I would imagine.

A. If your subject isn't comfortable, then you end up with shitty erotic art, which isn't good for anyone. I just try to make my model feel at ease and don't ask them to do anything they don't want to. If, for instance, my subject tells me that he or she is not exactly comfortable with how his or her posterior looks, then we won't be doing any spread cheek shots.

Q. Do you use any, um, special props or tools to enhance your photography?

A. Nothing kinky, if that's what you're asking. And if you are, that's strictly between me and my customers! [laughs]. I try to keep the shots pretty organic, usually. Some leopard-print sheets. Some industrial-strength fans. One customer actually wanted to pose with my life-size statue of John the Baptist and so sometimes that gets thrown in the mix as well.

Q. In today's world, what role do you see erotic photography holding?

A. Erotic photography is for lovers. Erotic photography is for self-esteem. Erotic photography is for foreplay. Erotic photography is good for carrying on long business trips.

Q. Is it true that you have groupies, Grandma?

A. [Laughs] If that's what you call them. I suppose I've developed what you'd call a following. Teenagers sometimes drive all the way from across the country to my condo. I sign a lot of autographs. Sometimes I get people sending me their erotic photography, to see what I think.

Q. And how is it, usually?

A. Very blurry, usually. I don't understand why.

Q. Great. Thanks very much Grandma Costello. Good luck to you in the future.

A. You're welcome. Hey, how about a free session?

Q. Umm, no thanks.

A. Are you sure? You've got quite a rack there.

Q. Really?