

October 17, 2014

XXXX X XXXXX
XXXX XXXXX Blvd.
[REDACTED], CA XXXXX

Dear [REDACTED]:

I have received your "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials", dated September 22, 2014, in which you asked the library to remove a book entitled *The Supermodel and the Brillo Box* because you found the cover art to be objectionable. Thank you for taking the time to express your concern.

As required, an ad hoc committee met to determine if and how the book conformed to the Library's selection policy. The committee's evaluation is bound by that policy, and by the American Library Association's Bill of Rights. These documents guide the Library's selection of all materials. Based on the committee's evaluation, it was determined that this book sufficiently meets selection criteria for inclusion in the collection, specifically:

- Contemporary Significance
- Quality, including accuracy, clarity and usability
- Reputation of the author

While selection of cover art does not contribute to how librarians make selections, in this case the cover art does support some of the themes in the book, including "One of the dramatic cultural developments of the late 20th century was the mass acceptance of avant-garde art. It is almost impossible to shock or outrage art collectors (p. 17)." The depiction of the wax torso, entitled *Stephanie* represents an important 2010 auction that is central to the book's main assertion that: "The very highest levels of the contemporary art world are brand- and event-driven (p.1)."

We appreciate your concern that covers in the XXXXX Branch Library's adult display area may attract the attention of children and teens. However, the committee has concluded that, while provocative, the image of a partially nude wax statue is not inappropriate for display in a public space. All new adult books are temporarily displayed, after which time they are shelved within the general collection.

Again, thank you for sharing your concern with us.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]
Director, [REDACTED] Public Library