

Questioned by the police at 10 a.m. on a Monday

The Pijp, an up and coming district located in the south of Amsterdam, is filled with hip cafés, restaurants and prostitutes. It is the newest and smallest red light district, featuring 45 windows as compared to the 294 windows located in the infamous 'De Wallen.'



The size and area of this district provide an entirely different experience than found in the crowded city center- there is a more local feel to it. As foreigners, and possibly locals alike it is uncanny to find such openly accepted prostitution in such an inhabited, local area.

While walking through the Ruysdaelkade, attempting to create a unique photo essay, we were immediately stopped and questioned by police- mention it was 10 o'clock on a Monday morning. The police swaggered over to us, hands in pocket and immediately –stern faces in uniform—asked if we had taken photos of the prostitutes standing in the window. Taken back and a little nervous we had excused ourselves as being tourists taking photos of the buildings. The conversation continued as there was a natural

curiosity as to why no pictures were allowed “would you like to be photographed while you work?” the police asked unrelentingly.

This is the line that many foreigners are not able to cross, the fact that prostitution is not just legal but a job that many woman willingly chose to do. As two, strongly independent woman, this is hard and uncomfortable for us to understand- how any female would parade herself and feel proud on a Monday morning. There needs to be a lack of judgment when thinking about this situation because everybody needs to make a living, and everybody needs to pay the bills. Whether this makes us or anyone uncomfortable is not important, it is the situation. There needs to be respect for these woman as there is respect for us.



Jenny Rosenthal & Sophie Weresch