

PRESS RELEASE

Michael Najjar
bionic angel

February 1, 2010 - April 9, 2010
Opening Reception: February 2, from 7:00 pm



dvorak sec contemporary is pleased to announce the first solo show of new media artist **Michael Najjar** in the Czech Republic. On display will be large-scale photographs from the internationally renowned artist's *bionic angel* series. *bionic angel* is the third exhibition in dvorak sec contemporary's New York program: a series of shows bringing the best of the New York art scene to the audience in Prague. The German-born artist is a fixture name in the New York City art scene and is represented by one of the top galleries in New York.

The photographic series *bionic angel* investigates the process of transformation and the technological control of human evolution. Rapid developments in the field of so-called "g-r-i-n-technologies" (genetics, robotics, information and nano-technologies) are not only changing our bodies, minds, memories, and identities, but are also impacting our offspring. These new technologies all share a common aim of enhancing human performance. Prenatal genetic determination enables children to be built to plan. Clone bodies become depositories for ersatz organs whilst manipulation of atomic structure creates new bodies which far outstrip the old ones in terms of robustness, elasticity and durability. Based on genetic algorithms and neuronal networks, these developments essentially mean that biological evolution can now be controlled; they open the door to a new and superior form of existence for the human being.

bionic angel refers to such idealized body worlds from antiquity and the renaissance, drawing inspiration from themes of "metamorphosis" from classical Greek mythology and the roman poet Ovid. Scenes showing beings in the very midst of transformation of a technology driven metamorphosis, articulate the inevitability of genetic self creation in man's ongoing quest for perfection and immortality.

The exhibition will be on view from February 2 - April 9, 2010. A reception will be held for the artist at the gallery on February 2, from 7 - 10 PM.

Michael Najjar exhibited his work in the Venice Biennale's 10th Annual Architecture *Exhibition, Cities, Architecture and Society*. His works have been adopted by leading private collectors and exhibited in major museums and galleries around the world such as:

- Museum Ludwig in Cologne
- Kunsthalle & the Museum für Kunst und Gestaltung in Hamburg
- Sony Centre & the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin
- Gesellschaft für Technologische Zusammenarbeit in Frankfurt
- Venice Biennale, 2009
- Goethe Institute in New York
- Danish Design Centre & the Museum Traphold in Kodani
- Science Museum in London
- Designzentrum Nordrhein-Westfalen in Essen
- International fair ARCO in Madrid
- Joan Miró-Foundation in Barcelona

Born in 1966, Michael Najjar is devoted to photography and new media art. His works explore the impact of advances in (digital) technology on contemporary society, and he creates visions and utopias of future forms of social existence driven in continual change by the influence of new technologies.

For information or visuals please contact the gallery at +420 777 716 381, or email at info@dvoraksec.com.