



HEADBONES GALLERY

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MICHAELE JORDANA BERMAN CYBORG - The Human Condition

ON VIEW April 8 THROUGH April 24, 2010

Toronto, ON - Headbones Gallery is featuring an exhibition of new digital works and several large scale paintings from Michael Berman's 1976 solo exhibition at the Isaacs Gallery in Toronto.

Michael Berman, a multiplatform artist, is a name that many know, perhaps from different contexts, for she has excelled in more than one discipline to memorable effect. You may remember her as the sylph-like actress in Stefan Czernecki's film *Green Veridian Green*. Then she bowled the Toronto art scene over with her exhibition *Oceans of Blood* at the Isaacs Gallery in 1976. Her large-scale airbrushed photorealist paintings related to her stay in the Arctic, where she drifted on the ice floes with the Inuit and the narwhal. The National Gallery purchased her monumental painting from this period, *I Cry Tears of Blood*.



As the lyricist /singer Michael Berman in the new wave/punk band *The Poles* with Doug Pringle (originator of the "electronica" group, *Syrinx*) her fragile physicality, ethereal looks and riveting performance of songs such as *CN Tower* are graven into the musical archives of Toronto.

Following the birth of her daughter, Michael Berman became the creative director of *The PeakMedia Collective*, extending her aesthetic and technical exploration into the digital universe, designing and producing large scale installations for public spaces with video, 3-D motion graphics and glowing light projections

synthesized to music. Now, focusing on the persona of her daughter, interactive artist and actress Ramona Pringle; Michaele Jordana Berman transforms images of her offspring (who, like her mother, is possessed of an unearthly beauty) in her latest series of digitally altered photo paintings, *CYBORG, The Human Condition*. Commanding the process from concept to photography to transformation, the iconic images re-affirm her stance as a consummate visual artist.

In Michaele's words *"I juxtapose and reassemble fragments of my photographic work, transposing images from their original context, to produce composite frames that become frozen moments in time suggesting a larger narrative for the viewer to discover, and challenging the viewer to question the human condition."* In *CYBORG*, we see the intersection of classical super realism and game-world aesthetics. *CYBORG, The Human Condition*, like her previous acts of self re-invention, is as memorable as it is absolutely contemporary. *Cyborg* is a sample of her masterful vision with Ramona as both 'nurse/technician' and as 'Cyborg' - equally convincing and riveting.

"With the birth of the Cyborg comes something new". Referencing *Frontier*, one of her *Cyborg* series in which a young woman is seen in the Canadian Arctic defiantly clutching a Canadian flag, Michaele says, *"As countries engage in international subterfuge it will be impossible to determine who is a real flesh and blood human warrior, manning the gates of each country's disputed territories, and who is a cyborg provided with enough artificial intelligence within its source code, to have the capacity to feel, to learn, and to distinguish right from wrong."*

Michaele has been awarded several Canada Council Arts Grants amongst others for her visual art. For her music, Michaele Jordana won the first CASBY award & a JUNO nomination.

Michaele's work has been critically acclaimed in periodicals such as *Art in America*, *Variety*, *Arts Canada*, *Macleans*, *Chatelaine* and *Liberation*. She has been included in books including: Robert Belton's *"Sights of Resistance"*, Jane Lind's *"Joyce Weiland: Artist on Fire"* and Greg Gatenby's *"Whales: A Celebration"*.

Image details: Michaele Jordana Berman, *Oceans of Blood* – 1976, acrylic on canvas, 96" x 144"

Michaele Jordana Berman, *CYBORG* – 2009, Photo-painting, Epson fine art print, 29.33" x 31.4", Edition 7

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Headbones Gallery is open Tuesday–Saturday, 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and other times by appointment. For additional information, please call 416. 465.7352 or visit <http://www.headbonesgallery.com>.

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