



HEADBONES GALLERY

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper
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Cyborg - The Human Condition: **MICHAELE JORDANA BERMAN**

An exhibition of new digital works on paper and several large scale paintings from Berman's 1976 solo exhibition at the Isaacs Gallery in Toronto.

OPENS AT HEADBONES GALLERY 6-9PM, Thursday, April 8 - 24, 2010

TORONTO, ON - Michaele Jordana is a multidisciplinary artist and media designer whose multiplatform work explores the convergence of painting, photography, music, video and technology in digital media.

A photorealist painter, whose work hangs in the collection of The National Gallery of Canada, Michaele's newest body of creative work entitled ***Cyborg*** is a series of large-scale digital photo paintings that explore the human condition.

She has been a futurist since her earliest work as a visual and musical artist, and her ***Cyborg*** series continues her life long interest in drawing parallels between man's primordial origins as a species and our evolution as entities in cyberspace.

*"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 Jordana Berman first gained attention as an artist and pop icon in 1976 with her solo exhibitions of large super-realist paintings, ***Oceans of Blood***, and photographs, ***Carnivore***, at The Isaacs Gallery in Toronto.



Her setting: the Arctic, her subject: the whales, the slaughter of the innocent. After meeting a dying captive whale at Marineland, Michaele was drawn to these majestically intelligent creatures. She and her partner, composer Douglas Pringle soon sought them out in the wild, living among Orca and Narwhal for several months in the desolate terrain of Canada's high north.

Returning to Toronto to transfer her experience to canvas, she created layer upon layer of glowing colour with her painterly use of the airbrush, imparting a "surrealistic and disturbing sense of serenity and silence to her gruesome scenes." (James Purdie, Jan. 17, 1976, Globe and Mail "An Artist Takes The Measure of Man")

Michaele's painterly approach earned her a place in the permanent collections of The National Gallery of Canada, Art Bank, and corporate collections such as the First City Trust, Rogers Collection and international private collections, as well as a standing among a vital group of artists, including Joyce Wieland and Greg Curnoe who encouraged her passion for Canadian content and the truthful storytelling in her paintings.

The Toronto Star's (Jan.1976), Gary Michael Dault called her paintings "a rhapsodic saga of pain and beauty". In a preview of her exhibition, he quoted her as saying: *"I have suffered over these paintings, I am a tragic heroine."*

The success of Michaele's paintings of whales opened the way for her to explore other art forms. She went on to write the "Manifesto of Performance Art" with artist Wendy Knox Leet, while producing the multimedia performance art work, *The Rites of Nulijuk* for a performance at Innis College with composer Douglas Pringle, a founding member of the electronica band Syrinx, and Inuit artist Norman Ekoomiak.

In 1978 Michaele Jordana became singer of the original New Wave punk band *The Poles*- named of course after their Arctic journey. It was the dystopian picture that Michaele painted in her own writings and lyrics for these performances that prompted her to first explore her voice, emerging from behind the canvas to embody a persona said to have made even Joey Ramone tremble. In her song *X-Ray Robot*, she writes *"We'll build an empire for centuries- with warpaint of ashes, there will be victory"...."X-Ray Robot-I'm going to make you my slave"*.

"CN Tower", Michaele Jordana's acclaimed single produced by Jimmy Frank at Nimbus9 Studios in Canada - hailed by David Bedini as one of the top 50 all time classic songs coming out of Toronto. (The Toronto Star, March 30, 2003) - led the band to perform in venues including Crash & Burn in Toronto, and CBGB's and Max's in New York alongside acts like Devo, the Ramones & Patti Smith. In New York City, John Cale produced and recorded their music.

Michaele's sound, blending cyberpunk science fiction lyrics ripe with dystopian imagery, with guitars & synthesizers, continues in her more recent work with Pringle. "Storming Heaven", a multimedia stage performance commissioned by The Power Plant Art Gallery in Toronto, & performed at theatres in Canada & USA, explores man's desire to conquer a world that does not belong to him alone.

Michaele has a BFA Honours degree from the University of Manitoba and 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 "
Greg Gatenby's "Whales: A Celebration".

NOTE: Press images are available on request by contacting info@headbonesgallery.com