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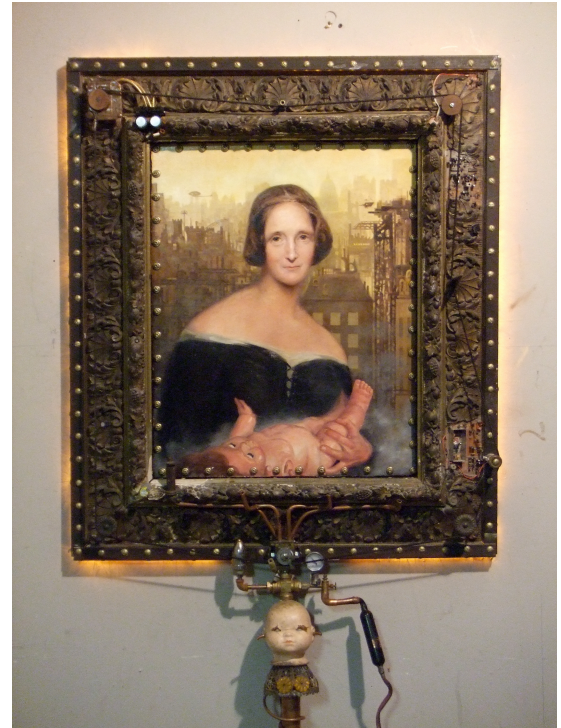
ACCLAIMED REALIST PAINTER MIKEL GLASS CONTRIBUTES TO STEAMPUNK FINE ART EXHIBITION AT GLASS GARAGE GALLERY

(West Hollywood, CA - April 21, 2009) - Acclaimed realist painter Mikel Glass will be featured in an exhibition entitled "The Machine in the Garden: Hopes for a Brighter Yesterday" at the Glass Garage Fine Art Gallery in West Hollywood, opening on May 30, 2009. The exhibition will be on view through August 1.

The exhibition is one of the first manifestations of the Steampunk Aesthetic Movement at a recognized American gallery. Steampunk is a current movement in the arts and in design that uses retro-futurist imagery to explore 21st century issues of technology, globalization, colonization, environmentalism, and feminism through the distance of Victorian aesthetics.

Since completing his MFA at the New York Academy of Art in 1990, Glass has become known for his meticulous realist technique contrasted with his unreal or surreal visions. His current solo exhibition "The Discarded", at the Taylor Museum of the Colorado Springs Fine Art Center, received

universal critical acclaim and set attendance records, outselling a recent Picasso exhibition at the same institution. His lecture outdrew a visit from Christo last year.



One of Glass' contributions to the "Machine in the Garden" exhibition is a mixed media installation entitled "Steampunk Shelley". The piece is comprised of a neo-Victorian portrait of Mary Shelley, author of "Frankenstein", clutching a plastic baby doll. The painting is assembled in a frame that is tangled with mechanized moving gears, pulleys, circuits, and working steam vents powered by a valve cobbled from an antique cow milking machine. The piece uses 19th century fears of birth, stillbirth, and unplanned, uncontrolled growth as a metaphor for the 21st century dissemination of ideas through "grassroots" and "viral" methods that compete with frightening effectiveness against the traditional machinery available to commercial and political institutions.

The "Machine in the Garden" exhibition will also feature performances of "Body Mecanique", an original collaboration with the Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company and playwright Aaron Henne. The performance is a dance/spoken word/live music hybrid that explores humans' relationships with their objects and machines.

The May 30, 2009 opening of the "Machine in the Garden" exhibition will coincide with the 12th annual West Hollywood Art and Design Walk. For more information regarding the "Machine in the Garden" exhibition, the Art and Design Walk, and the "Body Mecanique" performance, contact Glass Garage Gallery 310/659-5228, info@glassgaragegallery.com.

For more information on artist Mikel Glass, visit www.mikelglass.com.

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