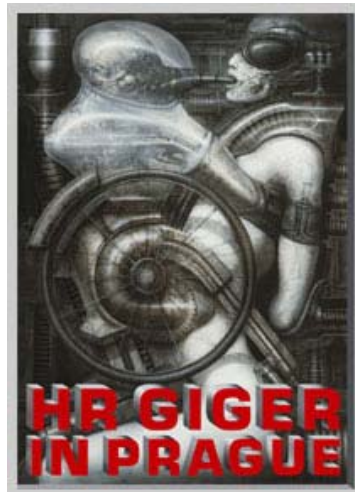


HR GIGER IN PRAGUE

National Technical Museum, Prague

April 14 – July 13



H.R. Giger, the artistic genius and Oscar winner for the film *Alien* for film design, and the mastermind behind a *biomechanical* universe that has haunted us throughout the last four decades, will present in Prague not only a vast selection of his paintings, sculpture and sketches, but also some of his film, music and multimedia projects.

On April 13, 2005 the world-famous artist H. R. Giger will personally open his exhibition at newly opened galleries of the National Technical Museum in Prague. This will be one of the largest cross-section of the artist's life work. Museums and collectors from all over the world have loaned works, many of which have never before been publicly presented, until recently at Museum Halle Saint Pierre, in Paris, and now in Prague.

HR Giger is an exceptional representative of contemporary art, an Oscar recipient for the film design of *Alien* and the creator of the lifeforms called biomechanoids, he wishes to pay his respects to Prague, a city whose mythical history has provided an endless reserve of inspiration—the writer Franz Kafka, theosophist Gustav Meyrink, writer and painter Alfred Kubin and many other important personalities of art and thinking which inspired his work.

The opening will be accompanied by a concert and a performance of artists inspired by Giger's work. Certain film projects with which Giger has been associated will be screened at the National Technical Museum, along with documentaries about the artist's life and work. An exhibition catalogue will be published in Czech and English.

From Atomic Children to Biomechanoids

The creatures well known to us from the *Alien* films have ancestors, an evolving race of biomechanoids who made their first appearance in the artist's work in the early 1960s as *Atomic children* – cartoon creatures caricaturing the lives nuclear survivors. Mechanical and hydraulic elements merged with the organic and these creatures became a prototype of a post-industrial form of life—a frightening yet fascinating result. As Giger presents the further mutations of these beings, stressing anatomical and mechanical function, they are rendered as dormant dream monsters lurking with a significant will to control their own destiny.

Biomechcoitus

Giger's heroes live a bitter sex-fraught existence. A follower of the hermetic world of Aleister Crowley, his blend of medieval magic with modern mechanics expounds on erotic visions where phalluses find vaginal victims in dark chambers. Masculine genitalia gyrate in orgasmic frenzy in the form of worms, pistons, ducts, and weaponry. The female form fights back with equally virulent engulfing engagements. Despite the aggression, there is sublime beauty that graces the faces of Giger's actors.

Statues and design of unknown cultures

HR Giger is renowned as a sculptor and designer, as well. We are reminded of the decorations of palaces deep underground evocative of edifices set on the squares of ancient civilizations light years from here. Another significant aspect of work represented at the exhibition are sculptural variations of one of Switzerland's significant export products: *Swatches*. There is also a machine that gives birth to biomechanoid babies as bullets fired from a gun, and a fully automated penis guillotine. Exhibition visitors will see some of Giger's furniture--pitch-black, skeletal armchairs, courtesy of the famous Giger Bar.

Bestiary of the new film horror

A model for *Alien* was a variation on Giger's biomechanoids. The film director Ridley Scott found himself fascinated by his ideas from the day he saw the first sketches. Spectators will have the opportunity to see many paintings and models created not just for the first *Alien* film, but also *Species* and *Poltergeist II*, as well as the sketches for a never realized version of the movie *Dune*, and other projects. Giger's work for film industry is not only about creating new life forms. Giger provides his creatures with fantastic landscapes and techno-organic interiors.

An activist of a bitter satire

Giger is no fantasy artist isolated from reality. In his works he subjects the post-modern society to an aggressive albeit unique critique. In the projects *Swissmade* and *Mystery of San Gottardo* his homeland does not escape his ironic humor. Spectators will be surprised to find the artist's correspondence with the Swiss president.

Giger Shop

The organizers of the exhibition will also offer a wide range of books, posters, signed prints and limited edition sculptural works by the as well as silver rings and pendants from the H.R. Giger Museum Jewelry Collection.

Place of the exhibition and accompanying program

National Technical Museum - Kostelní 42 - 170 78 Prague 7

Opening hours:

Tuesday – Friday: 9 – 17

Saturday, Sunday: 10 - 18

How to get there:

Metro line A into the station Hradčanská and tram No 1, 8, 25, 26 into the stop Letenské náměstí
Metro line C into the station Vltavská and tram No 1, 25, 26 into the stop Letenské náměstí. If traveling by car or bus there are parking places nearby. The exhibition is held under the patronage of the Capital city mayor Pavel Bém, the Minister of Culture Pavel Dostál and the Ambassador of the Swiss Confederacy Jean-Francois Kamer.

Partners of the exhibition

National Technical Museum, Prague

Pro Helvetia - Switzerland, Prague

PP Prduction, Prague

ARTcommunication, Switzerland

Divus, Prague

H.R. Giger Museum, Switzerland

Deep Side Production, Prague

Mövenpick Hotel, Prague

Swiss Intl. Airlines, Prague

Collectors Witzig - Danciu, Switzerland

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Up-to-date information about the author, exhibition and accompanying programs at www.giger.cz