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Maria Medina

Bionic artist re-imagines the art event

TEXT: MARK PINNOC
PHOTO: JAKE PARLANDER

A person could get lost in one of Maria Medina's paintings. The Seattle artist's rich, Klimt-worthy oil colors combine with carefully chosen collage images and words, creating a stylish, graceful whole. As 26-year-old Medina puts it, she's drawing from the same well of ideas that nourished the Dada, Italian Futurist, and Surrealist movements of the past. Her work, like that of many current artists, focuses on the human element present in technology and vice versa—a perfect match for German Web design outfit Bionic.cc, short for Bio-Mechanic.

Last year, Medina visited Germany and attended an art opening hosted by Bionic, which specializes in producing raves in German castles. An international cadre of young artists and hip European DJs contributed installation pieces and music to the show, entitled simply, "What is Art?" The summer after next, Medina will gather a group of Seattle's avant-garde artists and musicians for a follow-up collaboration with Bionic entitled "Bionic 2003—Synergetic Rhythms," held in (you guessed it) a German castle. For Bionic 2003, Medina has lined up Seattle artists Jesse Paul Miller, Kevin Willis (see *Resonance* #30), and Alan Hurley (see *Resonance* #31), with Moklub's Reggie Watts providing experimental sounds. Medina, who is represented by Seattle's Nico gallery and has had shows in New York, will also contribute an installation piece to the event, which will preview in Seattle in July of 2002.

For the future, Medina hopes to see more of Bionic's multi-media approach to the presentation of art among young artists. "Solo openings can be sterile," she says. "I want sound performers and all of that, so when I finish a body of work, the experience of sharing it with others is a fun and strengthening one."



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you have a piece of art that I couldn't have conceived

— David Bowie (on the Langley students' rendition of "A Space Oddity")

"Touches the heart in a way no other music ever has, or ever could"

— John Z

"The effect of all these young voices singing

"Calling Occupants Of Planet Earth" is clear

— Richard Carpenter (The Carpenters)



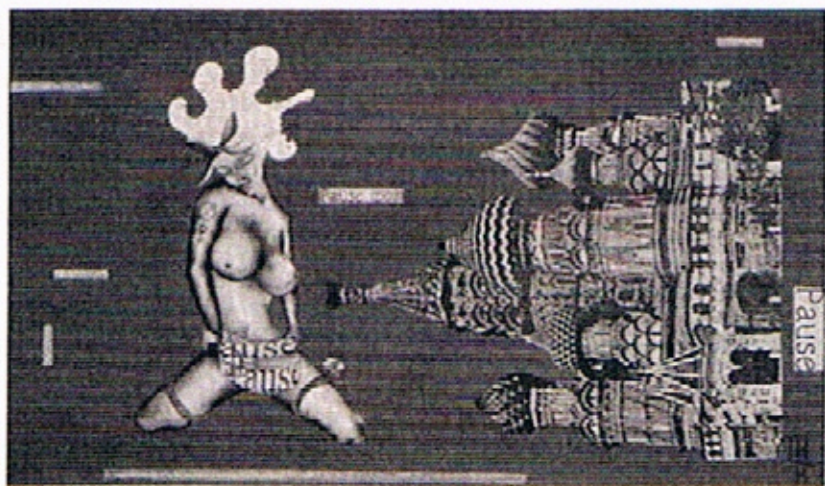
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Above: "Pause" (left); "Pockets of Paradise" (right). Below: "Pleasure." All pieces oils & collage.

