

# BIOMECHANIC



## \_THE ART OF H. R. GIGER

From childhood's hour I have not been  
As others were - I have seen  
As others saw - I could not bring  
My passions from a common spring

- Edgar Allen Poe

The work of Swiss artist HR Giger is most familiar to a popular audience primarily through his design work for Ridley Scott's *Alien* [1979]. Giger's universe is saturated with a futuristic darkness where the organic and mechanical collide in the pursuit of aesthetic perfection, an objective he has attained continuously for over thirty years.

HR Giger was born in Switzerland where he lives today, now in his early sixties.

The most acclaimed of all living Fantastic Realists, he began his producing pieces primarily in ink and oils and switched to airbrushing in the 1970's where his trademark and original style became established. The originality and critical praise of his 20 books - the third of which, *Necronomicon* (1977) visually inspired Ridley Scott's *Alien* - is equaled by his sculpture and furniture design work since he gave up painting in 1990, to concentrate on creating a series of total environments in which his aesthetic sensibility, literally, come to life.

The most recently completed such space, the *H.R. Giger Museum Bar*, inaugurated on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2003, is the third and, by Giger's own estimation, the most successful realization of his designs. It is adjacent to the *H.R. Giger Museum*, the home of the most comprehensive collection of Giger's artwork, housed in a medieval chateau in the historic cit of Gruyères in Switzerland, where Giger also curates one-man shows for other artists from his own private collection of art.

A Giger sculpture, commissioned by the micro-nation SABOTAGE, was recently unveiled on Harakka Island in Finland. He also designed a microphone stand for Jonathan Davis from Korn that will be used on Korn's Australian tour in February.

Giger has just finished *Passage 2004*, a 230 x 150 x 60 cm sculpture based on his early 1970's painting series of the same name, and is busy preparing for a museum retrospective of his work in September, at Halle Saint Pierre in Paris. Examples of Giger's work are included in the *Visionary and Fantastic Art* touring exhibition currently traveling around Australia along with artists such as Ernst Fuchs (Austria), Alex Grey (USA), Lukas Kandl (France) and De Es Schwertberger (Austria). Dates and venues are:

- Manning Regional Gallery March 18 to April 18 2004
- Riddoch Regional Gallery SA 30 April to 27 June 2004
- Ballarat Regional Gallery VIC 23 July 2004 to 5 September 2004
- Paramatta Heritage Centre December 17 2004 to January 30 2005

For more information:  
[www.org.nsw.gov.au/exhibitshow.htm](http://www.org.nsw.gov.au/exhibitshow.htm)  
[www.hrgiger.com](http://www.hrgiger.com)

**Previous page:**

**Li II**, 1974, acrylic on paper/wood, 200 x 140cm  
 Giger at the entrance of the H.R. Giger Museum, next to his sculpture, **Birth Machine**, 1999, H.R. Giger, limited edition 5. aluminum, 200 x 140 x 25 cm. Photo: © Louis Stalder 2002

**This page:**

**Birth Machine** (detail), 1999, H.R. Giger, limited edition 5. aluminum, 200 x 140 x 25 cm. Photo: © Kelly Brill 2003

H.R. Giger Museum Bar interior. Photo: © Wolfgang Holz, 2003

**Landscape XVIII** (detail), 1973, acrylic on paper/wood, 70 x 100cm

