

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## Integrating the Digital Consciousness

May 15th to June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 15th, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

**Yael Kanarek    Michael Rees    Manfred Mohr    Michael Somoroff**

"Digital" is pervasive in all aspects of today's culture. Art is no exception. While most artists have begun to use digital tools, there are a group of artists who have applied digital to their consciousness. A new way of thinking, processing and producing art forms and ideas. This artistic practice embodies progressive interpretation and visualization. For this show we are presenting four artists who exemplify a range, or an integration of digital consciousness. The exhibition is in conjunction with bitforms gallery, in New York.

Yael Kanarek has been developing her integrated media project World of Awe ([www.worldofawe.net](http://www.worldofawe.net)) since 1995. World of Awe is an integrated media project that uses the conceptual framework of an alternative world to explore the dissemination of a journey in the digital era. Selected for the Whitney Biennial 2002. Ms. Kanarek is a recipient of the Jerome Foundation Media Arts grant, the New York Foundation for the Arts 2001 Fellowship Award and the Alternative Museum Digital Commission 2000. Following one of the reoccurring themes in World of Awe. Yael Kanarek is presenting a body of work that reveals the nostalgic and societal reliance on digital technology. Interface becomes skin; a pearl replaces hardware; and source code is webbed into a sensual trap. Nowhere is a series of

renderings from the 3D digital environments created for World of Awe to visualize the fictional desert terrain called the Sunset/Sunrise.

Michael Rees has exhibited his work in Europe and the United States both in private and public venues. Collections include the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Edelman Foundation in Luzern, Switzerland. He was included in the 1995 Whitney Biennial and a solo show at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. Articles have appeared about his work in World Art, Artbyte, Art in America, The New York Times and other publications. Michael Rees' new work is an extraordinary blend of high technology, animation, and physical sculpture that is woven around the narrative of absurd virtual life. These multi-limbed creatures are hypnotic as they move in virtual, animate space. The sculptures are literally plucked from the animations and made flesh. Human legs and fingers are joined to form fluid, acrobatic bodies that become sculpture through 3d printing.

Beginning as an action painter and a jazz musician in Europe, Manfred Mohr became increasingly detached from spontaneous expression and turned to a more systematic, geometric expression. Mohr's work can be found in the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Joseph Albers Museum in Bottrop, the Ludwig Museum in Cologne and numerous other museums and collections. Since 1973, Mohr has been concentrating on fracturing the symmetry of a cube using the structure of the cube as a "system" and 'alphabet'. The disturbance or disintegration of symmetry is the basic generator of new constructions and relationships. Mohr's new presentations are in animation and movement of the system of binary decisions. Displayed in handmade computer stations and flat screens, these works,

generated from programs written by Mohr, offer a subtle pace - a revealing view into the thought process of Mohr's creations.

Somoroff is inspired by what he perceives as certain distinct correspondences in philosophical paradigms between the twentieth and the twenty-first centuries. These themes, especially those of multi-dimensional space and symbolic metaphor once reworked, could be applied to current contemporary existential problems with great effectiveness. In particular the integration of post-modernism. He is represented in several important collections including, the Museum of Modern Art, NYC (AICP), International Center of Photography, NYC, The Frankfurt Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany, the collection of the Spring Mills Corp., NYC. His latest photographic and sculptural works capture actual fragments of "fossilized" time. They are not only representations of actual events, they are also patterns of the material that permeates physicality - time.

Deborah Cotton Gallery is founded on being an innovative showcase for ongoing presentation and promotion of strong historical and visionary contemporary artists world-wide, whose diverse practices include painting, works on paper, sculpture, video, photography and conceptual future media installations. The gallery aspires to provide a forum through connecting Texas, national and international artists to make Positive change.