

“MeCre” by Gaby Wormann

Inspired by the writings of Franz Kafka and the work of artists H.R. Giger and Pierre Matter, Gaby Wormann is an artist who, in her own words, “deals with the themes of individual ethics and humanity's uninhibited intervention in complex biological systems”. Wormann’s mind-boggling creations, which she calls “MeCre” (short for “Mechanical Creatures”) demonstrate a rare dexterity and represent her futuristic vision of the evolution of insects: New, hybrid lifeforms – organisms fused with mechanics – that are more resistant, more efficient and more technically optimised.

The German artist takes tiny components from the world of watchmaking and mechanical engineering – gears, plates, balance springs and filaments, for example – and incorporates them into the bodies of prepared insects – as beautiful bespoke mechanical exoskeletons.

The result is a series of bionic insects that appear eerily real. If the sight of a regular tarantula wolf spider isn't arresting enough for you, then Wormann's *Lycosa tarantula* – with mechanised body and mechanically enhanced legs – takes this arachnid to a whole new level of exoticism. Likewise, her *Megasoma actaeon* possesses impressive layers of mechanical gears endowing this large-winged rhinoceros beetle with even more three-dimensionality than Mother Nature provided, while Wormann's *Tropidacris dux* is a Giant Brown Cricket with elegant, super-sized mainspring-enhanced antennae.

Creating such intricate sculptures demands an exceptional degree of craftsmanship, the keenest attention to detail and a comprehensive understanding of biomechanics. The M.A.D.Gallery is showcasing nine unique pieces by Wormann, including a birdwing butterfly, emperor scorpion and some of the world's largest beetles. Each “MeCre” piece is presented in solid wenge wood frame featuring a dual glazing technique, handmade in Germany by master carpenter Soeren Burmeister exclusively for the “MeCre” series.