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Excess in the Technomediocratic Society

Shoshona Wayne Gallery, Los Angeles

Musée Dole, Arbois, France

Gallery Ursula Krinzinger, Vienna, Austria

Karin Sachs Gallery, Munich, Germany

Techno Domination: Delirium as transcendence is boldly and bodily served up by "Excess in the Techno-Mediocratic Society." This stylistically coherent yet conceptually inconsistent exhibition at Shoshona Wayne Gallery charts the intriguing attempts by 15 contemporary artists to short-circuit technology's domination of modern life.

Curated by New York-based artist **Joseph Nechvatal**, the show struggles to interrupt the incessant, overwhelming flow of electronic information. Paradoxically, its strategy is to exuberantly embrace the operations of advanced telecommunications.

Most of its images strive to increase the velocity and scope of data transmission, until one's perception of the world dissolves into a hallucinatory, mind-warping blur. The eerie glow of computer monitors, the invisible power of microchips and the faceless authority of international conglomerates predominate, ensuring a cool sheen of heartless experimentation.

Ominous shape is given to the connections between technology

and manipulation by **Philip Po-cock's** malignant Cibachromes, **Carl Fudge's** labyrinthine silk-screens, **Peter Nagy's** stark palimpsests of corporate logos and **Matt Mullican's** dysfunctional symbols.

Enlarged images of bacteria and brains, life-size intestines made of fragile paper, mutant renditions of cellular structures and ghostly halos of human physiognomy flesh out a contrary picture of the brave new world promised by technology. This side of the show brings corporeal vulnerability into painfully sharp focus.

Carter Hodgkin's shadowy silhouettes of potential diseases, **Peter Kogler's** cerebral Rorschach blots, **Kiki Smith's** extracted bowels, **Steve Miller's** bright viruses and Nechvatal's intangible reflections of dissolving bodies suggest that human flesh is an essential component of even the most disembodied fantasies of technological perfection.

Genetic codes and computer circuitry are meant to function as analogues that tie the schizophrenic exhibition together. This gambit