

THE NEWS-PRESS • MyCoastalLife.com

# Coastal LIFE

Celebrating the best of South Lee and North Naples

ARTS

## What if?

future on display at art center

story by **lindsay downey** • special to coastal life

Imagine this: You need to make a call. But instead of pulling out your iPhone, your brain picks up your ready-to-dial message and a visual keypad falls over your pupils.

And instead of a Bluetooth piece shoved in your ear, the electric components are hardwired within.

No need to fire up your MacBook to surf the web. Check out the glowing screen awash in your vision.

Perhaps cameras are obsolete, too.

"Maybe in 2135 all you do is blink your eyes three times and you have a photograph," said Susan Bridges, president of the Center for the Arts of Bonita Springs. "We're not so far away from thinking about all that strange, wonderfully weird stuff."

These are the types of futuristic notions that leap from the graphic works of renowned New York City-based artist Deena des Rioux. The Bonita arts center debuts her "Robotic Portraiture" exhibit today as well as a fantastically creepy, October-appropriate show, "The Exquisite Corpse."

Inspired by sci-fi and computers since their advent, des Rioux has pushed the artistic envelope all her life, from her activism for women artists in the 1970s to her human-electronic hybrids. She explores neuro-dynamics, robotic erotica and planetary disuse, with works that focus on men as sexual objects exhibiting next month at SOMArts in San Francisco.

Her robotic portraits have sparked new millennium notions since she produced the first image back in 1989.

[continued on page 25]



"Esther Bionic Punk" by Deena des Rioux.

Special to Coastal Life

ARTS [continued]

"I'm really into an edgy message, as far as what's coming in the balance between human and electronic. More and more body parts are being replaced by electronic items," des Rioux said, adding that her world-touring pieces result in wide interpretations.

"The Exquisite Corpse" is a contemporary glass flame-working exhibit based on a surrealist parlor game in which people would write phrases on paper and pass it along to advance the thought.

Ten internationally recognized figurative sculptors each created male and female figures for the display. The body parts are broken up and reassembled at random in the exhibit, organized by the Castellani Art Museum at Niagara University.

Both of Bonita's October shows are designed to rustle up deep, scientific thought and bring about a whole complicated mix of "what ifs."

"There are the concepts of random chance, accidental things and that there's a whole new derivative that is possibly created just by things being in a different place at a different moment in time," Bridges said. [CL]

if you go

**What:** Robotic Portraiture by Deena des Rioux and The Exquisite Corpse  
**When:** Both exhibits open today with a reception and open house from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. They run

until Nov. 30.  
**Where:** Center for the Arts of Bonita Springs, 26100 Old U.S. 41 Road, Bonita Springs  
**Info:** 495-8989; artcenterbonita.org



"Disc Drive 2" by Deena des Rioux

Special to Coastal Life