

**DZINE  
»VOODOO«**

OPENING THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2010, FROM 7 P.M.  
DURATION: APRIL 29 ñ JUNE 19, 2010

For his first solo exhibition with Galerie Krinzinger, Dzine will present an exhibition consisting of a unique custom bicycle sculpture, a video installation, a sculptural drawing, and photographs – a new medium within his body of work. Each piece is inspired by and partially produced on the Dutch Island of Curaçao, during Dzine's residency at the Instituto Buena Vista Curaçao Center for Contemporary Art. The presentation is a unique combination of mediums, which capture the spirit of *ì Swaybar*, a phenomenon that is unique to the youth of Curaçao, and never previously documented or viewed outside of the Island.

The exhibition's title, *ì voodoo*, derives from *vodò*, meaning spirit or divine creature. The voodoo religion encourages rituals and songs to maintain the relationship between the spirits and the community as a whole. Vodoo shares many similarities with other faiths of the African Diaspora. Vodoo specialists mediate between humans and spirits through divination and trance. They can also perform rituals to appease spirits or ancestors or to repel magic.

The artist's experience of the *Swaybar* phenomenon grew into the concept of ceremonial and ritualistic series of actions, combined with handmade paraphernalia and objects that serve a specific purpose, and has heavily informed the framework for this exhibition.

The *Swaybar* bicycle comes from the *ì Sway* motorbike (motorbikes that are altered to extend into odd shaped driving crafts). Since the youth cannot afford to purchase a motorbike, they simply try to copy the technique with a bicycle by memory. Some of the bicycles are used as they're only means of transportation. However, recently, the youth who produce these custom bicycles use these creations as symbol of style, status and showmanship. This has now developed into something bigger, with the kids acting out dangerous stunts (as they do with the motorbikes). These long, extended shaped *ì Sway* bicycles are now deemed illegal by the authorities and will be confiscated. The youth come out at dusk (with no street lighting) or on isolated local roads to avoid any problems with the authorities. The youth also band into groups and non-violent gangs that define their associations and status within their subculture, a socio-cultural phenomena reminiscent of religious sects.

The bicycle sculpture produced for this exhibition had to be secretly fabricated on the island through a third party. Presented on a tiered and decorative pedestal—the piece is idealized as a static and statuesque object of desire, and a dedication to the Curaçao youth. Its embellishments of 24-karat gold leaf, Swarovski crystals, antique jewels, and customized pendants create texture and capture the essence of an altarpiece intrinsic to religious rituals. The Christian cross is incorporated throughout the pieces, again alluding to religion and tradition. The base is covered with dozens of colored plastic flowers, typically used during the Carnivale in Curaçao.

The video piece is created from footage that the artist captured of sway riding in Curaçao. The subjects' choreographed movements become dance and trance like when isolated in the frame, and rhythmic and hypnotic when combined with the audio track.

In his first time utilizing the medium, the artist will present a select set of photographs in this exhibition, chosen from the hundreds that he captured. Fifteen documentary images taken by Dzine express the ethereal and raw landscape of Curaçao and the local youth culture in both melancholic and vibrant moments.

The exhibition's most singular work is a sculptural painting achieved with highly detailed embroidery on leather and vintage ornate textile, presented in an antique frame prepared in 24-karat gold leaf. Taking inspiration from areas as divergent as Baroque and Renaissance design periods and traditional motorcycle-biker attire; the composition is at once harmonious and unorthodox. Its incorporation of iconography such as the sacred-heart, relate it back to the themes of faith and creed.