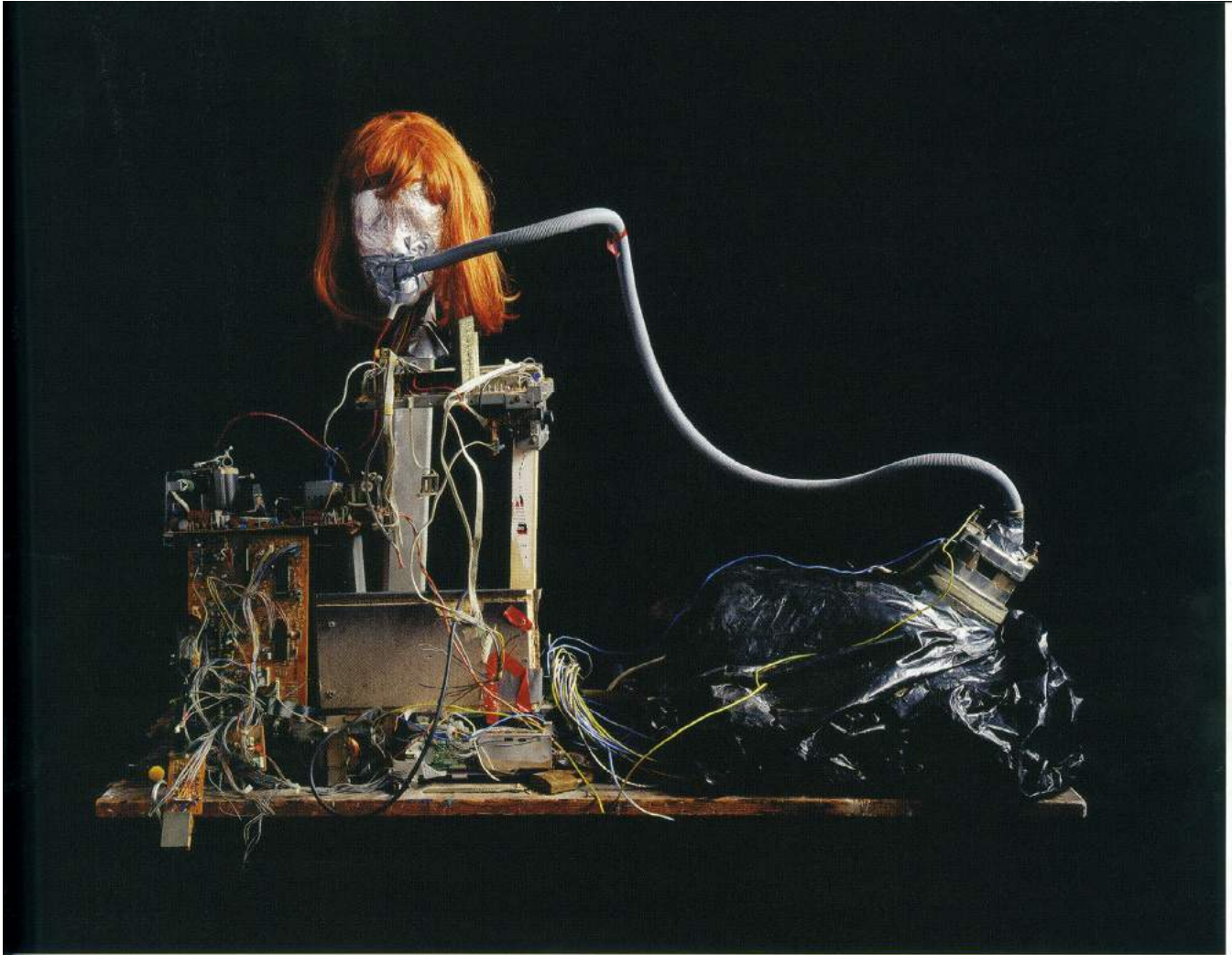




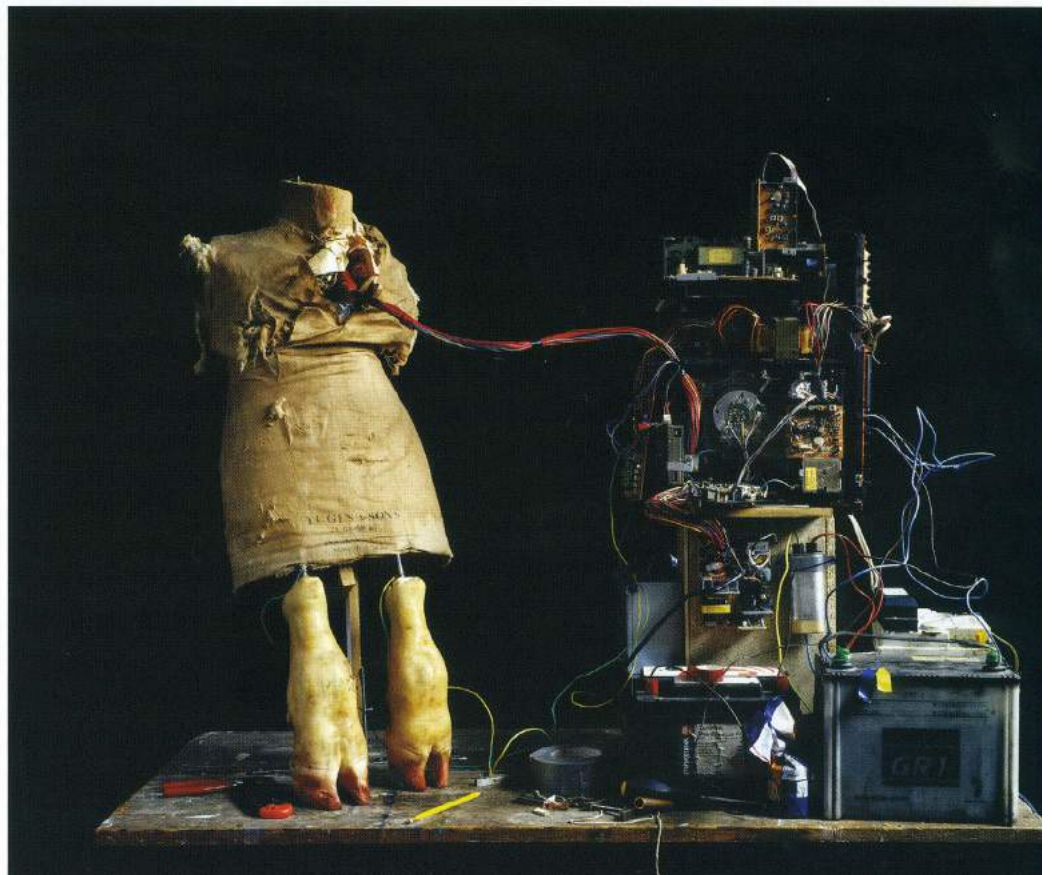
DEC/JAN 2007/08 £3.95
PHOTOGRAPHY: MIGUEL REVEREGCO
JACKET BY LOUIS VUITTON, PENDANT
AND NECKLACE BY DE BEERS

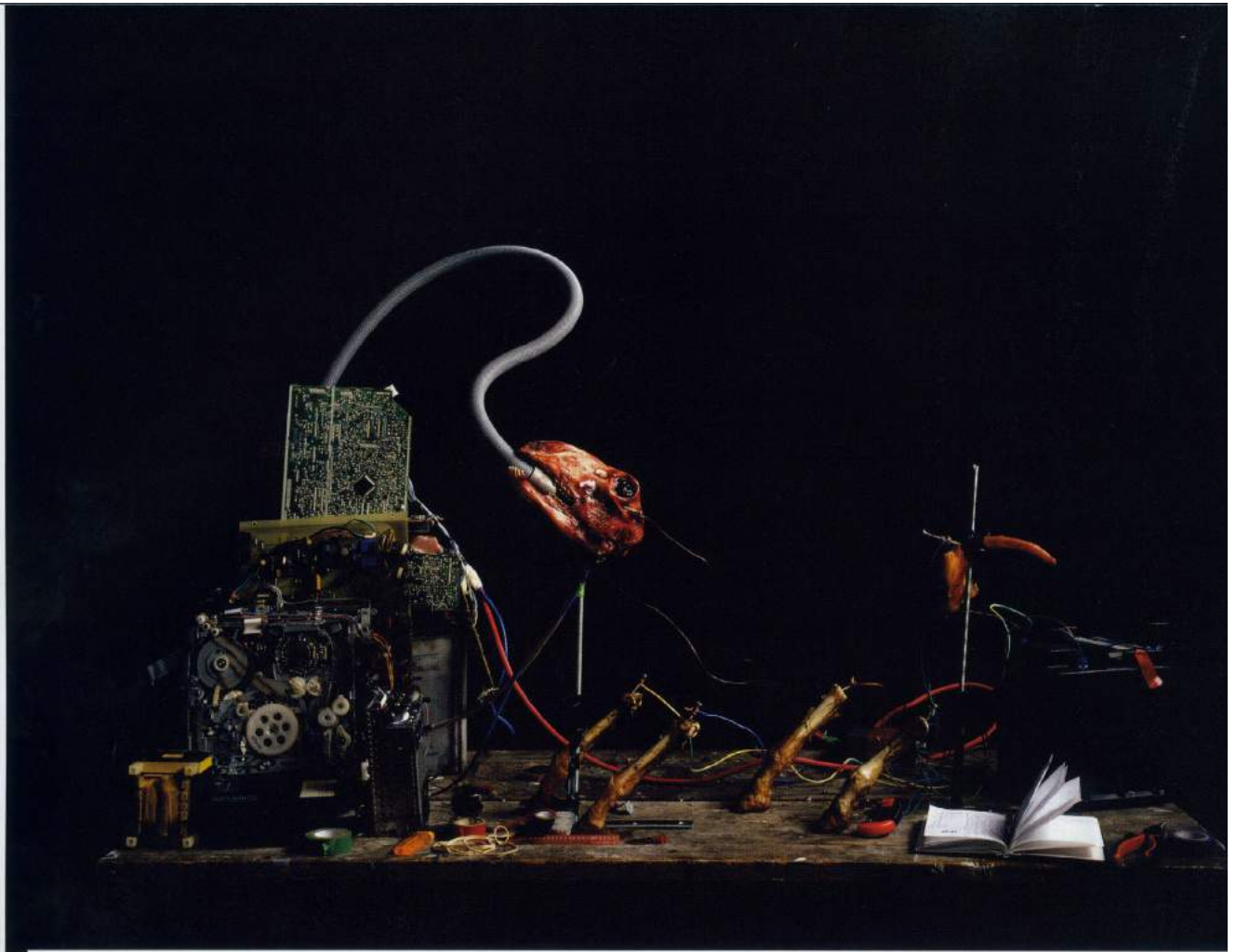


OP ART
MICHAEL PITT
EROTIC CINEMA
ROLLERCOASTERS
GUS VAN SANT
THE LAST DAYS
OF PUNK
MR MEN



Clockwise from top left:
Resurrect My Love, 2006,
Ruby Darling, 2006 and
You Give Me Love, 2006,
all works by Joe Duggan





The Irish artist Joe Duggan is completely charming. His accent is smooth and rises animatedly when he talks about his one passion: his work. "What excites me about my work is the creative process. Making art is what drives me. It is something I feel I need to do," he explains. Duggan is a master of staged photography. In 2002 he graduated from the Royal College of Art and has since exhibited worldwide with solo shows in Belgium, Denmark, London and most recently in his home town of Limerick. The photographs he takes are full of questions, causing the viewer to double take at images,

which initially appear to be ordinary snapshots of family life but are actually completely staged. The common place settings that feature in his work, from a household interior to a country park, suggest the images are simply capturing tranquil moments of every day life, but they have a twist. The figures, which at first appear human, are in fact mostly mannequins, posing as humans against false backdrops. These artificial backdrops provide a stage for Duggan, as the only human in each shot, to interact with the props, acting out imaginary narratives to capture on film. "I intend my work to be full of questions" he explains. "I try to use aesthetics to seduce people into my dark world." It was in a tiny room above a café in South Africa, six years ago that Duggan first started photographing mannequins, realising that they could trigger feelings of empathy and so be used in his work as a substitute to people. This theatrical mix of fact vs. fiction is central to his photographs and stems from time spent at drama classes as a boy, and from starring in his mum's homemade cinefilms. "The work is a process of self-discovery," he muses. "Sometimes I think the work is about me and

other times about everyone else." In Duggan's next project, *Dirty Old Town*, he plays the role of an imaginary commercial photographer called John Proctor Junior, whose duties are to cover all the newsworthy events that happen within the town. "John's photographs are documents of life," explains Duggan, "and my project will be the creation of his life's work." This project, like those that have preceded it, promises to be a little unsettling and to challenge our perceptions of ordinary life. "I am always making or thinking about things I can make," he says. "As an artist I make work as a response to life - the wonder of it, the human condition, and how I find my place in it." Duggan has recently established an artist led, non-profit project space titled Heaven's Full in Hackney, London, to showcase the work of acclaimed multi-media artists. *Dirty Old Town* will open the space in December with a mixture of writing, sculpture and photography, which - by the looks of his latest pieces, shown here - is set to cause quite a stir. Duggan smiles - "It's the most exciting thing I have done in years." LF
joeduggan.co.uk

DIRTY LITTLE SECRET