

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



***JEAN-PIERRE KHAZEM***

## **MONA LISA LIVE**

**April 22 - May 3, 2003, 6 - 8PM**

Deitch Projects presents *Mona Lisa Live*, a live sculpture by Jean-Pierre Khazem. A nude model, wearing a mask of Mona Lisa's face, will stand on a pedestal beneath a shaft of light in the darkened gallery. The performance will take place for two hours each evening, Tuesday through Saturday, April 22 – May 3, 2003 from 6 - 8 PM.

Jean-Pierre Khazem is known for his performance and photographic works with live figures wearing "life like" masks. The resulting images, part artificial and part live, are remarkably disconcerting, appearing familiar yet otherworldly at the same time.

Khazem's astonishingly "realistic" mask of Leonardo's *Mona Lisa*, is constructed with the best artificial eyes known to medicine, the highest quality wig and state of the art modeling techniques. The face appears to have come to life out of Leonardo's painting. The most mysterious figure in the history of art made even more confounding, existing in a meta-reality where the iconic, the artificial and the real are deliberately confused. Khazem has made the *Mona Lisa* contemporary.

Jeff Rian has written that Khazem's modeled heads "have the thoughtless, non-emoting, wrinkle-free look of a model photoshopped to perfection at a lab...His emotionless faces stare ahead into an absorbent mental space that everyone knows but can never explain...The combination of a near-real stare and a real body makes them both curiously Other and absolutely familiar, giving them an air of what Richard Prince called 'making the familiar strange.'"

**CONTINUED ON REVERSE**

Jean-Pierre Khazem works in both art and advertising, preferring not to differentiate between the two approaches. He is known for his recent work with Diesel and Air France and for his editorial collaboration with Details, Paper, The Face, and Dazed and Confused. His 2002 exhibition *Pause* at Färgfabriken Stockholm was featured as an editorial portfolio in the May 2002 issue of W.

The Centre National de la Photographie, Paris, will present a solo exhibition of Khazem's work later this year. He has exhibited since 1998 with Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin in Paris. Khazem was born in 1968 in Paris where he lives and works.

**GALLERY HOURS 12 - 6, TUESDAY – SATURDAY  
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT  
JULIA CHIANG AT 212-343-7300**