

## Production Statement: "Exposure" (2004)

In classical mythology, the planet Venus was named "*Lucifer: The Morning Star*." The early Christian Church attached the name to Satan as a reference to Satan's fall from heaven. As too Venus, the morning star, falls from the firmament of the sky and disappears behind the horizon.

Under Islam, the fall of Lucifer was transformed into a poignant love story. In the Persian account, the angels were created to praise and worship God. Then God created man and woman, and told the angels to serve mankind. But Lucifer, loved God utmost of all the angels, and refused to serve anything but God. For defying God's will, Lucifer was banished from God's side and cast out of heaven. Here, Lucifer suffers for all eternity removed from the presence of God. This is Hell, to be separated from that which one loves most.

In the image "*Lucifer*" we see the darkly clad figure of a man under the canopy of a black umbrella. The color and curvature of the umbrella is reminiscent of a bat's wing. In *Dante's Inferno*, Lucifer is described as having wings with no plumes but of form and texture like a bat's. He is covered almost completely and shielded from the elements. The mass and stance of his figure creates a down cast and brooding atmosphere. Lucifer is trapped in a state of constant mourning, desiring to be in the presence of God, though the utmost immeasurable distance lies between them.

In contrast to Lucifer is Michael the archangel. Michael is the leader of the celestial Army, in opposition to Lucifer and his followers. His name means "Looks like God" and according to medieval metaphysical thought Michael is composed of snow.

In the Image "*Michael*" we see a nude male figure with a white towel draped over his right shoulder - reminiscent of an angels wing. His bearing is suggestive of Greek classical sculpture, and conveys a sense of heroic power and stature. He stands naked and his body is wet with perspiration and/or precipitation. He is exposed and open to the elements, in stark contrast to the image of Lucifer.

In *Genesis*, God created man and woman and saw that it was good. The serpent in the Garden of Eden, regarded as Lucifer, enticed Eve to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge, which she in turn shared with Adam. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked, so they sewed together fig leaves and made loincloths to cover themselves. However in the beginning God saw no fault in their nakedness. Therefore the shame they felt at being naked was the earliest offspring of human morality. It was Lucifer who planted this seed of shame.

Though you seek in garments the freedom of privacy you may find in them a harness and a chain. Forget not that modesty is for a shield against the eye of the unclean. And when the unclean shall be no more, what were modesty but a fetter and a fouling of the mind?<sup>1</sup>

Lucifer is cloaked in dark clothing that is befitting of his own shame and grief, and his intent is equally veiled from God. While Michael revels in the splendor of his nakedness, and his intentions are likewise transparent to God.

---

<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from "The Profit" by Kahlil Gibran

The final image "*Judgment (Snow)*" depicts a child in the midst of throwing a snowball. The child's intent is unclear - Does the child mean to do harm or is the child playing? The youth is flanked on either side by the combatants of Armageddon - The archangels, Lucifer and Michael.

By the second century A.D. the Catholic view prevailed that every man and woman (and especially every child) had a guardian angel, and as an extension of that, it was believed that each person had one good angel and one bad angel competing for their attention at any given moment. Today it is a cliché image - the good angel sitting on the right shoulder and the bad angel sitting on the left, whispering words of wisdom and wickedness respectively. The three images in the triptych are arranged in similar fashion. Lucifer stands to the child's left and Michael sides the child's right. The child is an admixture of the two competing powers. Michael the archangel is made of snow and his influence can be seen in the snowball that the adolescent holds in a bare hand. Lucifer's influence can be seen in the child's manner of dress. Though the clothes are mostly neutral in color, either oppressively dark or intensely bright.

The child though smaller than the two angels, is reminiscent of significant biblical figures. David with his slingshot ready to hurl a stone into Goliath's skull, or Jesus with his right hand raised in *The Last Judgment* by Michelangelo. The Child is a figure of importance that draws the three together into a unifying whole - indicative perhaps of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the end, it is the son or youth who shall cast the last judgment, as humanity and free will sets the child apart from the angels.

Geoffrey Mattie

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Technical:</b>       | Images captured on 4"x5" large format film in studio. A light source was positioned between the subjects and white backdrop. Each image is a 3 second exposure. Processed film was digitally converted using a high precision drum scanner. |
| <b>Shoot Locations:</b> | Montréal, Québec, Canada                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Exhibitions:</b>     | <p><i>"Exposure"</i> (Photo Series)<br/> Art Mûr Gallery, Montréal, Canada<br/> April 2004</p> <p><i>"Judgment (Snow)"</i> (From <i>"Exposure"</i> Photo Series)<br/> Gallery 44, Toronto, Canada<br/> January 2008</p>                     |



Lucifer  
from "Exposure", 2004  
C-Print, 130 cm x 109 cm



Judgment (Snow)  
from "Exposure", 2004  
C-Print, 130 cm x 109 cm



Michael  
from "Exposure", 2004  
C-Print, 130 cm x 109 cm