

# ROBO SAPIENS

*Evolution of  
a New Species*

*Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio*

CREATORS OF MATERIAL WORLD



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In a years-long quest, students at Waseda University in Tokyo are constantly tweaking the programming of WABIAN R-II in the hope of making the heavy, two-meter-tall machine walk as easily as a human being.

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BIT—Baby It—is the prototype for My Real Baby, the most sophisticated robot doll yet made. According to a press release, it is only the “first born” in a series of dolls created from the union of its parent companies, toy giant Hasbro and iRobot, a small Massachusetts robotics firm.



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# Robo *sapiens*







Roaming the sands like a glowing desert scarab, six-inch-long Unibug 1.0 strides across the wasteland of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in the Colorado Rockies.

PREVIOUS PAGE

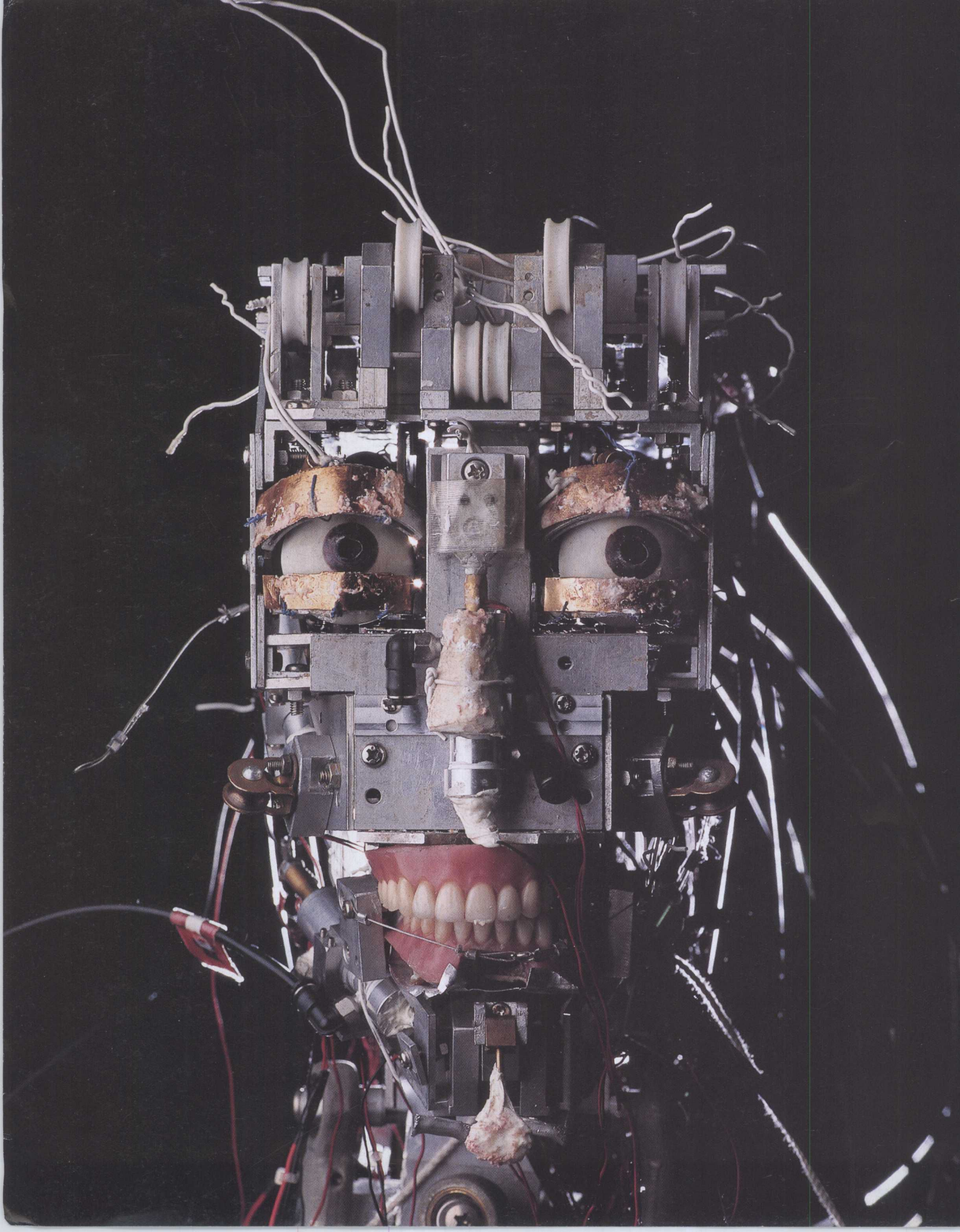
Passersby amble past the friendly robot giant at the doorway of FAO Schwarz in Orlando, Florida.



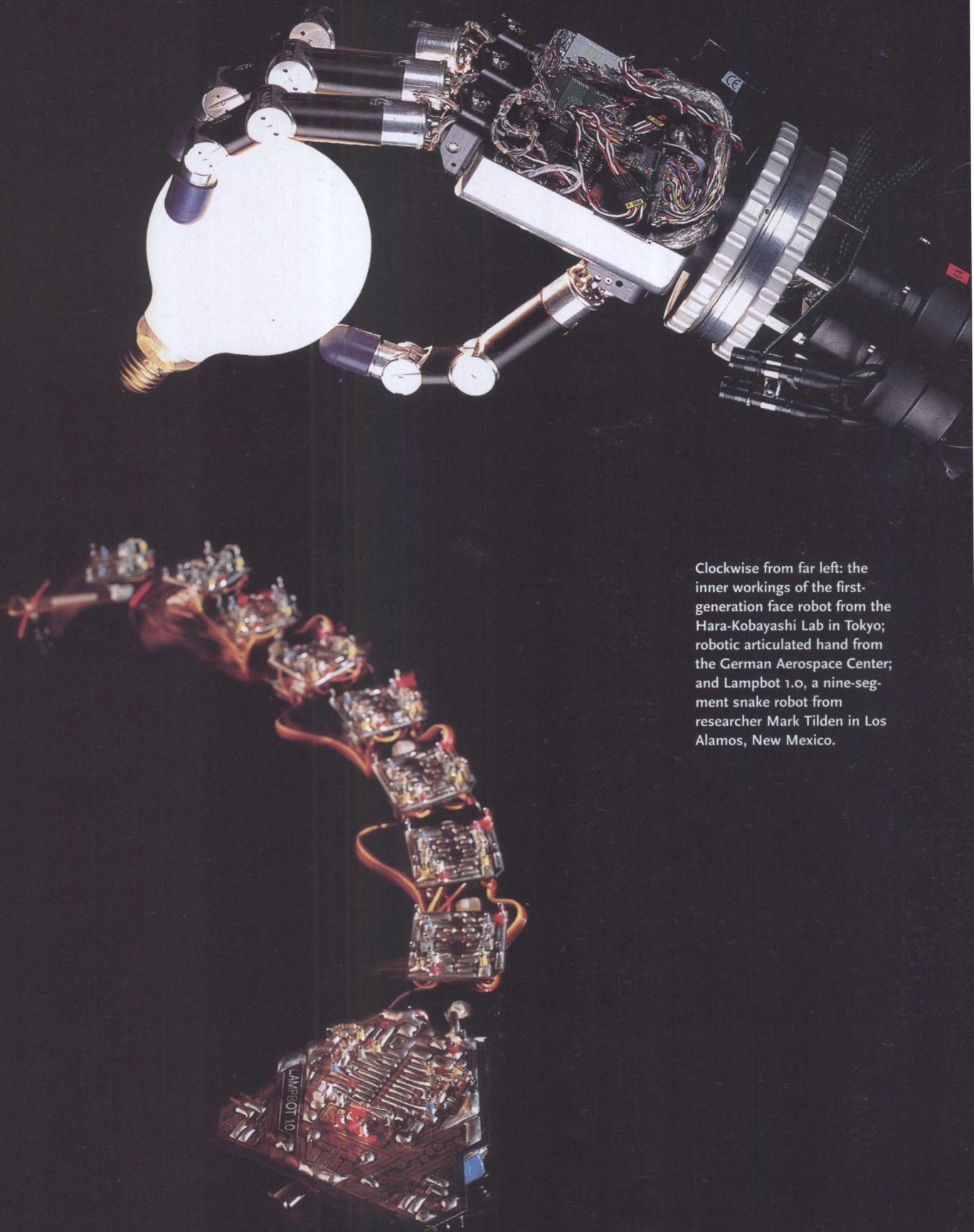
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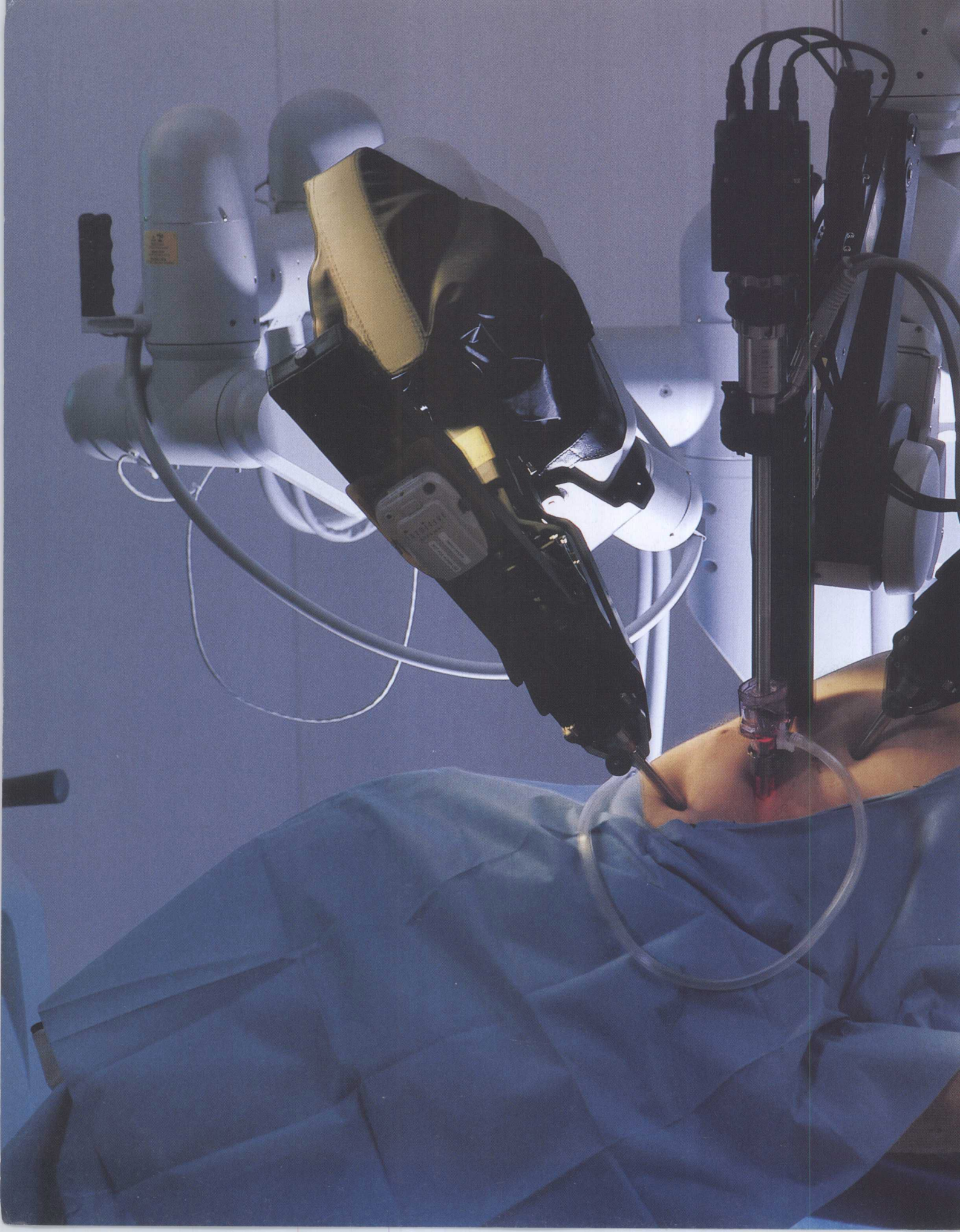




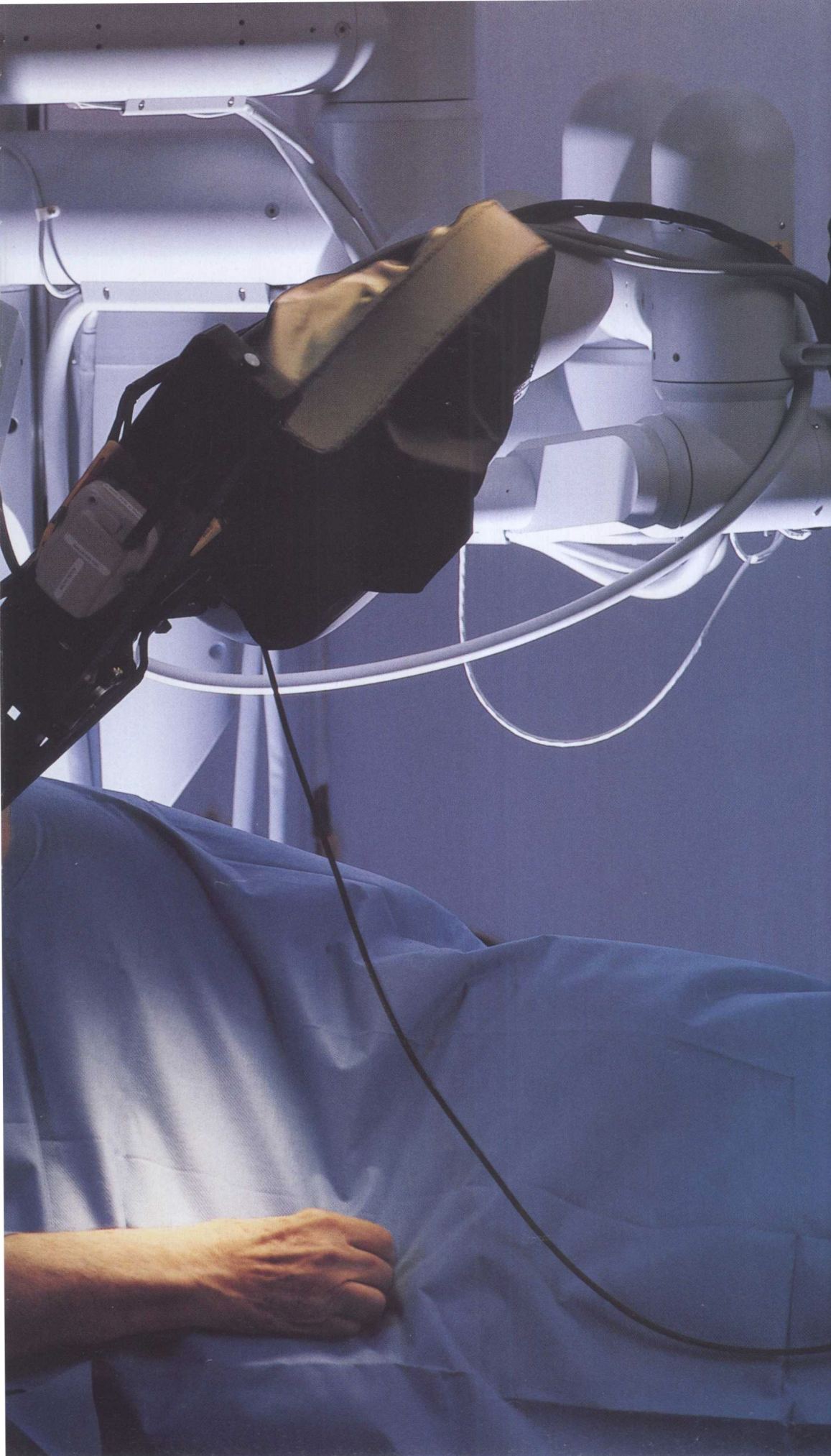


Clockwise from far left: the inner workings of the first-generation face robot from the Hara-Kobayashi Lab in Tokyo; robotic articulated hand from the German Aerospace Center; and Lampbot 1.0, a nine-segment snake robot from researcher Mark Tilden in Los Alamos, New Mexico.










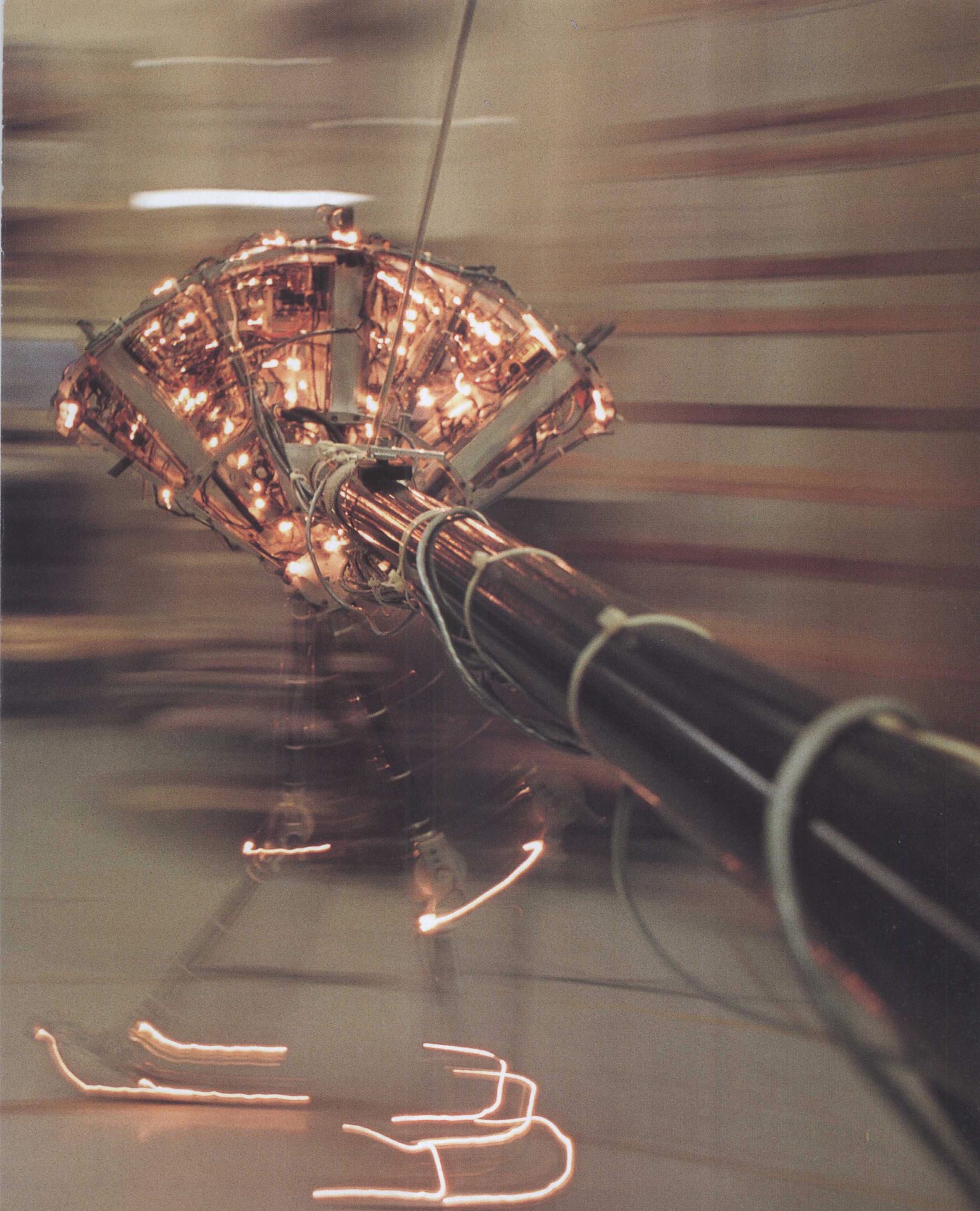
Precision robot arms maneuver microsurgeal instruments through centimeter-long holes into the heart of a cadaver in a demonstration of minimally invasive surgery at Intuitive Surgical of Mountain View, California.



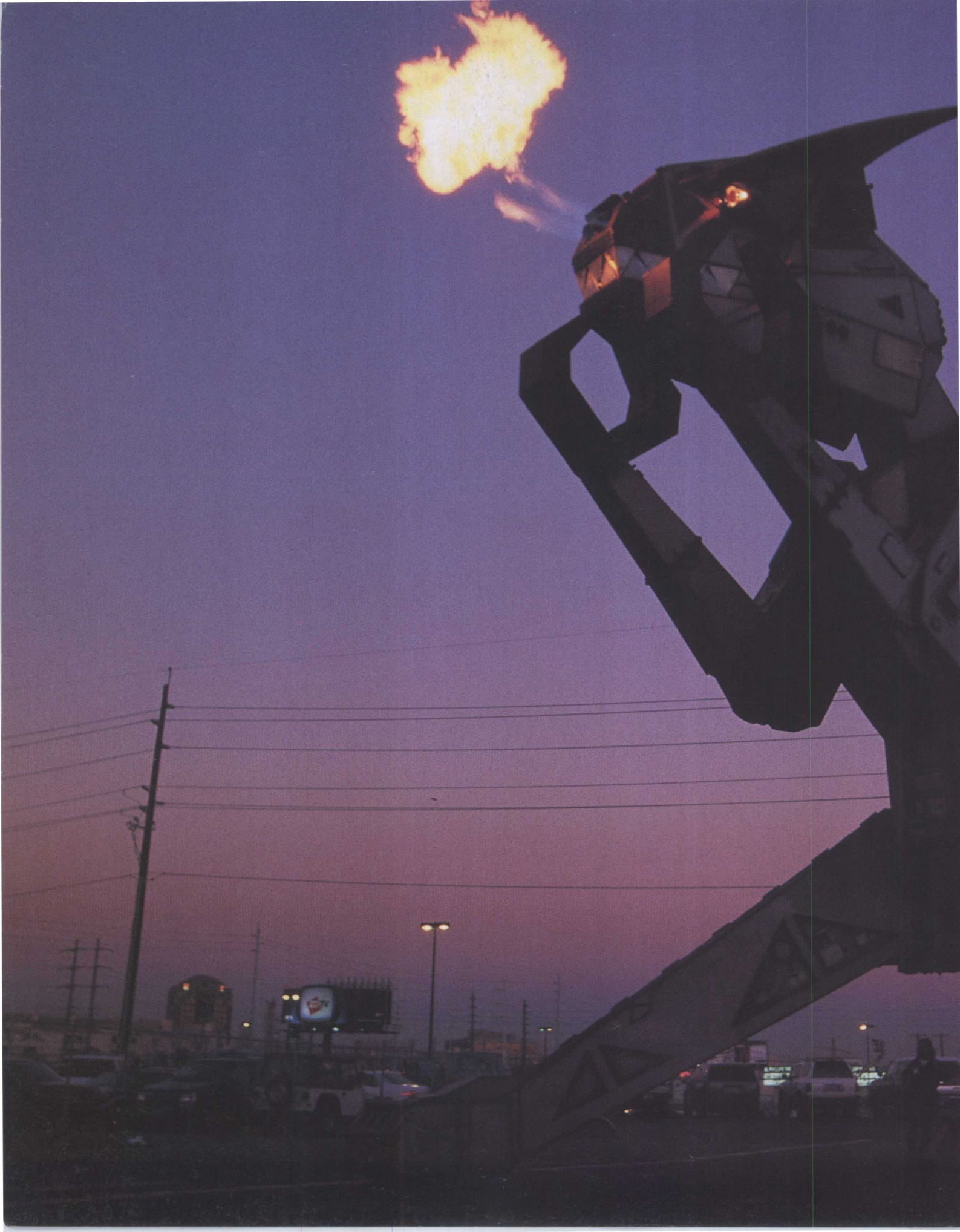
The image is a long-exposure photograph showing a blurred, circular path of a Spring Flamingo walking in a laboratory. The background is dark and out of focus, with some horizontal light streaks and a bright, elongated light source at the top. The overall effect is a sense of motion and a circular trajectory.

Moving like its skittish biological counterpart, Spring Flamingo walks tethered to a boom in a circular course around its home at the MIT Leg Lab.











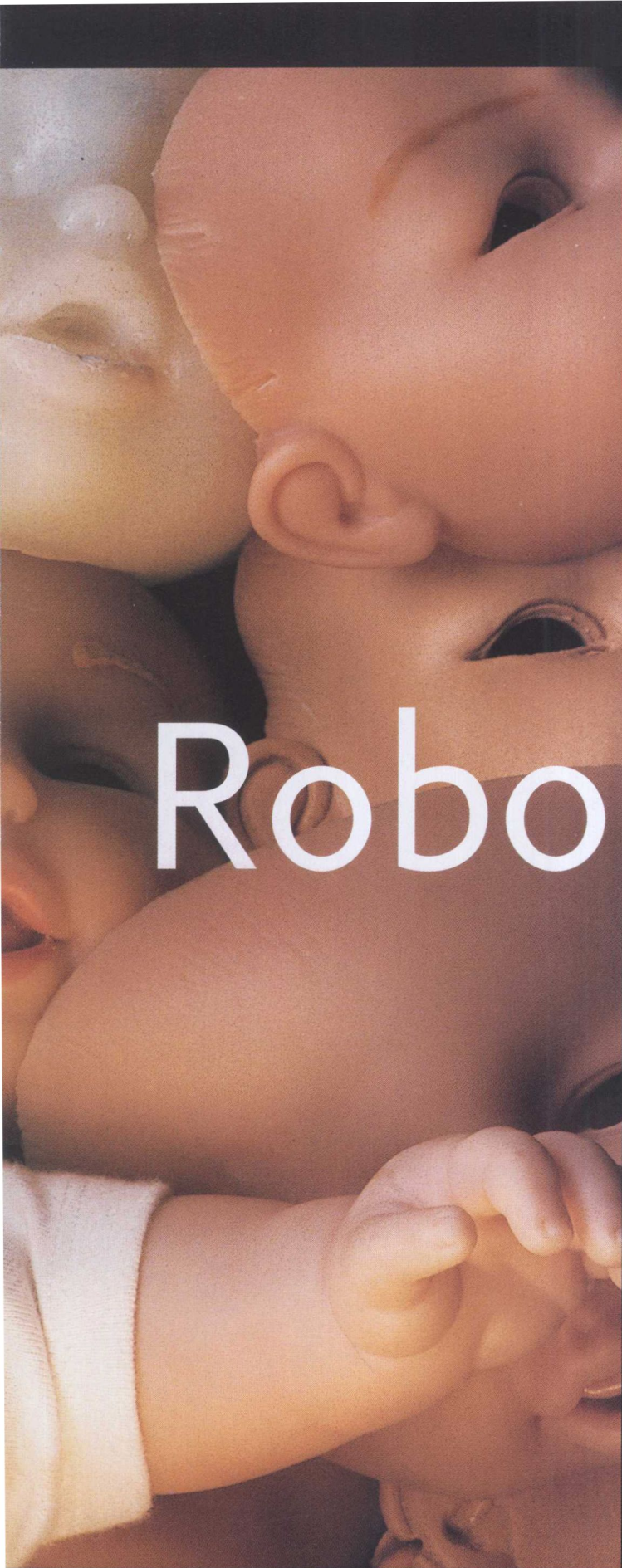


Robosaurus prowls the parking lot of a Las Vegas casino, showing off its ability to breathe fire and crush cars in its mighty claws. The machine can be rented as a destructive attraction for car and air shows.









Evolution of a  
New Species

# Robo *sapiens*

Peter Menzel and  
Faith D'Aluisio

Photographer: Peter Menzel

Writer: Faith D'Aluisio

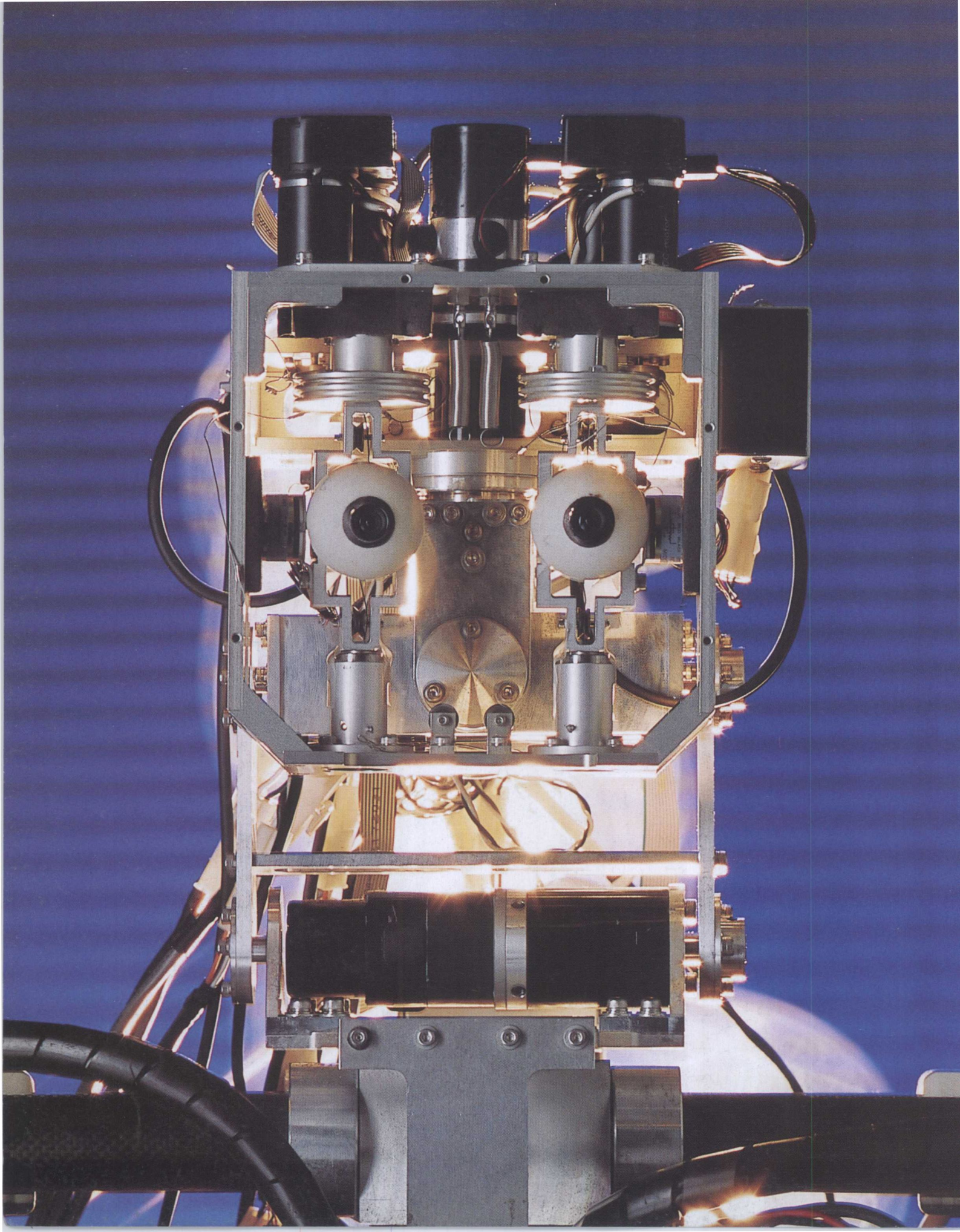
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