

About the cover and the artist...

The question of origins is reflected in the art of Aribert Munzner. The Minneapolis artist, who admits to a lifelong fascination with science, is preoccupied with the cosmic question of the beginning. Since 1956, Ari has titled his artworks "Genesis," modifying the name of each painting with the year of its creation and a number.

In the painting "Genesis 98-3(R)," an acrylic on rice paper, squiggles of energetic color radiate from two nexuses. The lower field — "kind of a deep space," suggests Ari — draws the viewer into a misty, swirling nebula. The horizontal opening at the top is more biological-looking, with golden mitochondria seeking energy for an organic nucleus.

"How do people interpret beginnings?" asks the artist, who has studied Jewish mysticism for some 30 years. Influenced by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Ari was involved in a Jewish Renewal minyan in St. Paul for many years. While not affiliated with the Jewish community in the conventional way, Ari says that his colorful artpieces are an "invitation to aesthetic davening."

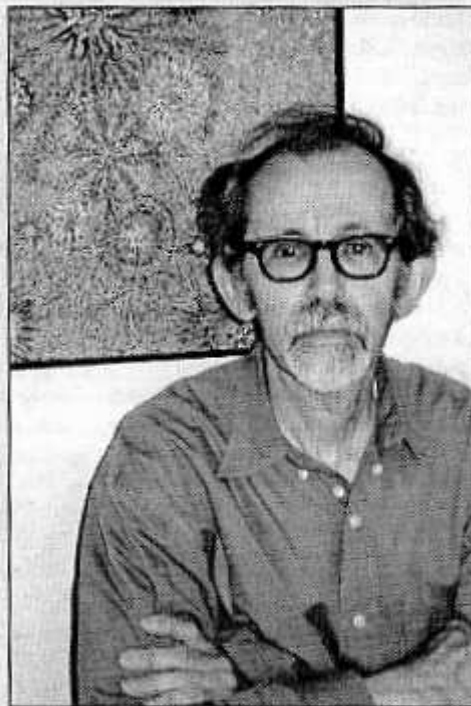
Born in Mannheim, Germany in 1930, young Ari fled with his family to avoid the coming Nazi cataclysm. The family "split to Baghdad" in 1937. Ari and his family came to the U.S.

in 1939, finally settling in Alton, a small town in upstate New York.

After receiving his B.F.A. from Syracuse University, and an M.F.A. from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Ari joined the faculty of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) in 1955. He retired in 1993 and now counsels MCAD graduate students as a professor emeritus.

Ari is married and his wife, Joan, teaches French at Mounds Park Academy. The Munzners have two adult daughters, Naomi and Tamara.

— Mordecai Spektor



Aribert Munzner