

# Star Tribune

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## Philosophically speaking, there's plenty to see locally

By Doug Hanson

In 1952, Aribert Munzner made a commitment to express one thing only in his art — the idea of origins. He has stuck with it. Now 68 and professor emeritus at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Munzner continues to explore his theme.

Through Oct. 2, a large selection of his work will be on display at Dolly Fiterman Fine Arts (100 University Av. SE., Mpls). It is one of several art exhibits with philosophical themes now on view in the Twin Cities.

Every piece in Munzner's show is titled "Genesis," followed by the date of its creation. Munzner works mostly in acrylic but also in colored pencil, casein and computer graphics. At first glance, his pictures seem like big action-painting abstractions in the manner of Jackson Pollock. But Munzner is more fine-tuned and controls his designs to depict a creativity larger or more universal than his own.

His countless little strokes with narrow brushes look like colored metal shavings pulled into formations by magnetic fields and organized chromatically as well as physically. Forms emerge that suggest galaxies, suns, atoms, flower blossoms or tornadic funnels that appear to channel energy between opposing masses.

These kinetic disturbances leave behind various shapes, mostly ovals but also spirals and

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## In the galleries

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the kind of round, rough-edged images left by explosions. Munzner somehow conveys gaseous and organic effects along with those of light and energy.

The artist wants to provide "new visual metaphors for our modern mythologies." These mythologies are inspired by science, he says, and imply harmonies between microscopic and macroscopic worlds.

It's not easy to straddle what C.P. Snow called the "two cultures" of science and the humanities, and at times Munzner's images seem intended for a narrow public of individuals with degrees in physics, astronomy and art. But his rapture before great and small worlds is convincingly conveyed in pictures that radiate energy and, frequently, beauty. If art should express the dominant beliefs of its time, maybe this is a modern equivalent to Michelangelo's "Primal Act of Creation" in the Sistine Chapel.

— Doug Hanson writes frequently about the visual arts.

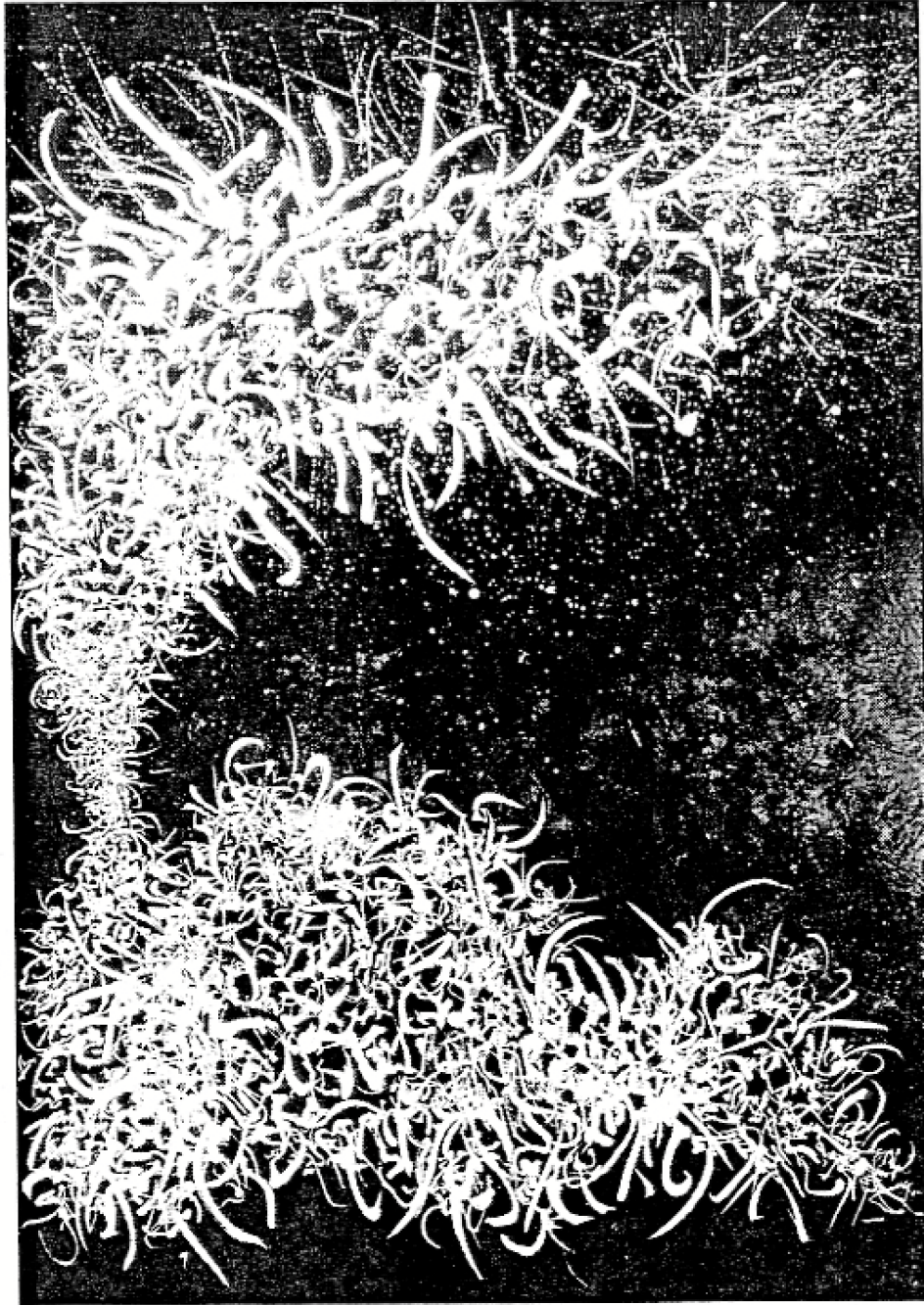


Photo provided by Dolly Fiterman Fine Arts

**Aribert Munzner's "Genesis 5-22-98"**