

Tempo

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Inner space

Artists take a thoughtful look into the universe's 'quantum soup'

Review by Phaedra Greenwood
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One of the most significant events of the 20th century with long-term repercussions for mankind was the splitting of the atom and the explosion of the first nuclear weapon.

The atom was once thought to be the bottom line, an irreducible element, the basis of all matter. But physicists have penetrated even deeper to particle physics. It shows that matter is mostly space punctuated by a whirl of electrons and subatomic particles, which sent

Exhibit

Ongoing shows can be seen at Untitled Center for the Arts in Cabot Plaza Mall.

Albert Einstein spinning off in search of a unified field.

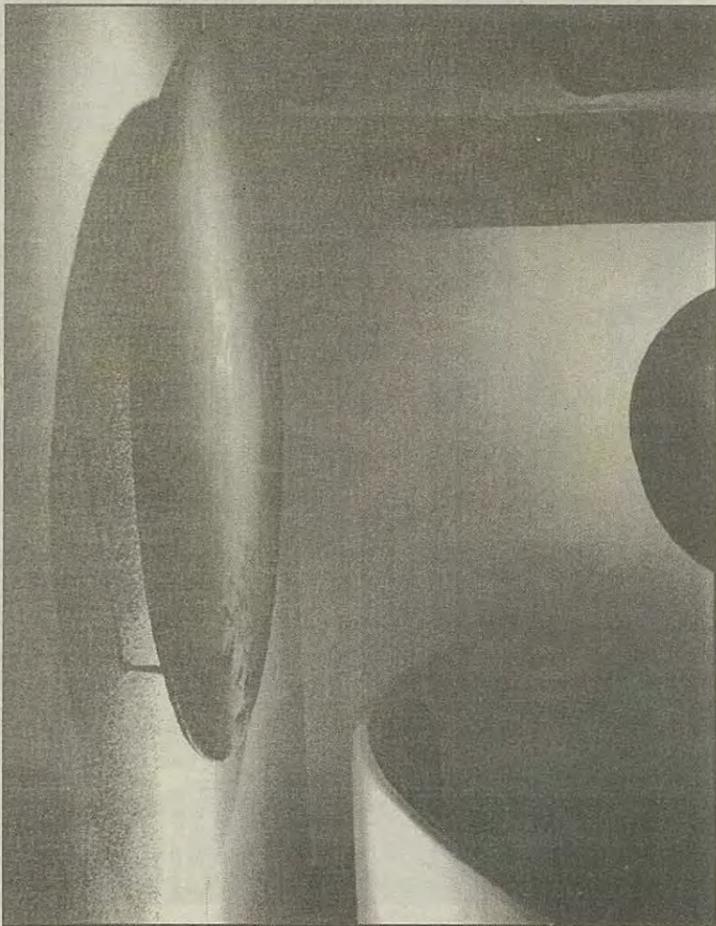
The unified field may be a delectable "quantum soup" in which each moon and star is a hologram that contains all the same information as the whole. We are all in this soup together, interconnected, whether we know it or not, say the artists of "Quantum Estetica," an international movement in art.

If you want to experience what this looks and feels like, "Quantum Soup" is dancing across the walls of the Untitled Center of the Arts in Cabot Plaza, the first in a series of evolving and ongoing exhibitions in Taos representing Quantum Estetica, the observation and interpretation of art as consciousness.

The featured artist is Xaverio (pronounced Saverio), from Grenada, Spain, who is spending a few months in Taos, caught in a creative whirlwind as he collaborates with local artist K.C. Tebbut. Two other accomplished artists with similar themes in the show are Antonio Arellanes and Scott Murray.

Xaverio, who has an international reputation as an artist, has developed surprising new techniques to express quantum esthetics. His work is in collections and museums all around the world from Spain to Japan and Thailand. His main interest is in doing "something good for the new millennium," to give humanity hope with a positive vision of the future in which friendship, brotherhood and a spirit of cooperation will prevail. At least two of the works in the show are a collaboration between Xaverio and Tebbut.

Working "inter-dimensionally" with light and reflected light, Xaverio evokes the three dimensions in space, and suggests a fourth, timeless dimension in his large, circular pieces that hang like gleaming shields against the bare white walls. Creating them is "a kind of meditation," he said. The artist, who is also a geologist, uses crushed semi-precious



Phaedra Greenwood

Xaverio's spherical forms reflect quantum aesthetics.

minerals and pigments on a wooden base to create a sculptural surface that may be rough to the touch or smooth as the skin of a snake.

The Quantum Aesthetics Group states that it intends to "explore the creative avenues opened by the most advanced science and psychology, turning art and literature into a precise knowledge tool capable of inquiring about human complexity and everything that surrounds humankind." This consciousness resolves in a study-work group dedicated to the vision of artists to take personal responsibility for creating reality and strive for the integration of opposites. Matter and soul are seen as two aspects of the same magma, which can influence each other and produce synchronicities. They believe that matter is "mindful," and every literary and artistic work ought to have a holographic essence. This may seem like heady stuff, but the end goal is "to foster a more humane, just, tolerant, democratic, ecologically aware and interracial society."

Xaverio and Tebbut, both students of quantum physics, collaborated on "Grand Terminus," a stately painting on a diamond-shaped canvas, a luscious orange-yellow center of yin and yang that erupts over a delicate, deep amethyst background. The swirl of pigments set it moving, blooming and expanding as the light comes up. The form contains all the wonder of the first division of an embryo. The golden explo-

sions around the edge were created by bleeding the paint through a frozen canvas as the temperature changed, Tebbut said.

Collaborating on a painting is like two people dancing together, Xaverio said. "It's a spontaneous improvisation."

Tebbut was wide-eyed with excitement about working with the world-famous artist. "There's a certain sense of freedom," he said, "when you work with someone else in your own genre. It's wonderful to have someone understand what you're saying. We complement each other's work. In this piece we worked with reproducing forms of water, fire and light. Light fizzes from the inside, which is what gives you that swelling sensation."

"Material has atomic intelligence and information," Xaverio said. He created a magnificent six-foot fish because, "It's important to have human beings more respectful of the animals in this quantum soup where we live."

Tebbut also has a delicate feeling for the animals that share this planet with us, and expresses it in mystical pieces like "The Stream." The zoological aspects of the quantum leap at you in zebra stripes in "Pulse of the Serengetti," which took him nine years to complete, he said. "The Stream" is a pictogram of how we hold memories, moving between the dream state and reality," he said. They are created on rice paper, both sides penetrated by light through plexiglass mounted with polymer.



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