

Arts center to host Plioplys exhibit

by Pat Somers Cronin

Obviously, spring is not just around the corner, but something colorful, spring-like and also near at hand certainly is!

"Thought Fragments," an exhibit created by Audrius V. (call me Andy) Plioplys, will open at the Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St., on Friday, Feb. 11, with a reception in the gallery from 6 to 9 p.m., and the exhibit will continue through Sun-

day, March 20.

To quote the artist, "The Thought Fragments series is my first attempt at bridging our own consciousness to that of galactic-scale existence. Perhaps it is not a coincidence that in our own central nervous system we have 100 billion neurons, that in our Milky Way galaxy there are 100 billion stars, and with Hubble Space Telescope results, there are 100 billion galaxies." (Please

note that Edwin Hubble is also a University of Chicago alumnus, class of 1910.)

The exhibit includes four wall-mounted pieces, each 8 by 9 feet in size and much too large for most homes. However, there are some 1,100 fascinating fragments and thoughts from previous artworks, approximately 4 by 5 inches, that are irregular in size and shape and would make an attractive collection
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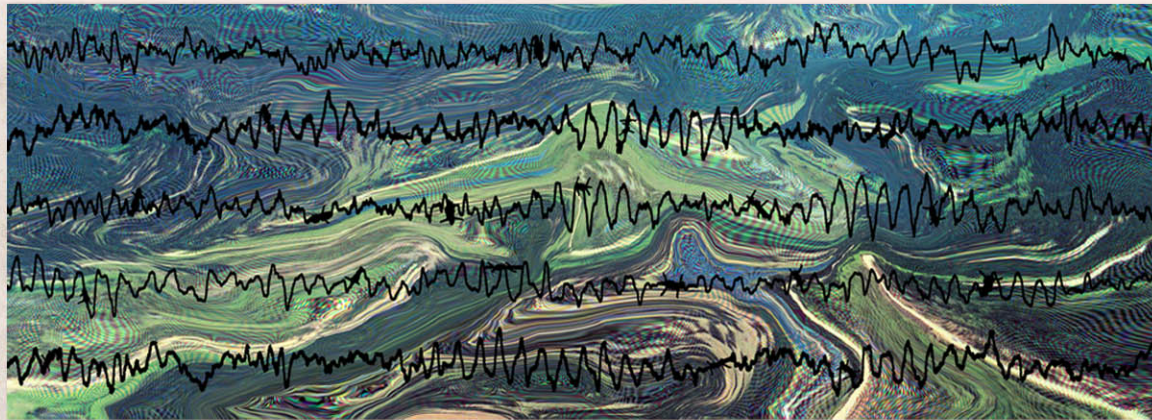
Plioplys

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near the entrance of a home or tucked away in a library. There would be no lack of conversation, and the owners would have the fun of explaining what they were part of—not to overlook the bright primary and secondary colors involved. These pieces are available for purchase.

And, incidentally, Plioplys just had a successful exhibit at a downtown gallery despite our famous Chicago weather.

It might make his exhibit even more rewarding if you knew that, after graduating from the University of Chicago Medical School, Plioplys was torn between



"Vermeer Valley Peacefulness," by Audrius Plioplys, will on display with other works by the Beverly artist at the Beverly Arts Center (BAC), 2407 W. 111th St., from Feb. 11 to March 20. An opening reception will be held on Friday, Feb. 11, from 6 to 9 p.m. Gallery and reception admission are free. The gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday; and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, call the BAC at (773) 445-3838.

his artwork and his medical skills; he loved both worlds. So it is incredible that he has

been able to merge his two special talents into a third artistic outlet. And there is

also his fascination with the way the brain is formed and how it functions, particularly

in cognitive disorders, from learning disabilities and autism in children to Alzheimer's disease in the elderly. Who can guess what future cures Plioplys' insatiable curiosity may develop?

One of my favorite Plioplys exhibits a few years back featured the work of Santiago Ramon y Cajal, a Spanish neuroanatomist whose discovery of the neuronal nature of the brain won him the 1906 Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine, so you can see that Plioplys builds on and also continues the work of others, always giving them credit.

But it is his personal determination and fascination with the brain that will bring you back to the exhibit again and again. You will not be able to resist his enthusiasm.