



**ARNOLD KOLB**

224 Calle Del Santo  
Green Valley, Arizona 85614  
(520) 399-3568

1010 Willard Street Midland, Michigan 48642-3717 (989) 835-2188

## ***MICROVISIONS: THE ART OF INNERSPACE***

Like Alice in Wonderland, Arnold Kolb discovers beauty, mystery, and drama everywhere he looks. But his **LOOKING GLASS** is his polarizing microscope! His bright and fascinating world is the realm of Inner Space. He is a discoverer, and an adventurer into a world that most of us do not realize exists.

This realm of inner space is comprised of the microstructures seen inside of natural and synthetic materials that we hold in our hands every day. These microstructures are the **FINGERPRINTS OF GOD!** There is as much beauty in a grain of sand as in a symphony!

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious-the emotion that stands at the cradle of pure art and pure science (Albert Einstein).

Kolb's materials as subjects for art have included crystals, minerals, concrete, chemicals, plastics, ceramics, metals, alloys, vitamins, textiles, and biological and pharmaceutical compounds as rich sources of discovery. Kolb has had exhibitions at museums, universities and cultural centers throughout the United States - including one - person shows at the Brevard Art and Museum, Melbourne, Florida; Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Portland; Merced College, Merced, California; Southern Oregon State College, Ashland; The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and The Midland Center for the Arts, Midland, Michigan. In addition, his work has been featured in group exhibitions at the Detroit Institute of Arts; Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry; Impressions 5 Museum, Lansing, MI; Tubac Center of the Arts, Tubac, AZ; Pacific Science Center, Seattle, WA; The American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D.C.; and the Tokushima Cultural Center, Tokushima, Japan.

A color-illustrated article in Science News by Richard Lipkin, May 21, 1994, is entitled Images of Inner Space. Arnold Kolb joined the research staff at Dow Corning in Midland, MI, in 1947. He initiated applications of the microscope beginning in 1949. Later in 1952, he became interested in the artistic qualities of the many materials he was studying through the optical microscope. Thus began his interest in materials as art forms. He concluded that use of the microscope held much greater industrial potential and value; and also offered an avenue for artistic expression in his leisure hours. He expanded the technical staff and

research program to include all applications of optical and electron microscopes as well as x-ray diffraction and x-ray spectroscopy techniques applied to the field of Materials Science research and development. Although he had no formal artistic training, Kolb began to experiment with some images that he thought were technically interesting, but also unique in the way their colors and composition came together. Internal structure and inherent color, rather than external form and applied color, are the key elements in these artistic compositions.

In an art review of Kolb's cover art published in the magazine *Pharmaceutical Technology Europe*, December 1993, art reviewer Gloria Marrocco wrote of Art and Science; "Arnold Kolb's works have all the characteristics of painting, but the medium is photographic. Kolb uses scientific equipment to create his pictures. Similarly, Leonardo de Vinci, when he drew the human body, used a highly accurate technique that was developed for a scientific purpose - anatomy. This is not an artistic defect. Kolb's use of a polarizing microscope, camera, interference techniques, beam splitters, and compensators, can be seen as the brush, canvas, and colours used by a painter. The right composition is made possible not only due to the skill of the use of the mechanical features of the microscope but also to the manipulation of the materials that are melted, dissolved, and selectively re-crystallized. This is composition of the narrative or the subject. Remember, the Greek word that stands for art is *techné*."

Kolb's interest was further encouraged through his exhibition of his material science research at technical symposia, and using color photography to enhance in a significant way the useable information derived from the research. In 1976 he established an art business to make his art form available. In 1982 he retired to give full time to his art interests; and a second career developed. Kolb's artwork is on display at his home gallery, Northwood Gallery, in Midland, MI. An extensive resume documents more than 50 solo exhibitions, 150 group exhibitions, and a bibliography of 260 newspaper and magazine articles, and exhibition reviews. Kolb has a strong and continuing commitment to re-uniting the arts and sciences - to aid in helping students and adults to achieve a more balanced enjoyment of individual goals and lifestyles.

He received a B.S. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor: and is a former fellow of the Northwood University Alden B. Dow Creativity Center in Midland, MI. Kolb served for 10 years as a member of the Arts - Midland Board Directors - Visual Arts, and served a term as Chair of that board.

He currently resides in Green Valley, AZ where he established his studio of Natural Designs. Kolb continues to pursue his educational mission to re-unite the arts and sciences - separated for three centuries - to enable individuals to combine arts with sciences in their personal development and career goals. In this technology age we all can benefit by expanding our art interests to soften the hard edge of technology stress.