

GRIFFIN MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

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Main Gallery

FROM LEAD INTO GOLD: THE WORLD OF VICTOR RAPHAEL

September 22 through December 4

An opening reception is September 22, 7-8:30 p.m.

A gallery talk with Raphael is September 23, 7 p.m. Please RSVP to 781-729-1158 .

Growing up in the days of the emerging Space Age, Victor Raphael dreamed of becoming an astronaut. Eventually realizing the odds were against him, he focused on exploring and interpreting the cosmos through art.

During the past 30 years, Raphael has created a body of work that combines art and technology. He merges traditional media such as painting, photography, and printmaking with modern



electronic media, including video, digital printing and CD-ROM to create images that go beyond conventional views of time and space.

A retrospective of his work, *From Lead into Gold: The World of Victor Raphael*, organized by Barbara Hitchcock, the former Director, Cultural Affairs and Curator, The Polaroid Collections, is featured in the Main Gallery of the Griffin Museum September 22 through December 4. An opening reception is September 22, 7-8:30 p.m. A gallery talk with Raphael is September 23, 7 p.m at the Griffin Museum.

At the heart of Raphael's art are modified Polaroids. He begins with taking Polaroid photographs of objects with universal significance - ranging from NASA photographs broadcast on television to works of art found in museums around the world. He paints and applies gold and metal leaf directly on the images to highlight or block out certain features. He then scans them into a computer and, using digital technology, creates new prints and paintings, some much larger than a conventional Polaroid.



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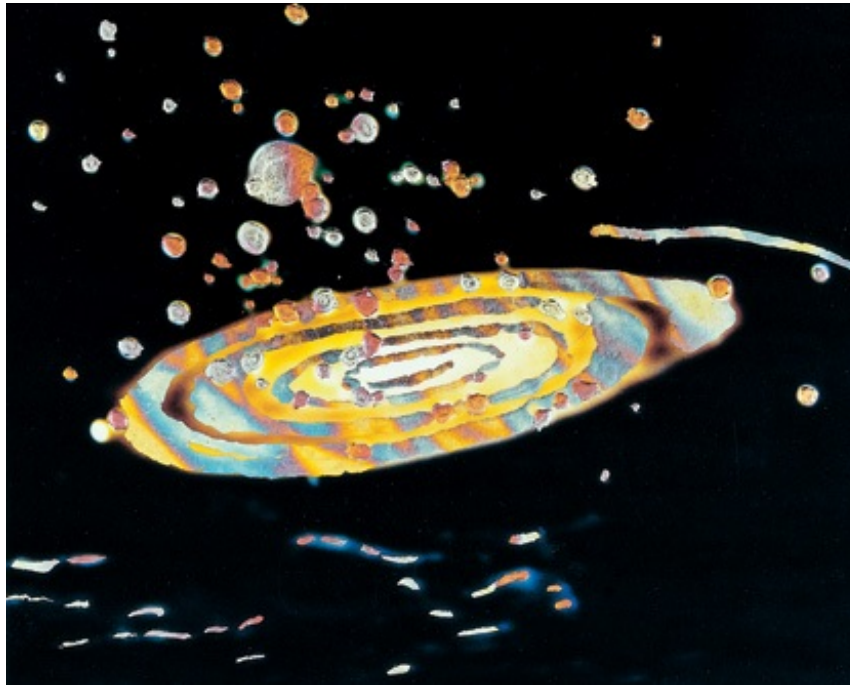
"The Polaroid is something that everybody understands," Raphael says. "There is a democratic nature to it. I make something special out of something common." His images have been described as having "a transcendental and spiritual feeling, as if they hover in a realm apart from linear time and space. Seeing his work takes one on a journey through a universe of timeless images, where historic and scientific facts intermingle with poetic fantasy."

"This exhibition is culled from numerous, creative bodies of work that explore Victor Raphael's intellectual interests and ideas," says Barbara Hitchcock. "Photography is the starting point from which his imagination, metallic paints, acrylics, and electronic impulses coalesce to describe the wonders of his world."

Raphael was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1950. He studied art and theater at California State University Northridge and graduated from UCLA. He has exhibited throughout the nation and abroad. In 1996, his work was among the 50 best examples of Polaroid photography included in *Polaroid 50: Art and Technology*, an international touring exhibition commemorating the company's 50th anniversary.

With Raphael's images as a backdrop, Mark J. Reid, senior radio astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, will present "The Universe: Art and Reality." on October 26, 7 p.m. He'll discuss mapping the spiral structure of the Milky Way, black holes, and the formation of the solar system, using some of Raphael's pictures and real or simulated elements from space.

The Griffin Museum of Photography is open Tuesday through Thursday, 11 am - 5 pm; Friday 11 am - 4 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, noon - 4 pm. The Museum is closed on Monday. Admission is \$7 for adults; \$3 for seniors. Members and children under 12 are admitted free. Admission is free to all every Thursday. For more information, call 781-729-1158.



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