

### **Art in Crystallography in Art**

Edgar Meyer, *Dept. of Biochemistry & Biophysics, Texas A&M University and Molecular Sculpture Laboratory, University of New Mexico, Taos.* E-mail: E-Meyer@tamu.edu

What is our legacy to future generations? Over the last 50 years, crystallography has changed science, society, and the world. When one considers the enormous impact our structural studies have had on the material, chemical, and life sciences, we find ourselves challenged to present to a discerning public the fruits of our research in a form that is appealing to the eye and of lasting value. Posterity will know this time and its creative energies not by piles of reprints nor lists of citations, but by the visually attractive fruits of our labors.

From the earliest times, as crystallographers searched for ways to depict and explain their structural results, clusters and juxtapositions of atoms have taken on striking artistic forms. This mini-symposium and the accompanying exposition of contemporary art are dedicated to the presentation of the aesthetic aspects of structural studies.

From the ephemeral refresh rate of the computer terminal to the durability of a wooden or metal sculpture, these images and forms are a stimulation to the scientist first seeing them, who then manipulates parameters to create forms and images that rise above the ordinary to magnify aesthetic images of nature from the atomic and molecular scale. The artist in us aspires [1] to create images and sculptures of lasting value. The support of the US National Science Foundation and collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution are gratefully acknowledged.

[1] Meyer E., *IEEE Eighth International Conference on Information Visualisation*, London, 2004, 229-234.

**Keywords: computer graphics, models, sculptures**