

WEATHER REPORTS

BY GREG COOK

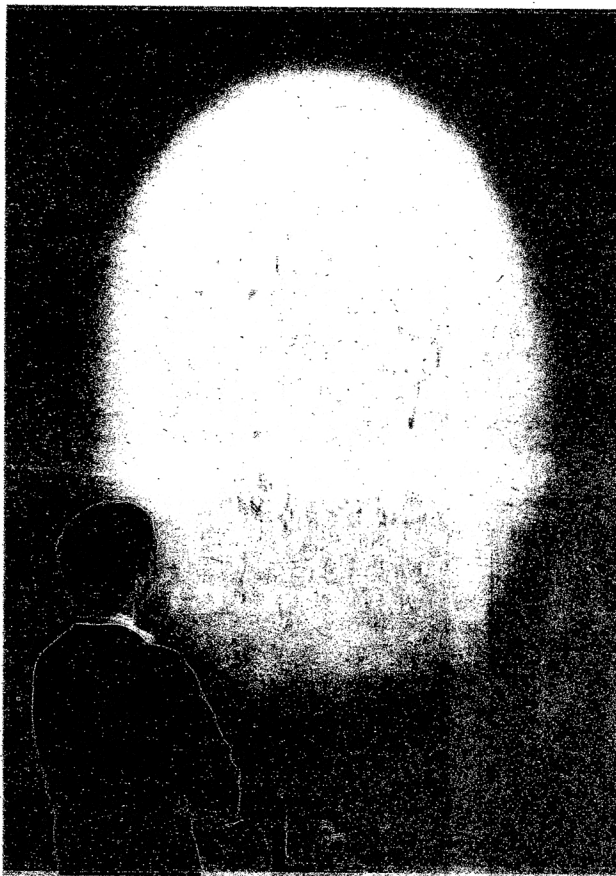
"BRIAN KNEP: EXEMPLA"

TUFTS UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY, 40R TALBOT AVE., MEDFORD | THROUGH NOVEMBER 15

➤ Digital artist Brian Knep of Cambridge considers the nature of community in "Exempla," his suite of six related interactive projections at Tufts University. In *Erect*, potato-shaped characters (drawn by a child) leap atop one another, forming precarious pyramids. They tumble down when they get too tall, or when you turn a dial on the wall that spins the whole scene like a bingo-ball tumbler.

In *Expand*, characters buzz around a circle of light high up the gallery wall. Turn on a timer below and a larger oval of light shines on the wall, filled with the characters. They swarm around the brighter circle of light at the top. Occasionally one squeezes inside, inflates into a giant, then drifts to the bottom. In another projection, the characters spin around a circle (faster or slower depending on how you press a floor pedal) until they vanish into a bright light at the center.

The viewer interaction is somewhat simplistic, but the movement is beautiful, and the pieces resonate with one another. References to the Tower of Babel, sperm and eggs, and the bright light that some connect with the afterlife combine into open-ended philosophical metaphors of life and how communities — from microscopic cells to human nations — move and cluster, grow or fail.



EXPAND Brian Knep's interactive projections offer simple pleasures that resonate.