

# Zigi Kucharski will be the 'star' at Hamilton gallery art showing

By JIM ROBINSON  
City Editor

Mississauga's Zigi Kucharski can honestly say he has glimpsed the landscapes of planets in our solar system before any other living person.

Using the latest data for Mariner satellites and other space-age probes, Zigi's job is to take all this input and render it in oils and acrylics for the great astronomies and observatories of the world.

Zigi Kucharski has now devoted a good part of his life to the accurate rendering of our solar system which has brought him considerable fame, not only in Canada but through most of the world.

Make no mistake about it. His work is so significant that it appears, for instance, in a new book by Copp Clark which is about our galaxy.

For thousands of school children and interested readers, Zigi Kucharski's paintings will be those planets and asteroids and what they look like.

His work, for instance, brought him a Copernicus Medal. Only two were awarded in Canada last year, which marked the 500th anniversary of the monk's discovery of Earth's actual place in the galaxy.

After many years, Zigi now has a collection of 34 paintings which will be displayed as a whole for the first time March 29 to April 17 at the Hess Gallery in Hamilton.

His works have already been featured at the McLaughlin Planetarium in Toronto. This show, however, is special. Zigi feels it's his first real attempt to paint the stars and planets in a mode people can easily absorb.

"It's been more than three years of work. I

guess you could say it's been my whole life."

## JOURNEY

"It's the whole epic journey of man from his barest understanding of the universe to the present and beyond," he said.

The paintings begin with the ancient civilization and their concept of the earth as a house over which a fiery chariot raced each day, only to go into limbo at night.

It progresses to the day Copernicus 'took' the earth out of the centre of the galaxy and placed it, correctly, as the fourth planet from the sun.

There are individual paintings of each planet and a triumphant acrylic of Astronaut Neil Armstrong taking "one giant leap for mankind."

Others show his, now famous, man leaping at the earth and man straining to hold the great

globe of earth.

"It's called Homage to Copernicus and it is really the whole spectrum of your understanding of the planets.

"The show will be fully staged so as to give the proper effect.

"I'll be wearing completely black and my wife, Olga, will wear yellow which is sort of a contrast between day and night," he said.

The show will have music selected by Zigi for

the proper effect. He is now reviewing the Planet Suite by Holst but is also thinking of playing Bach during the show.

One very interesting work, shown in the accompanying photograph, is a pair of large hands painting the earth. The hands, on close examination are so realistic that the pores of the skin can be seen.

This was accomplished by meticulous work and the use of a "Board" canvas. To heighten the

effect, most of his recent works have a black background to make the planets jump out at the viewer.

"The show will offer, for the first time in Canada, I believe, a look at our history, our present probings into space, and an insight to what awaits us out there.

"I think it is exciting to ponder the planets and I hope those who come to the show will find as much fascination in them as I have," he said.

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Kucharski, Zigi