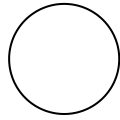


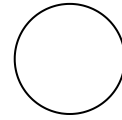
Ken Heyman,  
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## LIFESTYLE

# Aharoni's inception celebrates shared humanity

March 27, 2022, 8:19 PM IST / Uma Nair in plUMAge, Lifestyle, TOI

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**Uma Nair**

Critic and Curator Uma Nair has been writing for the past 32 years on art and culture She has written as critic for Times of India and Economic Times. She believes that art is ... MORE

Chiora Aharoni incorporates found objects and cultural artifacts into his sculptures and installations, which makes each edition unique.Sundaram Tagore Gallery New York presents Inception, an exhibition that celebrates our shared humanity through an exploration of creation narratives, by New York artist Aharoni .

WRITE

## Fabric of humanity

'The idea that we are all connected, that the fabric of humanity is inherently interwoven, is a theme that runs through much of my work,' says Aharoni.

Assemblage sculptures from The Genesis Series are the focus of Inception. These intricate works incorporate iconography and text referencing scientific, spiritual, mystical and cultural beliefs surrounding creation narratives. Materials become his leitmotif, at first it is the historicity that is compelling. Then it is the fusion of antiquity and modern nitty gritty details that catch your gaze in intrigue and intricate details and elements.



## The Genesis series

Aharoni began The Genesis Series in 2008, conceiving it as a dialogue between science and religion. For many, the story of Genesis, the Bible's account of Earth's creation in seven days, marks the beginning of the world and in essence, of time itself. In contrast, theories of

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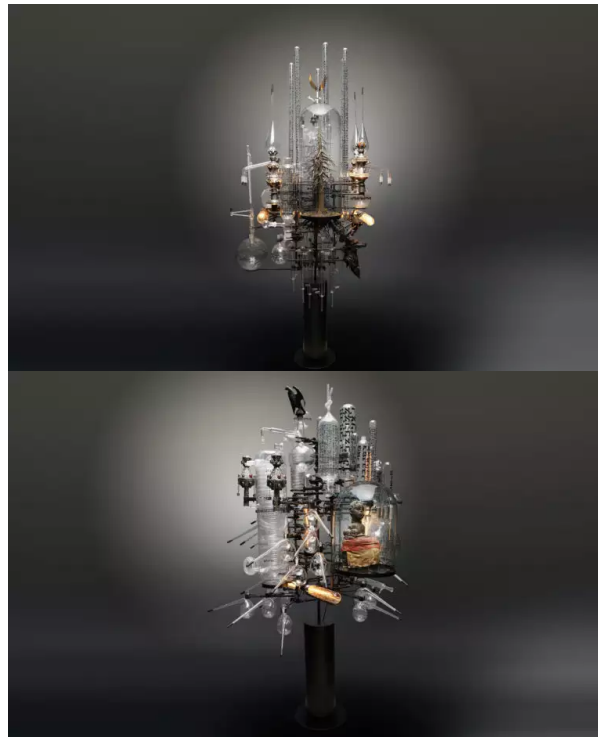


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evolution, which arose during the nineteenth century, chronicle a history that began billions of years before humanity's existence.



Rather than focus on the dichotomy of these seemingly opposing views, Aharoni interweaves a multiplicity of belief systems in The Genesis Series. Incorporating antique and vintage religious artefacts, laboratory equipment and elements from the natural world, each illuminated sculpture becomes a self-contained symbolic universe exploring the fluidity of time and how diverse narratives coalesce and intersect. Individual sculptures from the series have been exhibited in museums and cultural institutions internationally, however this is the first time seven works from The

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Genesis Series—one for each day of creation—will be shown together.

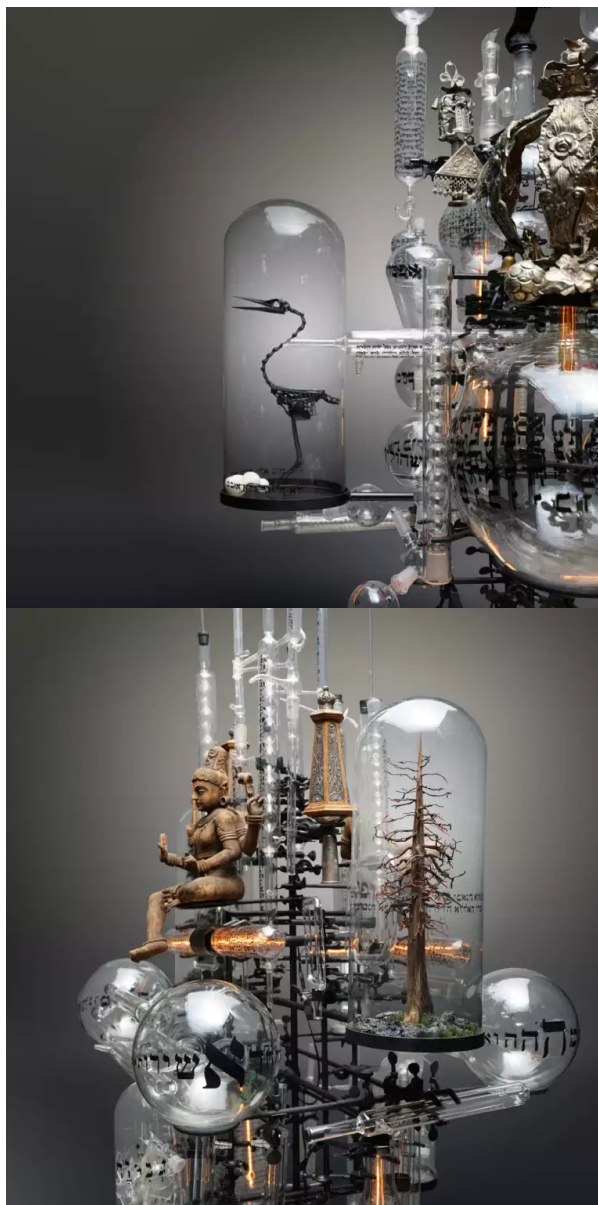
### Cultural narratives

Also on view in Inception are equally intricate works from corresponding series, in which Aharoni expands his explorations into the fluidity of beginnings and the interconnectedness of cultural narratives:

Enuma Elish, The Immanent

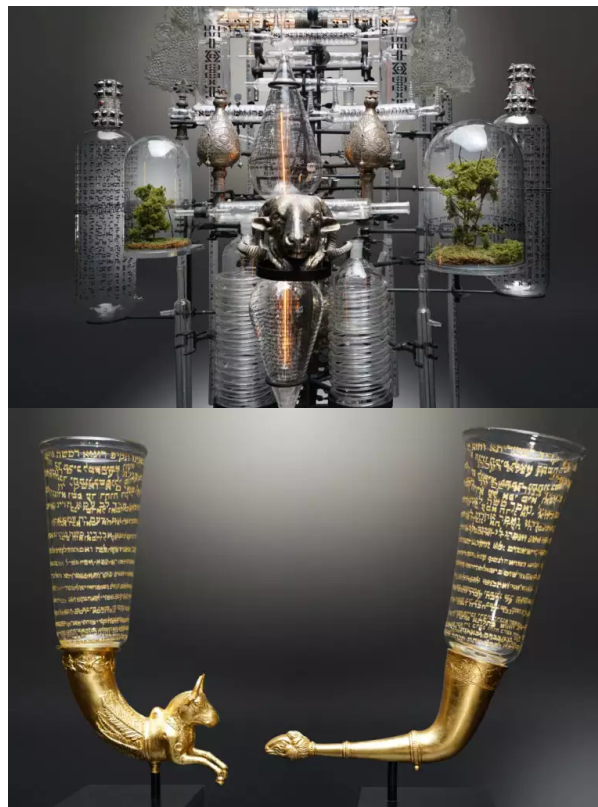
Transcendental and The Moses Cup.

Pictured above is a work from The Moses Cup Series, an assemblage of hand-blown glass engraved in 23-karat gold with sacred text in Aramaic and a gilded rhyton (ancient drinking vessel).



The Moses Cup Series references the Israelites' seemingly unorthodox relationship with the Golden Calf. When Moses bids the Israelites to drink ground gold (the remnants of the calf he destroyed) mixed with water, just how the Israelites drank it is never described. Aharoni's sculpture responds to that

metaphysical void, expressing the transcendent energy evoked by an absent icon, historical monument or house of worship, either disappeared or imagined. The beauty of these works is the elegance of fusion; the melding of multiple worlds and it echoes the words of Anaïs Nin : “ I could not live in any of the worlds offered to me — the world of my parents, the world of war, the world of politics. I had to create a world of my own, like a climate, a country, an atmosphere in which I could breathe, reign, and recreate myself when destroyed by living. That, I believe, is the reason for every work of art.”





The Israeli-born American artist, who is represented in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Morgan Library & Museum; Centre Pompidou; Musei Vaticani; and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., presents sculpture, mixed-media installations and photography that delves deeply into cross-cultural dialogue.

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