

By **Cate McQuaid** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT JUNE 18, 2013

Biological Impulses

“Morphology,” a terrific exhibit at Fountain Street Fine Art, pairs Kay Hartung’s burbling, luminous mixed-media encaustic paintings and Jodi Colella’s textile sculptures. The concept here — microorganisms, cells, and the like — is secondary to how well made the art is, and how well matched the artists.

Colella’s glittering “Impulse,” a nerve cell taller than 6 feet, has a spiny axon of coiled copper wire and dendrites of knotted and frayed mint green fishing rope. That tangle of fraying rope echoes the quivering green-gold and turquoise fibers that halo the smoky, floating blue cells in Hartung’s dreamy “Cell Motion 1.”

In her “Metacell” series, floating with globules, Hartung avails herself of encaustic’s rapturous colors, and the layering that fills such works with deep, murky space. Colella’s “Blast,” a burly mass of felt nodules in reds and golds, is the picture of burgeoning. It could be the 3-D equivalent of Hartung’s orbs.

There’s threat and whimsy in Colella’s work. Hartung walks a narrower line, sticking to the strictly gorgeous. Gorgeous alone, without a little spice or humor, can grow repetitive and go flat in large doses. “Morphology” has just the right balance.

More information:

KAY HARTUNG, JODI COLELLA: Morphology

At: Fountain Street Fine Art, 59 Fountain St., Framingham,
through June 23. 508-879-4200, www.fountainstreetfineart.com