

BIOGLYPHS

*a living collaboration with
bioluminescent organisms*

an exhibition co-created by the
Montana State University–Bozeman
School of Art,
the Center for Biofilm Engineering,
and billions of bioluminescent bacteria
Earth Day, April 22, 2002

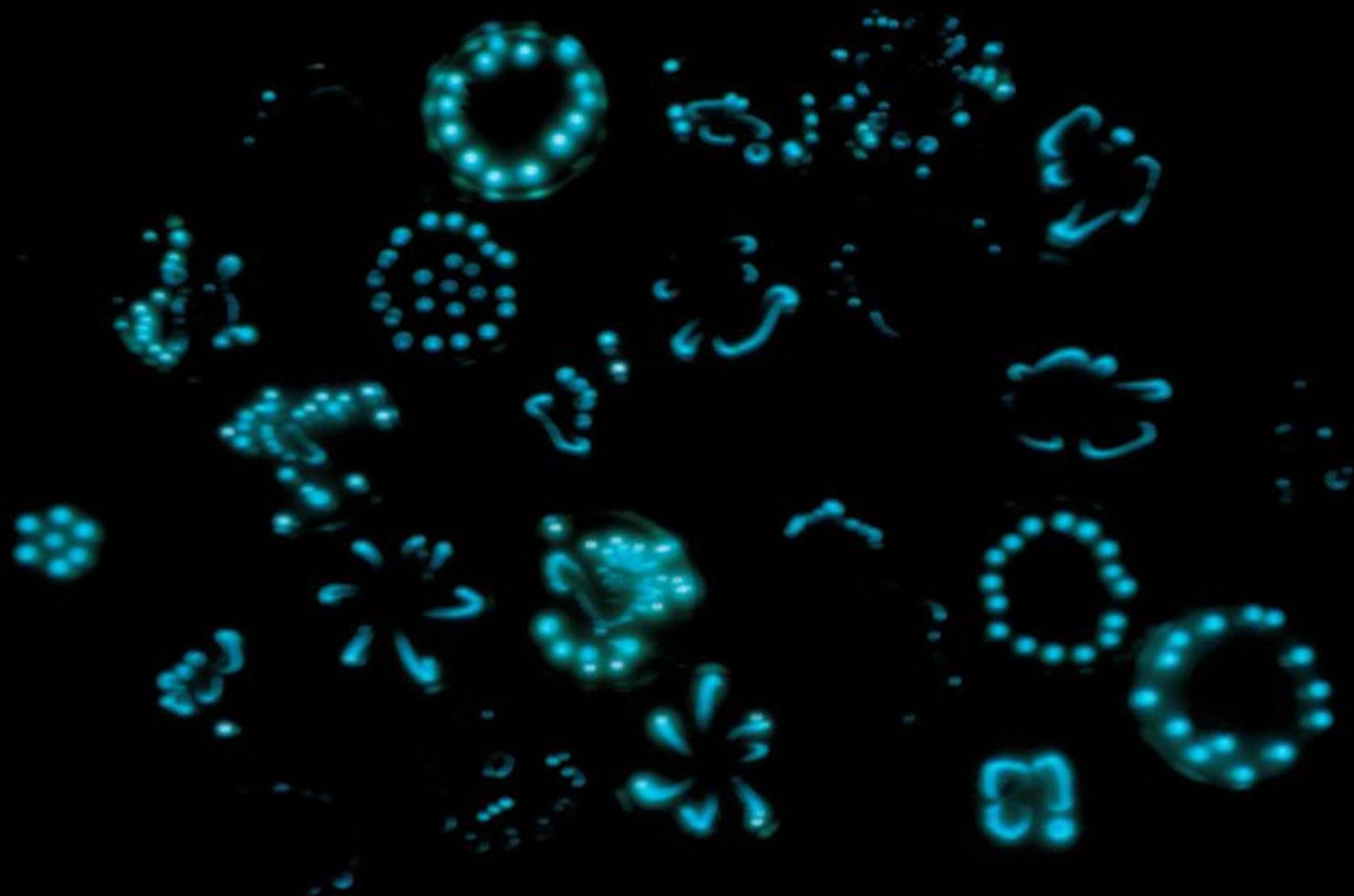
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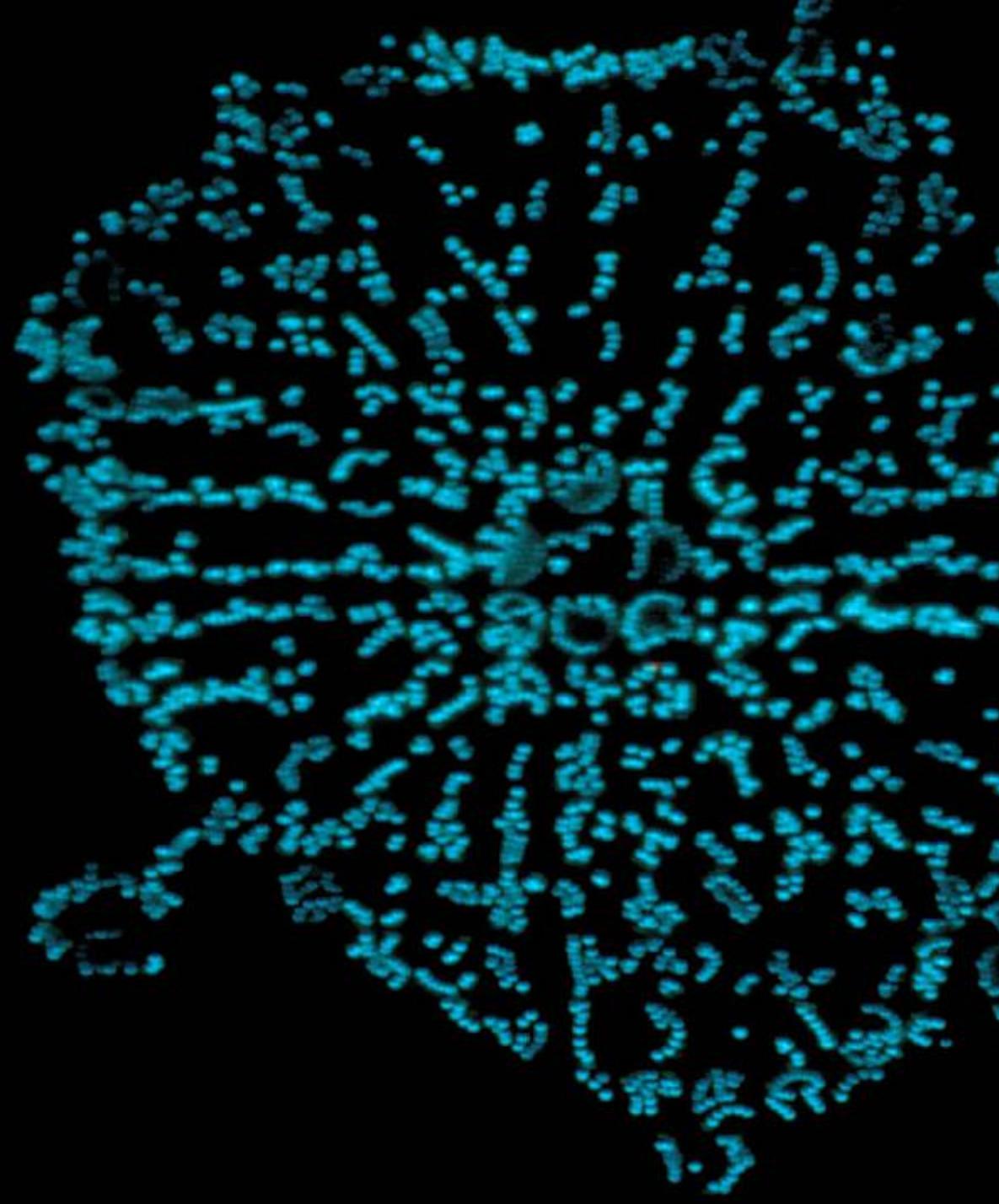
was an interdisciplinary, inter-species exhibition—the first of its kind at MSU–Bozeman. Over a period of two months, in the spring of 2002, students and faculty from the MSU School of Art met with students, staff and faculty at the CBE to explore the possibility of working as partners in a creative project that would bridge science and art. Those early conversations led to the decision to enlist a third party of collaborators: bioluminescent bacteria from the ocean.







The organism used in the exhibition was a single-celled marine-environment bacterial isolate, probably of the *Vibrio* species, though we do not know its exact identity. Like many marine organisms, this one produces blue light through a chemical reaction.

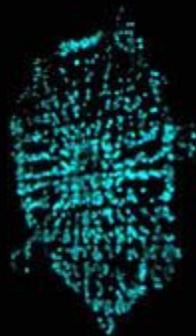
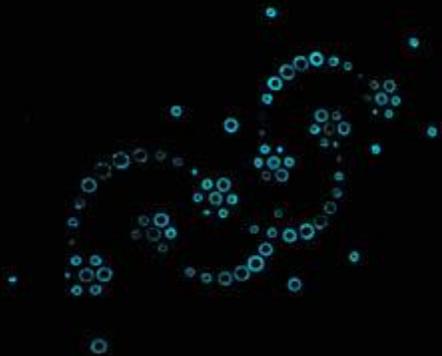
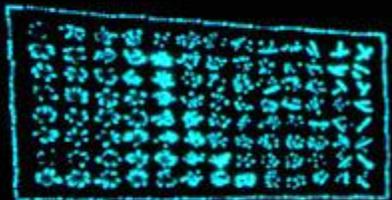


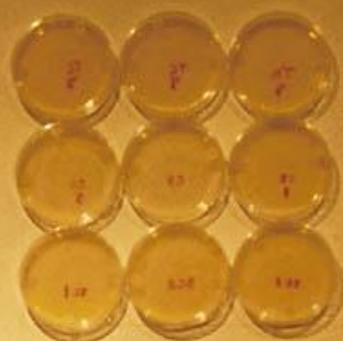
The result of this 3-way collaboration was a collection of bioluminescent “paintings.”

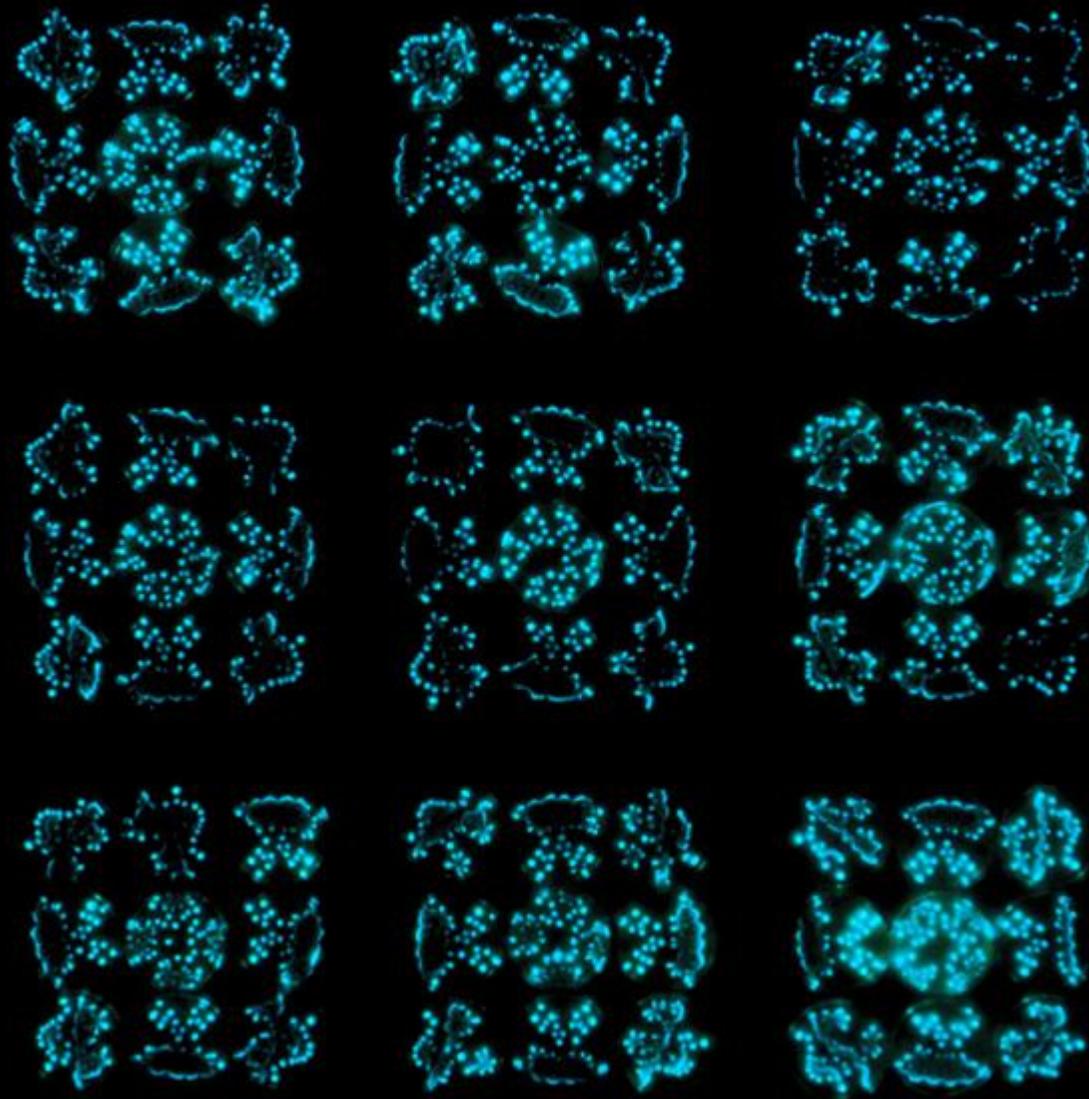
The “canvases” were arrangements of petri dishes. The “ground” was a high-salt agar. The “paint” was a liquid inoculated with invisible *Vibrio* bacteria. The bacteria began producing light within 24 hours.

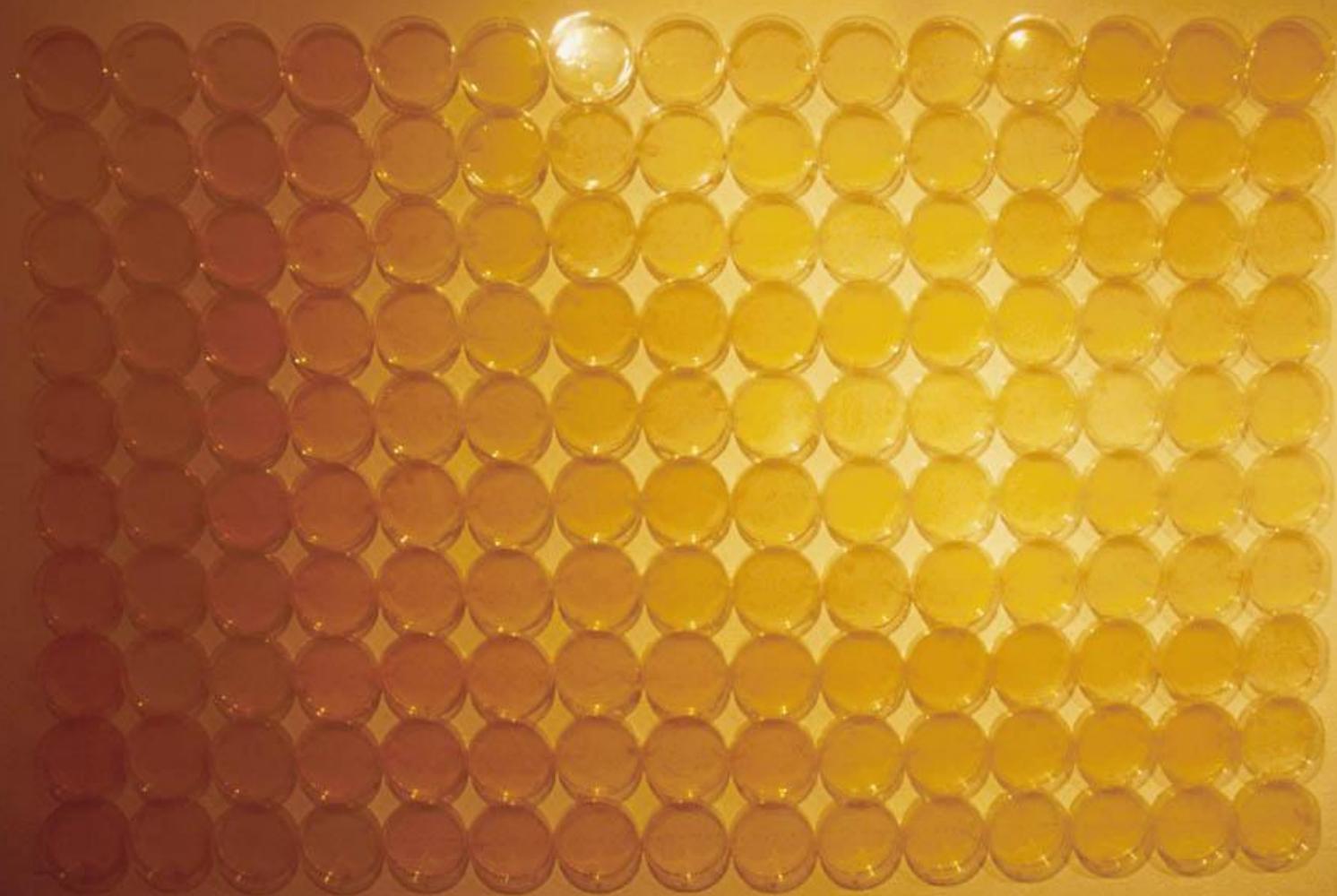
In the darkened gallery, the only light available to view the art was that produced by the bacteria themselves.

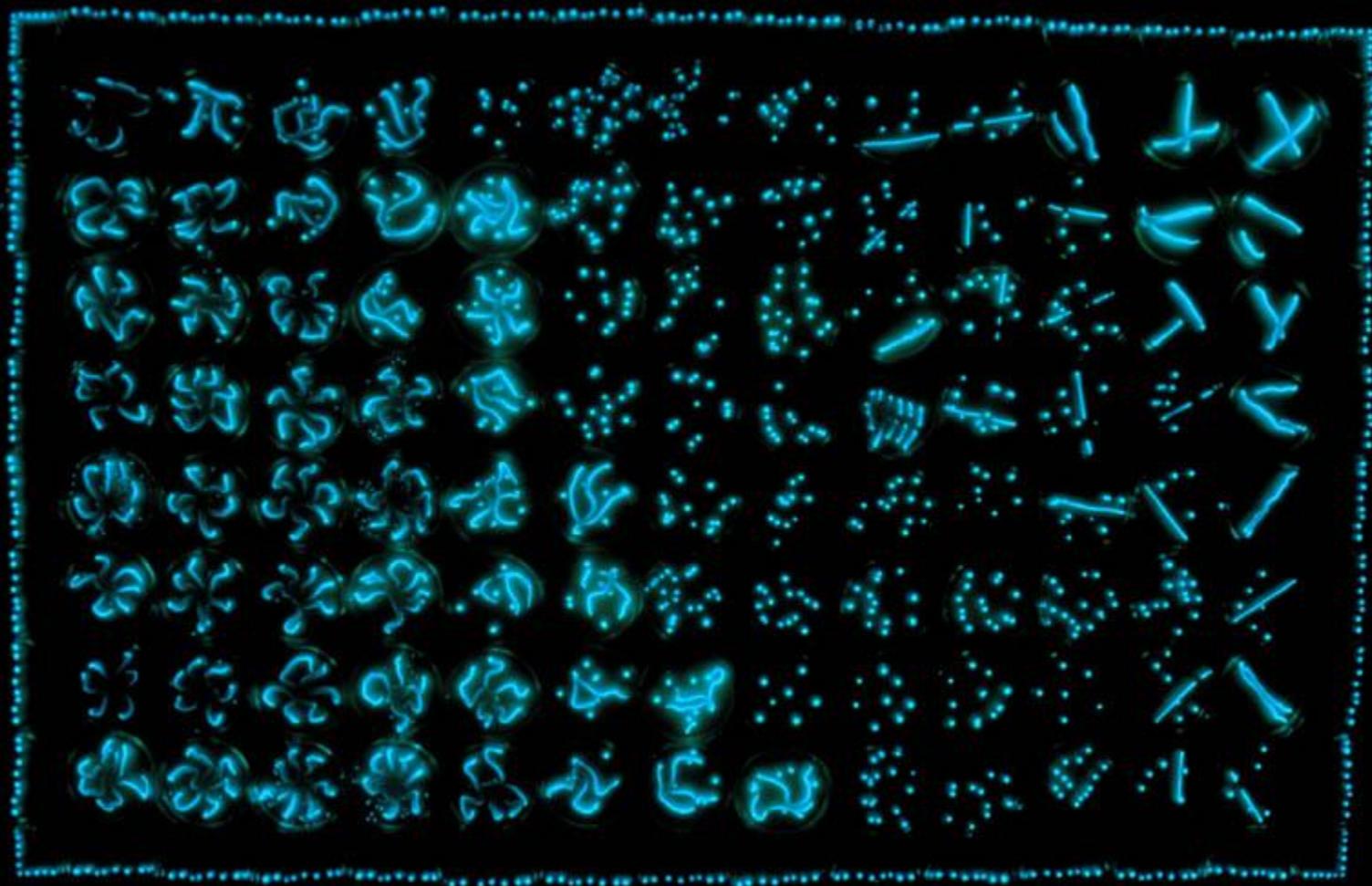




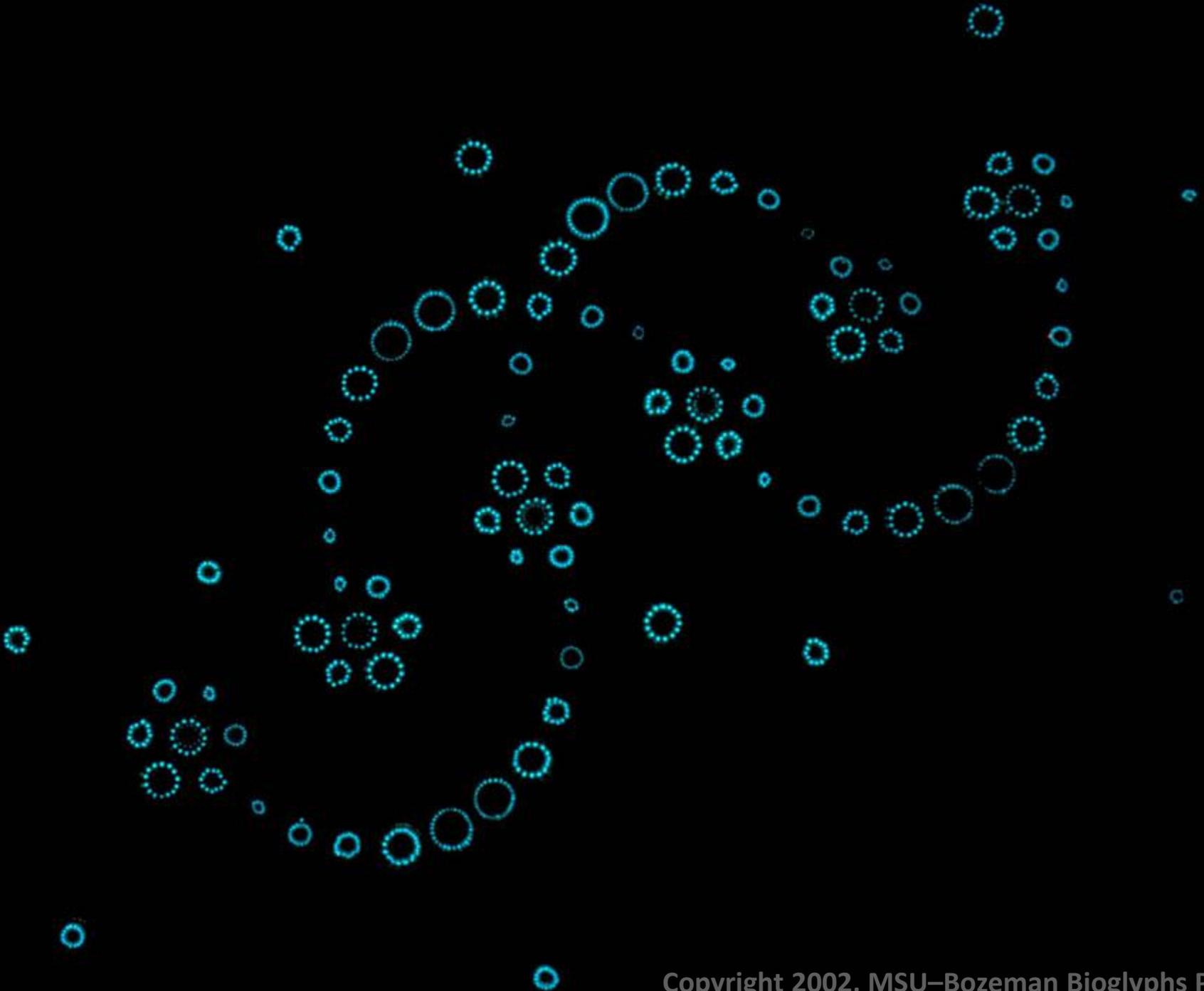


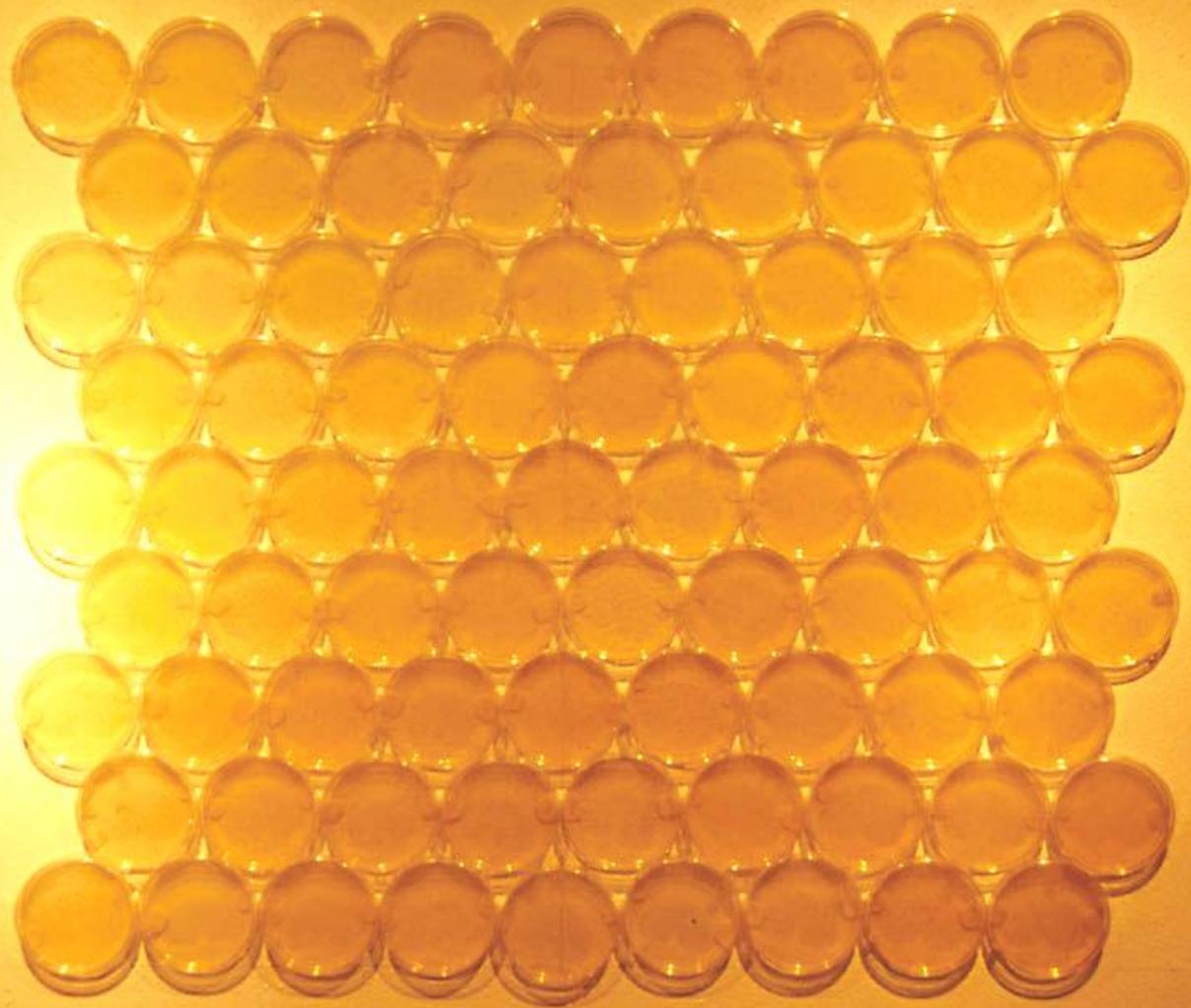
















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