

# THE PAINTER'S JOURNEY

## Artist Benini returns to state for show

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK** - Benini will return to Arkansas for an exclusive one-man exhibition, *The Painter's Journey*, from 5-8 p.m. March 18 at Greg Thompson Fine Art, 429 Main St., in the historic Argenta arts district of North Little Rock.

The opening of the exhibition is planned in conjunction with 3rd Friday Night Art Walk and Benini will attend the opening.

The show will run through May 14 and will feature a number of works from Benini's new series "Courting Kaos: Face of God" and "Riding Kaos: Truth and the Journey."

In addition to the opening reception, the Gallery will host a special talk with the artist at 1 p.m. March 19. The talk is free and open to the public, but reservations are recommended, as seating is limited.

Each of his series can be linked to the locations where Benini settled for a decade or more.

In the 1970s, symbolism dominated figurative works when Benini lived in Freeport,

Grand Bahama. The years he lived in Florida, on the shores of Lake Harney near Orlando, with the symbol of the rose he explored line and color, then shape.

When Benini moved to Hot Springs in 1988, he was tackling the illusion of dimensionality - in canvases that were cubes, spheres and then, the more lyrical ribbons - *The Geometric Paintings*.

For 12 years he and his wife Lorraine lived in Hot Springs. They restored a 1886 hotel on Central Avenue according to the National Historic Preservation guidelines, and lived there and at their mountaintop retreat until they moved to a ranch in the Texas Hill Country near Johnson City in 1999.

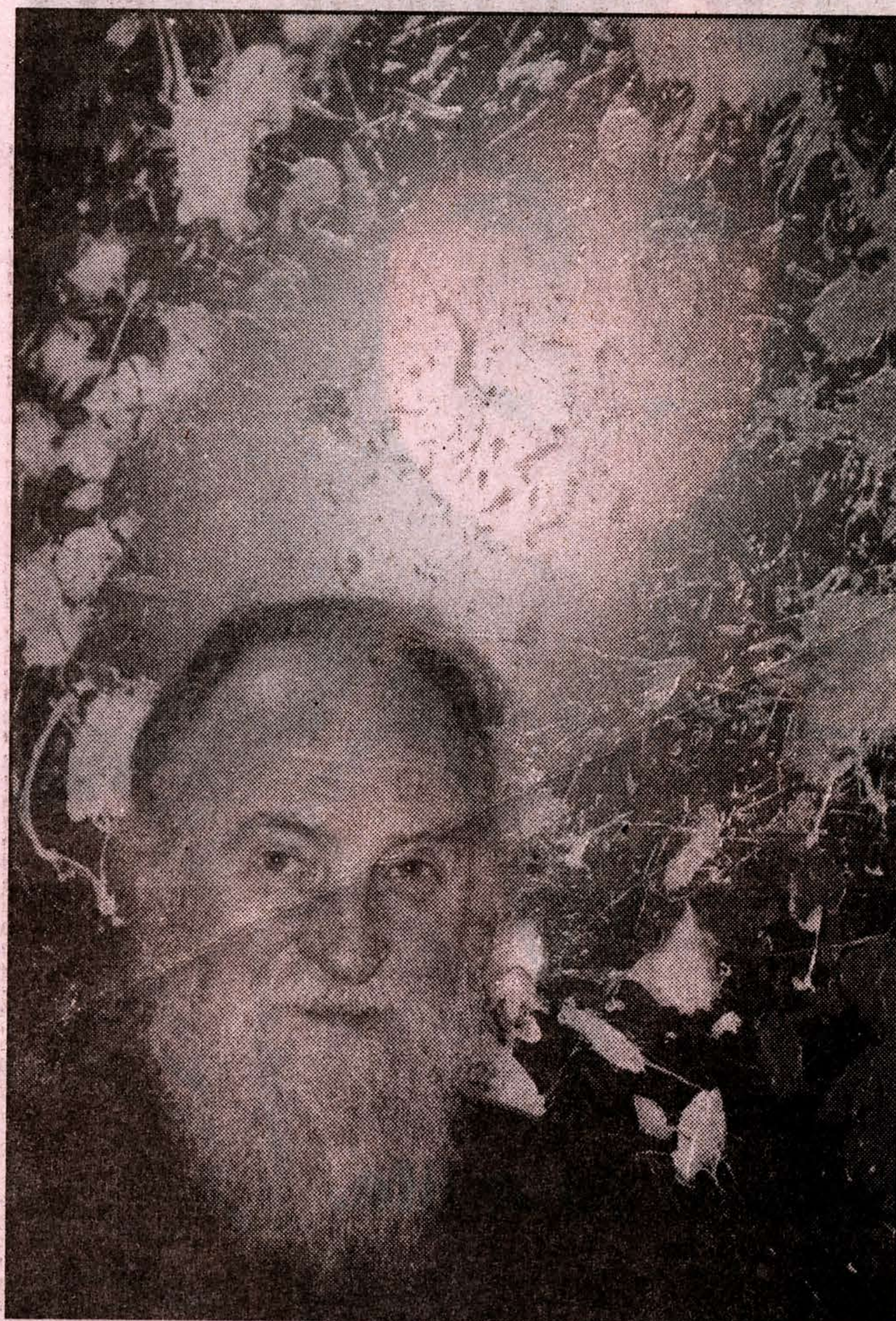
Benini's work shifted after leaving Arkansas to the more abstract paintings known as the Kaos series.

Thompson traveled to Texas in January to personally select pieces from the Geometric series and the newest Kaos series for this exhibition. In addition, Benini has promised the newest "Face of God" painting to make its debut in this exhibition.

Call 501-664-2787 for information.

## ARTS, ETC.

2C The Sentinel-Record, Sunday, March 13, 2011



Submitted photo

**EXHIBITION OPENS:** The artist Benini returns to Arkansas with an exhibition of his paintings and will give a gallery talk.