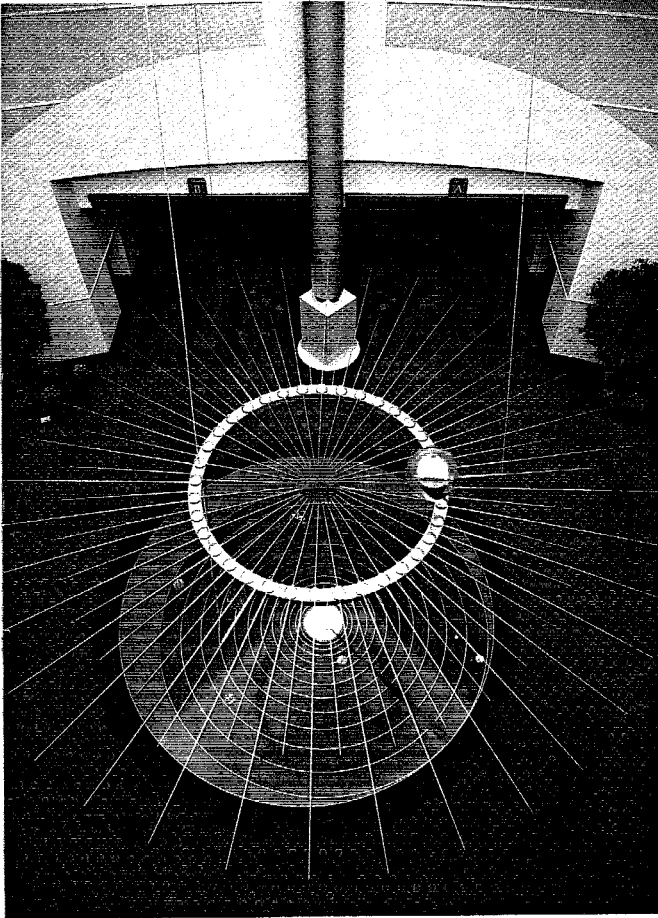


Sculpture

Commissions



**Kristin Jones and Andrew Ginzel, *Principia*
Oregon Convention Center,
Portland, Oregon**

In the vast, luminous space of the Oregon Convention Center's north tower, a 120-foot pendulum swings above a gilded steel "halo burst." Twenty feet below lies a terrazzo floor, 30 feet in diameter, its blue surface inlaid with planets following brass orbits. Collaborative artists Kristin Jones and Andrew Ginzel created *Principia* for Portland's new convention center, which was dedicated in September. The Metropolitan Service District allocated \$167,000 in percent-for-art funds for the project, which received additional major grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Oregon Arts Commission, as well as supplemental construction funds. Invited to participate in the building's design, Jones and Ginzel proposed an electromagnet-driven Foucault pendulum in the tower to give viewers an "undeniable" point of orientation in time and space. The halo registers the passing hours: its inner tapers fall, in opposite pairs, from their horizontal position as the pendulum marks the earth's rotation throughout the day. The artists contextualize the earth itself in the terrazzo floor, where inset shapes made of marble and semiprecious stone suggest "a universal system of planetary forms." A black wedge in the floor points due north, providing directional orientation. Jones and Ginzel have repeatedly explored dynamic forces in their art; they intend *Principia* to manifest the "unseen forces" of time and energy that are at work in the viewer's world.