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By MICHAEL KIMMELMAN

David Nyzio

Postmasters Gallery
80 Greene Street
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Those who were disappointed by David Nyzio's entry in the disastrous "Chaos" exhibition at the New Museum of Contemporary Art should see the artist's works in this show. Several of them are wondrous.

Mr. Nyzio is a kind of modern alchemist. He favors the most unlikely materials, including algae and golf balls. To make "Morphology," he bred 4,000 of the milkweed bugs that are used in college biology classes. He killed the bugs and then pinned them together into piles that resemble hillocks, creating what is an eerie but unmistakably seductive evocation of landscape.

With "Form," Mr. Nyzio mounted on a sheet of cardboard thousands of butterfly wings that he cut into tiny

squares and that describe a shimmering, glistening pattern. "Seeking Brilliance Which Rejects the Tool of Discipline" consists of a pair of complicated contraptions involving iron powder and magnets. The powder rests on a disk that revolves above the magnets in such a way as to achieve the unexpected impression of fur billowing in a breeze.

Mr. Nyzio is obviously interested in transformation, chance and the particular ability of the artist to reconstitute and manipulate nature. But he is also content, when appropriate, to leave nature alone, and to make a display, for example, out of a patch of live algae or moss. There's a touch of the high-school science student in Mr. Nyzio, and something of a poet.