

NICK CHLEBNIKOWSKI
IN SEARCH OF THE WATCHMAKER



GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL GALLERY - CAULFIELD VICTORIA AUSTRALIA 3RD MAY - 15TH MAY 2005

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Exhibition Curator: Paul Magin

Assistant Curator: Stacie Bobele

A Note on the Pricing Methodology

My objective is to make accessible a painting or prints to a wide audience, rather than limit opportunities to a few individuals. While many artists set prices based upon the size of the artwork (i.e.- by the square foot or square centimetre) I have chosen to go against this convention and priced paintings according to thier degree of technical difficulty, the time taken to execute them and the number of layers involved which reflect their fractality.

1. Introduction to Fractals – The Mathematics of the Universe

So who is the Watchmaker that I am searching for? The title of the exhibition is inspired by the writings of William Paley (1743-1805) in his book *Natural Theology*. Charles Darwin was influenced by Paley's writings, but later changed his mind. In recent times, biologist Richard Dawkins has described the Watchmaker as being blind – yet others will argue that the ultimate victory may still belong to William Paley and his insights into the structure and creation of the universe.

*"In crossing a heath, suppose I pitched my foot against a stone, and were asked how the stone came to be there, I might possibly answer that, for any thing I knew to the contrary, it had lain there for ever; nor would it perhaps be very easy to shew the absurdity of this answer. But suppose I had found a watch upon the ground, and it should be enquired how the watch happened to be in that place, I should hardly think of the answer which I had before given, that for any thing, I knew, the watch might have always been there. Yet, why should not this answer serve for the watch, as well as for the stone? Why is it not as admissible in the second case, as in the first? For this reason, and for no other, viz. that, when we come to inspect the watch, we perceive, (what we could not discover in the stone,) that its several parts are framed and put together for a purpose, e.g. that they are so formed and adjusted as to produce motion, and that motion so regulated as to point out the hour of the day; that, if the several parts had been differently shaped from what they are, of a different size from what they are, or placed after any other manner, or in any other order, than that in which they are placed, either no motion at all would have been carried on in the machine, or none which would have answered the use, that is now served by it." - Paley, William (1819), *Natural Theology**

In 1623 Galileo Galilei wrote, "Philosophy is written in this grand book – I mean the Universe – which stands continuously open to our gaze, but it cannot be understood unless one first learns to comprehend the language in which it is written. It is written in the language of mathematics, and its characters are triangles, circles and other geometric figures, without which it is humanly impossible to understand a single word of it; without these, one is wandering about in a dark labyrinth." – Peitgen & Richter (1986), *The Beauty of Fractals*

In September of 2002, I was diagnosed with cancer, which my god daughter described as a 'funny kind of lucky.' That experience, and the subsequent journey, caused me to ask the universal questions, and created some kind of urgency as to the need to find some answers. It was very clear that I had a finite number of heartbeats left, and I was determined to make the most of my beats to discover some answers. The journey that I undertook was, and continues to be, personal. I started reading 'everything' and re-examining the verifiable and unverifiable data. Others had previously followed a similar journey.

"What is man? What meaning has his life? What is his origin, his condition, his destiny? To what extent is he a creature of forces beyond his knowledge and his control, the plaything of nature, and the sport of the gods? To what extent is he a creator who takes raw materials of existence, the heat of the sun, the stones and the trees and the soil, his very body and its organs, and refashions the world to which nature has bound him, so that a good part of it reflects his own image and responds to his will and ideal?"

*"All the questions man asks about his life are multiplied by the fact of death: for man differs from all other creatures, it would seem, in being aware of his own death and in never being fully reconciled to sharing the natural fate of all living organisms. The tree of knowledge, with its apple that gave man awareness of good and evil, also grew a more bitter fruit man wrenched from its branches: the consciousness of the shortness of the individual life and the finality of death. In his resistance to death man has often achieved a maximum assertion of life: like a child at the sea's edge, working desperately to build up the walls of his sand castle before the next wave breaks over it, man has often made death the centre of his most valued efforts, cutting temples out of the rock, heaping pyramids high above the desert, transposing the mockeries of human power into visions of godlike omnipotence, translating human beauty into everlasting stone, human experience into printed words, and time itself, arrested in art, into a simulacrum of eternity." - Lewis Mumford (1944), *The Condition of Man**

The Bible was a starting point for my journey, but it was not a new starting point, as I had been pondering many of the hard questions of good and evil, on life and death for some decades. It nonetheless was the reference point from which the reading was to spring. I took the view that all subjects were worth pursuing, and that in the time left I should attempt to gain an understanding of the principles that were the foundation of the knowledge that we possess in the 21st Century. The pursuit of that knowledge meant reading about the past – the history of where we had been before today. One cannot discover the past by reading a single history book, one has to read many, as historians have their own deceptions to promote. Darwin's *Origin of The Species* was on the list as was Stephen Jay Gould, Richard Dawkins, Fred Hoyle, Chandra Wickramasinghe, Lewis Mumford, Arnold Toynbee, William Paley...The list grows by the day. Poetry, art, mathematics, science, biology, religion and more. No subject was taboo.

Late 2002, I had heard of a new book on mathematics that had been published by Stephen Wolfram "A New Kind Of Science" – a wonderful door stop once you got the gist of it. In this book he was searching to find the mathematical formula for the universe, which he believed he could unravel in 5 lines of mathematics. His thesis was that from simple things great complexity could evolve, and with the aid of computers, he devised a number of simple programmes whereby an array of three black squares and one white square could be programmed to create complex patterns. He wrote a simple formula for how he wanted the relationship between the squares to behave and ran the programme. Rule 110, that is the 110th time he ran the formula, a complex pattern evolved that resembled patterns seen in nature.

I pondered such a thesis. Is the world really a random creation, or was there a Divine being, God, who created the universe and everything in it? As an architect, I greatly admired the formidable works of art and architecture that religion had inspired and could not help but wonder what drove men and women to create such works. Were all those artists and architects misguided and misinformed due to the limitations of the science of their time, or was there a higher form of mental awareness that it was possible to attain? To this end I made a study of the major religions of the world which eventually led me to consider the power of Australian aboriginal spirituality and its connection to earth.

I decided to examine the possibility of creating random art forms that would be considered beautiful. The concept was to attempt to repeat in paint what Stephen Wolfram had done with the computer. Was it possible to throw some colour around, and to press a piece of paper to the colour 110 times and create works of beauty? Paper did not work so I tried Perspex over a glass base. It was not possible to create 110 random images, 6 was about the maximum. I had created some 20 plates, they were attractive, but hardly the stuff that any curators would be hounding me for. I assembled all 20 pieces and studied them to see if the secrets of the universe were to unfold. There was a pattern emerging, but not very strong or obvious. The patterns were fractal lines. By an intuitive process I had discovered how to produce fractals with paint. They were complex, repetitive branch-like patterns. I then returned to the mathematics books to learn more. I had read of Benoit Mandelbrot's Chaos Theory and seen some of the computer-generated fractals on screen, but they were not like what I had generated.

Benoit Mandelbrot wrote in 1984: *"Why is geometry often described as cold and dry? One reason lies in its inability to describe the shape of a cloud, a mountain, a coastline or a tree. Clouds are not spheres, mountains not cones, coastlines are not circles, and bark is not smooth, nor does lightning travel in a straight line...Nature exhibits not simply a higher degree but an altogether different level of complexity. The number of distinct scales of length of patterns is for all purposes infinite."*

The existence of these patterns challenges us to study those forms that Euclid leaves aside as being formless, to investigate the morphology of the amorphous. Mathematicians have disdained this challenge, however, and have increasingly chosen to flee from nature by devising theories unrelated to anything we can see or feel.

A study of art history revealed that Leonardo da Vinci observed fractals in nature in his mountain-top drawings. Chinese art was filled with fractal forms, and so I realised that the universe might be interconnected with fractal lines. A study of medical books revealed fractal lines occurring in brain patterns, nervous systems and blood vessels. Simple observations of garden plants revealed fractal lines everywhere: plant leaves, stones, branches, river systems. Satellite photographs of earth revealed that the entire planet was a system of fractal lines, but I was not the first to make this discovery.

"In 1953 I realized that the straight line leads to the downfall of mankind. But the straight line has become an absolute tyranny. The straight line is something cowardly drawn with a rule, without thought or feeling; it is the line which does not exist in nature. And that line is the rotten foundation of our doomed civilization. Even if there are places where it is recognized that this line is rapidly leading to perdition, its course continues to be plotted...Any design undertaken with the straight line will be stillborn. Today we are witnessing the triumph of rationalist knowhow and yet, at the same time, we find ourselves confronted with emptiness. An esthetic void, desert of uniformity, criminal sterility, loss of creative power. Even creativity is prefabricated. We have become impotent. We are no longer able to create. That is our real illiteracy."

- Friedensreich Hundertwasser

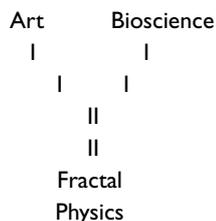
"Science and Art: Two complementary ways of experiencing the natural world – the one analytic, the other intuitive. We have become accustomed to seeing them as opposite poles, yet don't they depend on one another? The thinker, trying to penetrate natural phenomenon with his understanding, seeking to reduce all complexity to a few fundamental laws – isn't he also the dreamer plunging himself into the richness of forms and seeing himself as part of the eternal of natural events? This experience of oneness which the individual may feel finds no counterpart in the intellectual history of the last two hundred years. As if they felt too confined in one soul, the mind of art and the mind of science have parted: One Faust has become two one-dimensional beings. The divergence seems irreversible, and what both sides promoted together during enlightenment is now out of balance. The courage to use one's own reason has turned to presumptuousness. The cool rationality of science and technology has pervaded and transformed the world to such an extent that it could destroy human life. The inspiration of the arts can only respond helplessly, with bitterness." - Peitgen & Richter (1986), *The Beauty of Fractals*

By chance, a friend informed me of the work of two eminent scientists Dr Malcolm Simons and Dr Andras Pellionisz. Simons was a New Zealander living in Australia, Pellionisz a Hungarian American. Both were involved with the study of genetics. Simons (who had a similar 'funny kind of lucky' experience in Oct 2002) is spending his lifetime on immunology and genetics. He was the first to recognise that Junk DNA (all DNA other than genes) had structure, and therefore was very likely to encode function. Pellionisz is a biophysicist, interested in biogenesis, and how the non-coding (Junk) DNA might be involved in fractal processes. Together the two are writing about genomic information and the development of body systems. I was encouraged to search for both men on the internet and found that junk DNA was interlinked by fractals – I could hardly contain my excitement. Subsequently, Dr. Malcolm Simons and I met in my studio and he took some examples of my work off to the USA. The following are their comments.

Dr. Malcolm Simons wrote:

While marvelling over your prints, I was prompted to muse on the long-assumed dichotomy of art and science, on the commonly-held assumption of differences in inspiration, and on the regret that the communication gap is generally viewed as wide.

I realised that the fractality of your paintings and of Andras' thinkings had a common stem to the dichotomous Y that might be depicted as:

**He added:**

Having steeped myself in the paintings in galleries such as Alte Pinakothek in Munich, where are hung many classical paintings prompted by religious beliefs, I have the sense that yours, inspired by similar urges, have the same timeless resonance, to believers and non-believing appreciants alike. I'm moved to sense that your paintings will engender a similar timeless sense of awe, wonderment and exhilaration, in 50, 500 and years beyond.

Dr. Andras Pellionisz wrote:

You distinguished me with your unbelievably imaginative portrayal of the ultimate hinterland, seen through my "Post-Mandelbrot's musing" of living patterned fractal order of the DNA, to the physical core of chaotic and fractal order present even in every fingerprint of Nature (alive or not). Our synthesis of European Science and Art manifested in the remote continents of America and Australia is now communicated to the world through the most compelling manner possible, in its artistic essence. I will try to catch up with my science to your most amazing art that I have ever seen.

With Malcolm Simons we are co-authoring the "first ever" BrowserBook on "Junk DNA", breaking new grounds in publishing, a badly overdue improvement on the venerable Old World printing technique of the Bible by Johann Gutenberg. We thought that your artistic breakthrough would be in good company if you kindly agreed to our invitation to feature your Art in the illustrations.

This exhibition of paintings is but a small summation of my journey over that past two years, yet has taken a lifetime to achieve. The 'funny kind of lucky' prognosis is correct. Without the wake up call of cancer, I would probably have drifted through the last decades of my life. This is the beginning of my journey, which I now share with you. Some may be offended, some confronted, perhaps even haunted. I make no apologies for any of this. The decision to join the journey with me is yours, and you are free to assume that the Watchmaker was blind. That is your choice.



- Nick Chlebnikowski

Melbourne, Australia, May 2005

For further information please contact:

Nick Chlebnikowski

Phone: 61 3 9822 9100

email: nick@nicks.com.au

2. Historical Note – In Search of The Watchmaker Biographical Note on William Paley (1743-1805)

English theologian; born at Peterborough (37 m. n.e. of Northampton) July, 1743; died at Lincoln May 25, 1805. In his early days at Cambridge University, Darwin was heavily interested in the works of William Paley. Paley's works which include *Evidences of Christianity* and *Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy* were required reading at the university. However, Darwin was most impressed by *Natural Theology* at the time. In this paper Paley examined the mechanism of the earth, its creatures, the complexity of their adaptations, their effective use of natural resources and their successful defence against nature. Paley also argued the inevitability of a Creator: "*Design must have a designer. That designer must have been a person. That person is God*".

3. Explanations of In Search of The Watchmaker Fractal Paintings

Note: Fractal Paintings No.s 2 - 42 are 800mm x 800mm Oil on Board

- SOLD** 1. The Fractal Filaments Form: Five Fractal Paintings 900mm x 600mm Oil on Board \$500 each
We cannot know about the moment before the beginning. The insights are unknowable. The black appears empty, yet, if we look again it is interconnected with fractal filaments. Some of these filaments are interconnected whilst others end unconnected. These are the dust from which the Universe was assembled. Out of the chaos of the network, the Watchmaker formed a network of filaments from which coherence began to form.
- SOLD** 2. 'I saw Eternity the Other Night' "I saw Eternity the other night,
Like a great ring of pure and endless light, / All calm, as it was bright;
And round beneath it, Time in hours, days, years, / Driv'n by the spheres
Like a vast shadow mov'd; in which the world / And all her rain were hurl'd."
- The World – Henry Vaughan 1622-1695 \$2000
3. Convergence of Fractal Filaments: \$1000
The Watchmaker converges the filaments of the Universe, creating an ordered network from what appeared to be chaos. The random fractals were given purpose, in the same way that a single blood vessel is only a filament that becomes a living highway.
4. The Moment of Creation: \$2000
The moment of creation. The unexplainable happens – the filaments form coherent networks of the Universe. The past mathematics has been unable to explain this moment since it was based on Euclidian geometry, the mathematics of the square, the circle, the cone, the sphere. However, Fractal mathematics explains the complexity of such a moment – what appears to be chaos is in fact order.
5. The Watchmaker's Powers Unleashed: \$3000
The explosion of positive and negative forms at the moment of creation unleashes the Watchmaker's power that will at a future time be sought after by the misguided Guardians of Earth.
6. The Eternal Circle of the Universe is Formed: \$5000
The eternal ring of our Universe is formed – the multidimensional form of Earth begins to appear, yet it will be some time before the Watchmaker completes his creation.
7. The Stars of the Southern Hemisphere: \$10,000
The stars of the Universe are formed. The diamonds of the sky will inspire for generations the Guardians of Earth that are yet to come.
8. The Sun is Born: \$3000
The Sun is born, the creation of Earth and moon will follow. The Watchmaker calculates the precise distances to ensure that the sun will in time provide life and light to the Guardians of Earth, who will hold its power in awe. Many will worship its appearance and reappearance. It will become a symbol of life and death.
9. The Watchmaker Draws the Moon Out of the Sun: \$8000
With equal precision, the Watchmaker draws the moon out of the sun and places it at the calculated distance from the Earth. In the millennia to come it will create the force of gravity, control the wild waters and influence the seasons.
10. The Southern Stars, the Navigation Lights of Earth: \$1000
The stars of the Southern Hemisphere shine brightly – the moon is in its place, the Heavens rejoice. The Earth begins to cool.

11. The Formation of Water: \$10,000
Water forms the most remarkable of all fractal forms, with the ability to transform itself from ice to vapour. The Watchmaker uses water as the basis of all living things on Earth. A miracle which will inspire all of Earth's Guardians.
12. A Slight Tilt of the Central Axis is Required: \$2000
Work is not quite complete for Earth's Guardians to appear. A slight tilt off the central axis is required. The Watchmaker moves the axis to 23 1/2 degree – creating the seasons for all living things.
13. Sun, Moon, Stars and Earth are now Precisely Positioned: \$3000
Sun, Moon, Stars and Earth are now precisely positioned. The Moon rules the night, the Sun the day. The Stars reflect the unknowable knowledge of the Universe, acknowledging the Watchmaker's skill.
14. The Four Seasons Formed: \$4000
The Four Seasons contribute to the diversity of animal and plant life, creating a wondrous visual and physical spectacle for all of Earth's creatures.
15. The Creation of the Biosphere: \$3000
The sparkling green blue jewel Earth is now formed. The biosphere has been created. All living creatures co-exist in harmony, on land and sea. Ecosystems have been created. A more perfect balance on Earth is unimaginable. The Watchmaker is pleased with his efforts.
- SOLD** 16. Vaporising the Water: \$4000
Vaporising the water, the Watchmaker creates clouds over the Earth, so that the precious liquid could be distributed to all corners of the Earth.
17. Mechanic or Watchmaker? \$1000
The time was approaching for the Watchmaker to create the Guardians of the Earth, upon whom he would shoulder great responsibility. The Watchmaker was so pleased with his creation, that he might have been tempted to create obedient Guardians that had no freedom to choose. This was out of the question. If he did this, he would be reduced to being a mechanic – No – His creation required the sense of free will.
18. Land or Water, Night or Day? \$4000
The Watchmaker pondered where to create the Guardians of Earth. Was it to be on land or in the waters? Would he make the Guardians creatures of the light, or creatures of the dark? There had been quite a battle in Heaven at some time long ago, and the Watchmaker was aware of his fallen lieutenant – The Collector. The Guardians were to control the day; this is the time when the sun would shine and its energy could be equally distributed to all creatures – The Collector got the night.
19. The Freedom to Choose: \$10,000
The Watchmaker was aware of the potential problem he would bestow upon the Guardians by giving them freedom. He was well aware of the tricks that The Collector could play, after all he played havoc in heaven, but he was a Watchmaker, not a mechanic. He was aware of The Collector's powers, but hoped to overwhelm them through the beauty and order of his own creation.
20. Life on Earth is Created: \$1000
The Watchmaker created life on Earth – the Guardians arrived.
21. The Miracle of Birth: \$1000
The Watchmaker then surpassed himself. He created the ability for the Guardians to create other Guardians in their own form. He gave these Guardians the same creative powers that only he had.
22. The Watchmaker Declared Dead: \$4000
Many of Earth's Guardians were complacent. Some even declared the Watchmaker dead. Darwin came along with a theory of Evolution. It was easy to deceive the Guardians. The bigger the lie, the more convincing it was. The Guardians lost faith. Greed was good, theft was clever, lust was highly saleable. The Collector created a host of activities that the Watchmaker could not match. The Watchmaker was always aware of the danger.
- SOLD** 23. The Darkness of Night: \$10,000
The Collector surrounded the Earth with the darkness of night. Pleasure reigned and shone in the night sky. Some Guardians of Earth were disturbed. Many remained silent. Many joined the party.
- SOLD** 24. Word is Out – The Watchmaker is Dead: \$2000
The press spelt out the messages that the Watchmaker did not exist – He was dead, claimed Nietzsche. Since nobody has seen him, and The Collector's PR machine was running hot, no one seemed to doubt the fact. Many of Earth's Guardians were troubled. Many turned to the scientists for help. The Scientists came up with a solution – we can control the Guardians of the Earth by splitting the atom.

25. **Formidable Powers:** **\$3000**
 The Collector was quick off the mark, devising all sorts of schemes to distract the Guardians. He was energetic, far more creative than the Watchmaker had given him credit for. His greatest achievements were the creation of lust, theft, greed, adultery, arrogance, sloth, gluttony, pride and envy. He turned these achievements into an acceptable form. His powers of seduction were formidable. His agility remarkable!
26. **The Watchmaker Should Come to the Rescue:** **\$3000**
 Some assumed that the Watchmaker would intervene, others wrote that if he existed, or was even still alive, that he should come to the rescue. The Watchmaker remained unmoved. He would not meddle with the Guardians of Earth. He had given them freedom. It was their choice as to how they executed it. They had forgotten about atomic explosions, pollution and degradation. It was all the Watchmaker's doing. The Watchmaker was unmoved.
- SOLD** 27. **No One Was Meant to Press the Button:** **\$4000**
 The Scientists split the atoms. No one was meant to press the button. It was all supposed to be a scare tactic of The Collector – more Guardians for the party. But now even The Collector lost control.
- SOLD** 28. **The Party Was Never Supposed to End Like This:** **\$10,000**
 Not even The Collector could imagine such an explosion. Some lunatic planted 12 well placed atomic bombs around the globe, and triggered them all off at once. The party was never supposed to end like this.
- SOLD** 29. **Everything was Consumed:** **\$8000**
 The fires raged. Everything was consumed. There was no air. All living creatures were burning. The pleas for the Watchmaker to intervene were everywhere. Church Bells rang. Bishops prayed. The Pope raised his voice. The Watchmaker looked on.
30. **Charcoal Fractals Filled the Air:** **\$10,000**
 The flames raged everywhere. There was nowhere to hide. No building remained. The bomb proof shelters, housing the deceitful Guardians, were amongst the first structures to go. No creatures or plants were spared. Charcoal dust fractals filled the air.
31. **The Flames Subside:** **\$2000**
 Slowly the flames died down. Fractal dust was everywhere.
32. **Red Embers Continue to Glow:** **\$2000**
 Red embers glowed for thousands of years – all voices were stilled.
- SOLD** 33. **The Winds Carry the Fractal Dust:** **\$1000**
 Fractal dust was everywhere. The clouds carried the dust forced upwards by the heat still emanating from Earth.
34. **Blue Turns to Black:** **\$1000**
 The green blue jewel of the Universe was reduced to carbon black.
- SOLD** 35. **Universal Forces Undone:** **\$1000**
 The fractals had disappeared. The forces that created the Universe were undone. The order reduced to un-refinable dust. There was no possibility of a physical reconstruction.
36. **Why, Why, Why?** **\$1000**
 There were witnesses to these events. The Watchmaker observed it all. The Collector was delighted. He had won the Universal game. His skills to manipulate the Guardians were unchallenged, his supremacy over the dark and fire of the night unchallenged. The Collector bathed in the glory of the fires. He had achieved his Universal dream of total destruction.
 By some miracle, a single soul appeared. A young boy of maybe 12-13 years old. Half his face was being sucked away by the vacuum of the dissipating air. The other half was only visible for a cosmic moment. Why, why, why? he asked, and disappeared too into the fractal dust of the Universe.
37. **The Watchmaker Could Do Nothing:** **\$2000**
 The Collector was troubled by the boy, he was not supposed to survive, let alone ask questions. The Watchmaker pondered the three whys for only a moment, and was satisfied with his rationale of providing a freedom of choice. He could have done nothing else. "The Pontius Pilate of the Universe," some called him.
38. **Fractal Pathways of the Mind:** **\$2000**
 The Watchmaker foresaw all these events. There was nothing he could do, unless He became a mechanic. He did create a fractal pathway from the minds of the Guardians. However, the pathway was difficult to walk, and many stumbled only after a few steps. The Collector may have incinerated the Watchmaker's beautiful jewel, but could not destroy the destiny of the Universe.

39. **Ultimate Victory:** **\$2000**
 The Watchmaker's ultimate victory was to bestow eternal life upon the Guardians of the Earth. The concept was difficult to understand and the scientists deemed it unverifiable. There were no experiments that could be devised to discover eternal life.
40. **The Time Keeper Ignored by Many:** **\$2000**
 The Watchmaker was aware of the difficulty that the Guardians of Earth had in understanding eternal life, and some 2000 years earlier had sent the Time Keeper to explain life beyond time. The Time Keeper was misunderstood by many and was accused of tampering with the mechanism of time and of attempting to usurp power from some of Earth's Guardians.
41. **The Time Keeper Vanishes:** **\$2000**
 The Time Keeper was considered to be a danger by some of the Guardians who organised to have him arrested, hoping to break the watch's fractal mechanism. The Time Keeper was captured, tortured and put to death, only to disappear, yet reappear, cheating time, verifying the existence of eternal life. This all happened a long time ago, before earths passing.
42. **Souls Shining Forever:** **\$2000**
 Imagine for a moment, that each of Earth's Guardians is a star in the sky, their souls shining forever. This is the Watchmakers ultimate victory!

4. Introduction to the Strehlow Fractals - The Posing of a Question By T.G.H Strehlow

Our modern age sadly lacks that vital sense and deep conviction of contact with verities and values passionately believed to be eternal. As a result, many, if not most of us, feel that we have lost something that our forefathers once possessed - a faith which began where knowledge derived from the senses and the intellect had reached its final limits, a faith that can properly be described as "the assurance of things hoped for the conviction of things not seen". It seems certain that the battle between Science and Religion which began in the nineteenth century has been responsible in a very large degree for the feelings of psychological malaise in our own twenty first century communities. For it is when religion and science begin to quarrel that a community largely loses its former sense of integration with the universe around it. However much superior critics may smile at the simple religious concepts of "the primitive peoples", the fact remains that the many modern attempts made to set up material progress as the highest and most noble goal of human endeavour, and to provide a completely adequate and satisfying substitute for religion in explanations of the universe formulated purely in terms of mathematical equations, have so far given few people any sense of real security in the present time, or any hope of a more humane world in the future. Today modern civilized man is surrounded by material possessions of a variety undreamed of by previous civilizations, and has his future protected by the elaborate social service machinery of the modern Welfare State. But though his imagination is in danger of being blinded by batteries of scientific floodlights, which purport to rend the veils off all the mysteries of mind, matter, and energy that were shrouded in darkness from his forebears, modern civilized man seems to have gained no real feeling of security in the Brave New World of his own creation. Behind the brilliance of human achievement lies the persistent fear that the earth on which man lives that earth which was born of a star at the beginning of Time, may one day, at the pressing of a button by some lunatic hand, dissolve into radio-active star-dust in an unimaginable catastrophe of heat, blast and fire. Perhaps even civilized man could improve his prospects of a more secure future by adopting some of the concepts of toleration and cooperation on which the aboriginal Australians based their social and political systems. It seems certain that modern man would regain much of his lost emotional happiness, if he could once more be shown a way of linking his Time-limited existence with the riches and truths of Eternity by means of a faith formulated in terms that harmonized with a scientifically -validated view of the universe. Cynics who look at the blood-stained pages chronicling the rise and establishment of the world's great religions will have little difficulty in deriving from them a wealth of arguments against that black fanaticism and intolerance that have so often been generated by the human organizations set up to propagate and to maintain even the noblest faiths. Yet can science on its own really penetrate to the final and vital mysteries of mind, matter, and energy that determine human well-being? Can the notions of good and evil be determined, defined, weighed, and measured by abstract mathematical, physical, or chemical formulae? Is it possible to prove purely by logical reasoning or mathematical equations that men and women are "free beings" (in the full sense of this term) in their most decisive actions? Is the universe in which we move for a short span of time purely the result of blind chance, or would it be more correct to label it as a "purposive universe", sustained by logical and precise laws? The answers to these questions are, of course, completely beyond the scope of this paper. I have posed them merely because I believe that they are questions which have both tortured and fascinated mankind since the dawn of human Time. It is my conviction that all human peoples on this globe have had flashes of insight and found at least partial answers to some of these mysteries - answers which have been expressed at best in faltering terms fitted to their limited grasp of the universe about them. The full comprehension of these mysteries will probably always remain beyond the eager grasp of men and women. But even flashes of insight and partial answers could help mankind in its further quest for greater knowledge of the ultimate and eternal truths. If modern anthropologists were to study societies other than their own, not merely in order to gain fleeting academic honours for themselves but in order to derive from their studies a fuller knowledge of spiritual concepts and norms of behaviour that could help their own fellows in their quest to evolve more enlightened ways of living together as human beings associated by a common destiny on a single planet, then anthropology, in the full meaning of this term, would cease to be regarded by its many critics as a study of dead museum specimens, abstract social theories, and neat, cold and boring dissections of human institutions: anthropology would blossom into maturity at last as the true Science of Man.

5. Explanations of Strehlow Fractal paintings

100 Paintings (300mm x 210mm) Oil on board. Signed on backs dated 2004.

\$200 each

Also available: Limited Edition Archival Ink Digital Prints on Miteinte Art Paper: A4 size: \$50 each A2 size: \$130 each

1. **SOLD** The Earth, Sun and Moon were witness to the declaration that the Watchmaker was dead
2. A declaration that was made some 200 years ago
3. **SOLD** The clouds did not believe the declaration, as they shimmered with blue fractals
4. **SOLD** Back lit by the moon, the sky danced, partnered by the moon, the blue aurora was astounding
5. **SOLD** A red flash would appear from time to time
6. **SOLD** Such colours had never been seen before, so early in the night
7. **SOLD** The moon continued to dance between the clouds
8. **SOLD** A wind appeared, hurling itself at the clouds, creating fractal vapours in the sky
9. **SOLD** Yet the moon remained untroubled
10. **SOLD** Continuing to illuminate the night – a beautiful full moon
11. **SOLD** The global tango was just beginning – and soon to end
12. **SOLD** Swirling fractal lines agitated the small birds and animals
13. The Guardians of earth inhabited a wonderful azure filled earth
14. The noise continued, no one had witnessed such night time activity before
15. The blue fractals of the sky became more turbulent
16. The blues deepened as the songs of wild birds grew louder
17. But the moon remained silent, providing no hint of what it had seen – beautiful full moon
18. The clouds twisted and twirled, creating more fractal turmoil
19. The Guardians of the earth rolled over in their sleep quietly troubled by the purple blue clouds, but not knowing why
20. **SOLD** The moon darted for cover, becoming alarmed, but shimmered with silence
21. Mauve clouds reappeared overlaid with green, such colours had never been seen in the night sky
22. **SOLD** The wind speed was accelerating, it must be going to rain
23. Yet the ants were not stirred, they too were silent under the blue sky
24. But it does not feel like rain
25. White fear filled the face of the moon, blushing with flashes of green blue fractals
26. **SOLD** Why had it not revealed what it had seen?
27. Sky fractals turned into layers of red, green and blue
28. Flashes were occurring everywhere
29. The moon was now gone – leaving the clouds in a state of turmoil
30. The Guardians of the earth rolled around once more – it was still hours before daylight, yet it seemed that morning would arrive soon
31. The Guardians of earth lived in harmony with the biosphere, under the sky
32. The fractals of the Universe unified the Guardians with all living and non living things.
33. The scientists enjoyed life under blue skies, discovering verifiable evidence, which the Guardians of earth totally believed.
34. Who could dispute such facts, they were verifiable and many of them saved lives. The blue sky smiled a wry smile.
35. Machines began to appear, under dark blue skies, some were small, many helped some of the Guardians, others were destructive. The sky remained blue.
36. All witnessed by the sky, some Guardians were hungry for power, other filled with lust and greed.
37. The sky remained blue, the biosphere continued to support everything and everyone.
38. Water, the most precious of all liquids flowed freely across the surface of this universal jewel.
39. The qualities of water were remarkable, its fractals having an ability to alter their dance from cold ice to warm tropical vapour of the sky.
40. The biosphere was in perfect health, an abundance of everything could be found.
41. The Moon reappeared, displaying it's full splendour for the last time.
42. The Moon began to turn into fractal light.
43. **SOLD** The eye fell out of the Moon.
44. The Moon was all but gone.
45. Black dust appeared, the Guardians of earth were awakened.
46. **SOLD** Black dust continued to fill the air.
47. Red fractals sucked oxygen from mother earth.
48. **SOLD** Breathing was now impossible.
49. **SOLD** Where was the Watchmaker? – the Guardians asked –
50. The Watchmaker is dead – he died 200 years ago.
51. **SOLD** The sky changed colour, turning red, in fractal flames.
52. Who was responsible for this Apocalypse, and why?

53. Red embers glowed.
54. The flames picked up, roaring with anger from all corners of the globe.
55. The Cold War was over long ago, why did the lunatic press the button? Where was the Watchmaker?
56. The Watchmaker allowed all this, he had give the Guardians a freedom of will, and would not interfere.
57. **SOLD** Flames enveloped both men and women, children evaporated instantly.
58. **SOLD** Flames were everywhere, nothing would remain.
59. No one was spared, why had the moon not sounded its warning?
60. **SOLD** Some called for the Watchmaker, but he was dead.
61. **SOLD** And those that did not believe that the Watchmaker was dead, did not understand why he had not appeared.
62. The cries of the Guardians continued, voices grew louder but could not be heard against the roar of the fractal fires.
63. The Guardians glowed under the fires.
64. And bodies of Guardians of earth were littered everywhere – turned to charcoal.
65. Flames engulfed all the Guardians.
66. The flames continued to rage.
67. The Guardians made a last chance to save themselves.
68. The Guardians disappear.
69. The time had come.
70. The voices of the Guardians were stilled, the dry roar of the winds reached the corners of the earth.
71. Surely the Watchmaker would reverse the extinguishment of Earth, but he can't he's dead.
72. The surface of the earth started to fragment, a new form of fractals appeared.
73. The dust storms strengthened – nothing could be seen.
74. Fractal dust became intermixed with charcoal, illuminated by distant glows.
75. There was an insane beauty in that dust.
76. The Scientists said that this could never happen, they had built in safeguards, they lied to the Guardians.
77. The fractal dust chocked their unverifiable lies.
78. The fractal dust was deep, there was no visibility, no light, no night, no day – no moon.
79. There would be no second chances, it was impossible to reverse the process, even although the scientists would say it could be done.
80. The freedom of will was misused, and now all was lost.
81. The fractal dust began to glow .
82. Was the Watchmaker awakened – remorseful?
83. There was no interest from the Watchmaker, no reversal of atoms was to happen. The Watchmaker was elsewhere in the Universe.
84. The atoms started to pulverise, reversal was now totally impossible.
85. More particles of fractal dust started to appear.
86. Nothing could be seen, no landmarks were discernable, the monuments of civilization turned to fractal dust.
87. Time past was now erased – there was no history to write – no one to write it – it never existed.
88. The fractal dust danced a wondrous dance, but there were no observers.
89. The souls of many Guardians had long gone, to where the scientists could not say.
90. Their charred bodies, now particles of dust.
91. The bonds that held the fractals together started to break away, and the spectacle was sorrowful.
92. The Watchmaker gave the Guardians of earth the freedom to choose – otherwise he would have created a machine.
93. As the clouds of fractal dust enveloped the biosphere.
94. Such a glow, nobody had ever witnessed, not even in the beginning.
95. The positive fractals had disappeared, the negative ones too.
96. The balance was now gone.
97. There was no sound in the Universe, all was silenced.
98. Everything was now disassembled.
99. Nothing, Finis, The End.
100. Was there another chance – at another time in another place?

6. Sun, Moon & Earth

9 Fractal Paintings (900mm x 600mm) Oil on board.

- | | | |
|-------------|--|--------|
| SOLD | 1.The Sun radiating the warm glow of a mother's heart. | \$2000 |
| | 2.The Moon has been the source of increasing mystery. | \$2000 |
| | 3.The Moon casts its shadow into the customs of many lands. | \$2000 |
| | 4.The Moon has inspired poetry, romance and enchantments. | \$2000 |
| | 5.Thousands of beliefs and legends have evolved around the moon. | \$2000 |
| SOLD | 6. On the 20th July 1969 Astronaut Neil Armstrong, Commander of Apollo 11 walked the first step on the moon. | \$2000 |
| | 7. How often does the bright moon come? | \$2000 |
| | With wine, I ask of the blue sky. (Su Shih 1037-1101, Song Dynasty) | |
| | 8. Perfection is rare since days of old, | \$2000 |
| | so wish only that the years be long, | |
| | to share beauty even across a thousand miles. (Su Shih 1037-1101, Song Dynasty) | |
| | 9. Earth, the most beautiful jewel of the sky. | \$2000 |

7. 'The Grey Beginnings' Wind Fractal Paintings – Rachel Carson, 'The Sea'

41 Wind Fractal Paintings comprising of a Centre Panel (1200x600) surrounded by 40 panels (300x300) Oil on Board
Signed on Backs. Dated from 2003-2005. \$12,000 The Set

"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." – Genesis

Beginning are apt to be shadowy, and so it is with the beginnings of that great mother of life, the sea. Many people have debated how and when the earth got its ocean, and it is not surprising that their explanations do not always agree. For the plain and inescapable truth is that no one was there to see, and in the absence of eye-witness accounts there is bound to be a certain amount of disagreement. So it I tell here the story of how the young planet Earth acquired an ocean, it must be a story pieced together from many sources and containing whole chapters the details of which we can only imagine. The story is founded on the testimony of the earth's most ancient rocks, which were young when the earth was young; on other evidence written on the face of earth's satellite, the moon; and on hints contained in the history of the sun and the whole universe of star-filled space. For although no man was there to witness this cosmic birth, the stars and the moon and the rocks were there, and, indeed, had much to do with the fact that there is an ocean. - Chapter 1 pg 9

8. 'The Continents had No Life' – Rachel Carson, 'The Sea'

17 Wind Fractal Paintings comprising of a Centre Panel (1200x600) surrounded by 16 panels (300x300) Oil on Board
Signed on Backs. Dated from 2003-2005. \$6000 The Set

"During all this time, the continents had no life. There was little to induce living things to come ashore, forsaking their all-providing, all-embracing mother sea. The lands must have been bleak and hostile beyond the power of words to describe. Imagine a whole continent of naked rock, across which no covering mantle of green had been drawn – a continent without soil, for there were no land plants to aid in its formation and bind it to the rocks with their roots. Imagine a land of stone, a silent land, except for the sound of rains and winds that swept across it. For there was no living voice, and no living thing moved over the surface of the rocks." - Chapter 1, pg 13-16

9. Creation of Water

Digital Prints produced from Acrylic Plates. 12 in the Series. Limited Editions, signed and numbered.
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10. Special Thanks...

This is always a risky task, for as hard as one tries it is inevitable that a name has been omitted, resulting in someone being ignored. If your name is missing, please forgive me. The Medical Team that kept me alive: Dr. Bill Johnson, Dr. Sid Davis, Dr. Ian Haines, Dr. Christopher Higgins, Helen Nodrum and the superb staff of Alfred and Cabrini Hospital. Yuri Chlebnikowski for graphic design. Jennifer Mackowiak for making the frames. Bernard Newsome for his constant intellectual challenges and his wonderful print making. Mary Newsome for encouragement. Gail Thomas for assisting with PR. Diana Gold from Gallery 101 for advice. Dougie from Delshan Gallery for advice. Bill Spring for managing the accounts. Simon and Alex Chlebnikowski & Vintage Direct for their support. Nicks Wine Merchants team for the wines. Graham Lind, Ozanam Enterprises for the boards. Shaun Ahern for typing the script. Paul Magin Curator and Stacie Bobele Assistant Curator together with the staff of Glen Eira Council Gallery. Dr. Malcolm Simons for his challenging debates and Dr. Andras Pellionisz for his contribution to Fractals story. There have also been many detractors of my work and I thank them for creating an even 'higher mountain to climb!' My wife, Ann has been a wonderful supporter – *Thanks Snoopy!*