



DIRECTED CHAOS

"I've always had a strong desire to create something beautiful from nothing," comments the artist Randy Johnson; "There's always a joyous surprise waiting for me when I complete a new work," he adds.

Upon a recent discovery of the scientific discipline, the chaos theory, Johnson was particularly attracted to the idea of the similarities of visual forms at different scales beyond the mathematically derived fractal art generated by computers. For example, the branching of the veins in a tree's leaf is similar to the branching form of its trunk; the meandering twists and turns of a small creek resembles the branching, twisting forms of rivers as seen from space. Captivated, Johnson applied these ideas to the mixing of paint and discovered that basically, the mixing of viscous liquids is all about folding, stretching and transporting in different directions, and at various speeds. Armed with this newfound knowledge base, Johnson began applying this to large-field chaotic acrylic paintings; using bold palettes, but no traditional art tools such as brushes, airbrushes and palette knives. Dramatically changing the scale revealed, for Johnson, new worlds of textures, shapes and motion.

His work, mostly large and spanning up to eight feet wide, combines his deep experience of colour, composition and state-of-the-art digital technology; defining a signature style that Johnson refers to as 'Directed Chaos'. From a distance, the artworks appear as splashes of wild colour reminiscent of tropical wildlife and coral seas; yet up close, the impossibly smooth blends of colour bears more depth and detail. Although the works are intangible, shapes and forms appear that elicit in the viewer a sense of recognition. While the images are clearly ethereal, they also reveal stunningly familiar patterns that mimic the underlying structural essence of life forms and natural phenomena.

"I've never experienced anything like this," quips Johnson, "from creating the original layers of paint, to the close-up work on the computer monitor, to seeing the final framed work on the wall...its all an adventure." **Text:** Architecture+; **images:** Randy Johnson