

Chaos and Order - Exhibition of recent drawings by Jim Birkett

Just a reminder of the description on the invitation to this exhibition:

Chaos complete confusion, utter disorder and entirely random motion and Order is a state in which everything is in its proper place, tidiness, a state of peace and harmony.

In looking at many of the drawings in this collection they come across to me as explosions of image, emotions and ideas.

Others are more straightforward and could be tributes to poetry and music.

While it is a role of the artist to sort out the interplay between chaos and order it should be noted that chaos develops out of order.

I did ask Jim where this series was coming from. His reaction was that he is inherently orderly and has to work at chaos.

So I would suggest that Jim is not a member of the religion founded by American Kerry Thornley, which centered on the idea that chaos is that all that there is, and disorder and order are illusions that are imposed on chaos.

Maybe Jim's sympathies lie more with Bob Dylan who once noted "I accept chaos, but I am not sure whether it accepts me".

Be that as it may.....

in science one of the main characteristics of chaos is its sensitivity to initial conditions, conditions usually in a state of order.

In a chaotic system, a tiny incident can lead to a major and unexpected long-term outcome and although extreme sensitivity to initial conditions alone does not necessarily lead to chaos, it is a very important feature.

Most chaos literature will quote the "butterfly effect", that is a butterfly flapping its wings in the Amazon can ultimately be the cause of, say, a cyclone in Australia.

Let us all hope that Jim has not succeeded too well in his efforts to develop chaos out of order.

And I am pleased to declare the exhibition open.