

Artist explores the sacred through fractal geometry



By Nate Smelle

Artist Daniel Schmidt's exhibition *Inner Worlds Outer Worlds* invites its audience to explore their own impressions of human consciousness while taking in the vibrant colors and dynamic fractal imagery currently decorating the walls at the Art Gallery of Bancroft. A collection of digitally created and enhanced imagery of fractal geometry printed on canvas, wood, paper, and vinyl, his work evokes the feeling of being part of something bigger than oneself.

Fractal geometry, often called sacred geometry, is the study of the underlying patterns, or fractals, that Schmidt describes as "endlessly repeating mathematical forms which can be found in everything from our DNA to the spiral arms of galaxies." These patterns are fundamental to the universe and are therefore deeply woven into the fabric of everything. These shapes can be achieved in a variety of ways, and using equipment such as a geometry compass can assist with this.

"In one sense everything is sacred because everything contains this sacred geometry," said Schmidt.

"But we don't live in this realization all of the time we live in a sort of separateness. It's like there's stepping stones to bring us to the source, the absolute or whatever you want to call it. To me anything that does that I consider to be sacred geometry."

In the centre of the gallery space Schmidt has set up a large television playing a Blu-ray disc of moving animations from his award-winning film *Inner Worlds Outer Worlds*. While making this film Schmidt said he found himself becoming more and more curious about the hidden forms and patterns existing in nature. Exploring fractals and sacred geometry for the last five years while making the film, Schmidt said he originally set out to try and make sense of it all. Now he says he understands even less than when he started out.

"It's a funny process because the more fractals I work with the more I see when I meditate as well as on a sleep, dream and breathe." Schmidt's film *Inner Worlds Outer Worlds* is available on Blu-ray disc for \$29.95 at the AGB, or for free online at www.innerworldsmovie.com. Because his work was created in the digital realm prints of his work can be reproduced from postcard size to Imax.

Sponsored by the Grail Springs wellness retreat and Mirrors Café and lounge the exhibition opened on Friday, April 3 to a packed house. Schmidt's art will remain on display at the art gallery of Bancroft until April 25. Next in the AGB's line-up is the annual Invitational Juried exhibition opening on Friday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m.