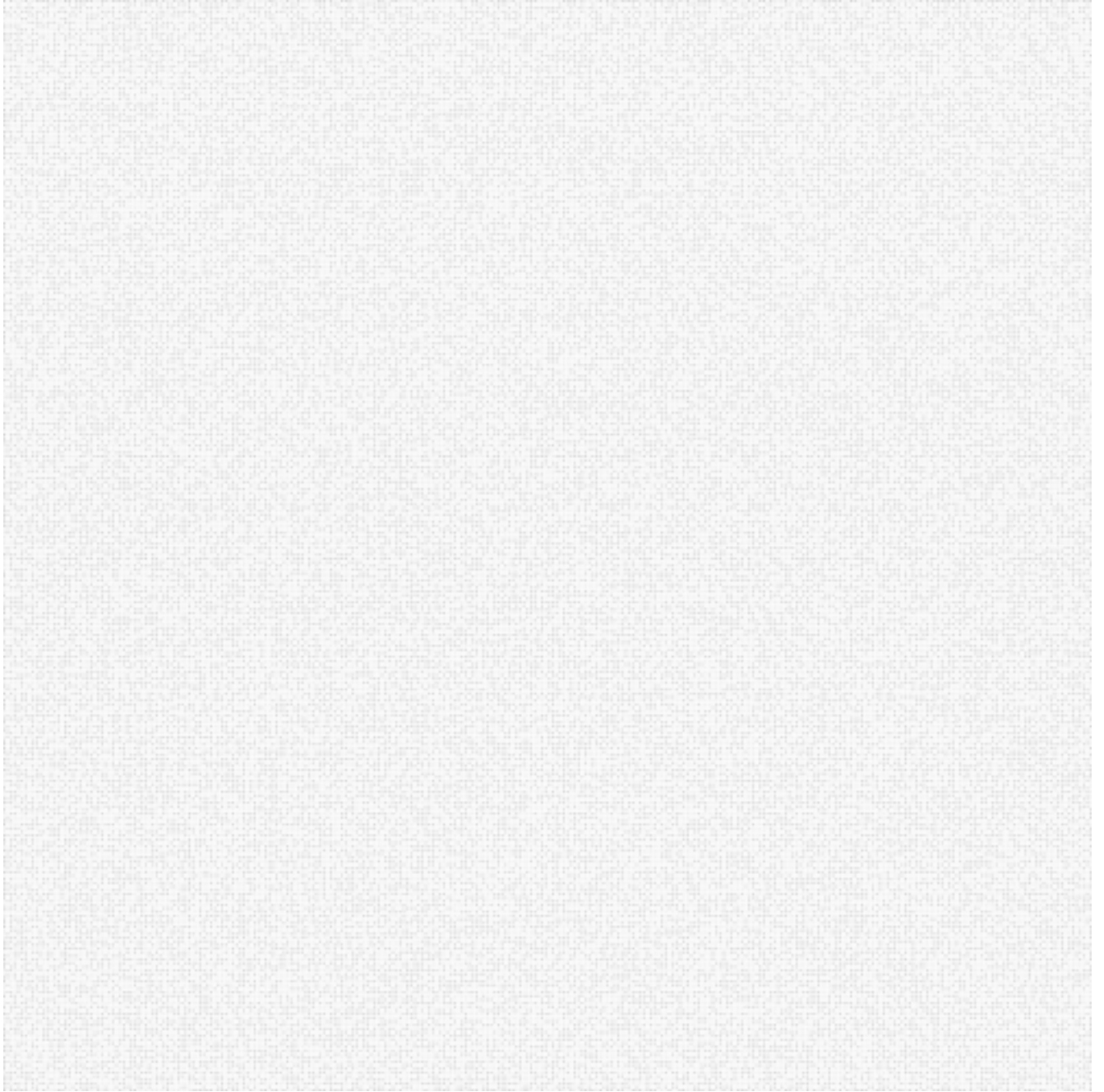


## Searching for God



quantum random number theory  
2009  
75 x 75 cm  
Giclée print

The 'quantum random number theory' image uses a random stream of data<sup>1</sup> to visualise and explore the idea of randomness as a representation of absolute purity; 90,000 black and white dots representing the random 1's and 0's of the source data arranged in a 300 x 300 grid.

Subsequent re-workings of this image explore how structure and complexity might arise from this random mist.

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We cannot see God so we look for God instead. We look for something that is invisible. In looking for signs of this invisibility we constantly ask 'what do we see?' and the answer is a continuous, never ending reflection of our hopes and beliefs. But these answers are never, of course, an image of God.

Realising that we cannot see God directly, we therefore look for the presence of God in the unknown, the invisible spaces that lie between the things that we do know and can comprehend. How can this be, that there are these spaces, existing yet unknowable? In the same way that we know and feel one moment passing into the next, as if life is a fluid, when we try to capture one of these moments, there is nothing there, not even a memory. In some way an impossibly small thing has escaped our attention, we can never grasp it, and yet all our thoughts are made up of these moments so we know them to be real.

Perhaps this is where God is, sleeping in-between the moments of time that we cannot directly perceive<sup>2</sup>, directing each moment with an omnipresence of every other possible moment. What happens inside the smallest possible period of time, or the smallest length, is unknowable by definition, and therefore equals God.

When a random quantum event is measured in a scientific experiment as a 1 or a 0, is that God making the decision, knowing that one single mistake in choosing a 1 or a 0 out of place might unbalance the whole universe and so bring us crashing down into irretrievable chaos? Perhaps what happens in our lives is actually founded on randomness, in which case there is no God, there is just the unknowable, and everything that happens is just a simple statement of existence, without any need for God. Perhaps this randomness is God, a free will so fundamentally free that it has no absolute stability or substance, constantly changing without any memory of what is gone and no (need for) foresight of what is to become, just a constant becoming?

Our lives depend upon the ability to choose, to have free will. In a mechanical world<sup>3</sup> there would be no free will because everything is determinable (even though the totality of the mechanism perhaps remains forever unknowable to us). The alternative to the clockwork universe is one built upon randomness<sup>4</sup>, but where does this randomness come from? What is the cause of this randomness? When we contemplate the random mist that lies beneath the surface of our world, are we simply looking into an illusion, an emergent property of our world - or is it a reflection of something more fundamental, something beyond what we can see, something God-like?

