

New Generations @ Digital Art Month



Variations on the Square

Stuart Smith

My video, "Variations on the Square," is a collection of algorithmically generated images produced by an app I wrote in the Matlab language. Each image begins with a relatively simple source image which is then modified by a programmed sequence of transformations. The transformations are mathematical, but the goal is to have the final image not look "mathematical." Since all of the transformation operations take one or more random inputs the exact character of the final image cannot be known in advance. It typically requires a run of a couple of dozen images to yield a single good one worthy of display. The choice of the final image is made by a human, i.e., me.

I'm professor emeritus in the departments of Music and Computer Science at the University of Massachusetts Lowell (USA). I've been using the computer to make art and music since 1963, when I encountered Max Mathews' recording "Music from Mathematics" and Lejaren Hiller's book "Computer Music." My first work was a Fortran program that generated musical rounds (e.g., pieces like "Three Blind Mice"). As computer technology improved I expanded the types of artistic projects I could pursue. Recently I have been collaborating with artist Dr. Anna Ursyn, Head of Digital Media at the University of Northern Colorado. We have created a number of interactive web pages, videos, and multimedia presentations.

https://medium.com/@stuartsmith_5327

Open Mon to Fri 11AM - 4PM, Jan 12th - 26th. To find out more: <https://lcbdepot.co.uk/exhibitions/>

