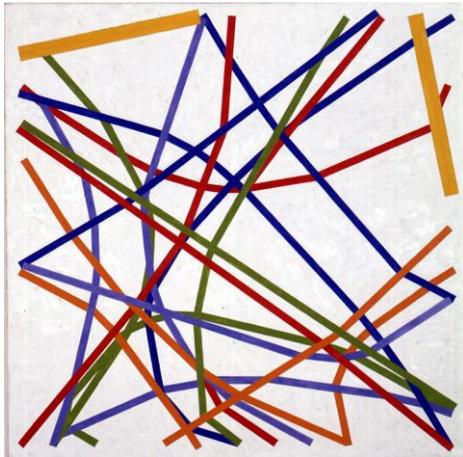


Automatic Art

human and machine processes that make art

PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition : continues through to 10 September 2014
 GV Art gallery, London, 49 Chiltern Street, Marylebone, London W1U 6LY



Kenneth Martin, *Chance, Order, Change 21...Divergences 1*, 1982, oil on canvas, 91.4 x 91.4 © The Estate of the Artist, courtesy Annely Juda Fine Art, London

Artists include: Stephen Bell, boredomresearch, Dominic Boreham, Paul Brown, John Carter, Sean Clark, Trevor Clarke, Harold Cohen, Nathan Cohen, Ernest Edmonds, Julie Freeman, Anthony Hill, Malcolm Hughes, Colin Jones, Michael Kidner, William Latham, Peter Lowe, Kenneth Martin, Mary Martin, Terry Pope, Stephen Scrivener, Jean Spencer, Steve Sproates, Jeffrey Steele and Susan Tebby

"The technique of any art consists of a language and a logic"
 Paul Cézanne

An artist's "language" consists of many elements - colours, lines, shapes. The "logic" is the set of rules developed by the artist for selecting those elements and putting them together.

Over the last 50 years British artists have been pioneering Systems Art and Computer Art. These artists create artworks using personal rules or by writing computer programs that generate visual forms. The artworks in the exhibition range

from paintings and drawings to computer-based displays that evolve dynamically through time. All of them use some form of organised static or changing structure. The art may be abstract but it is full of life.

Key points

- The exhibition provides a survey of 50 years of British art that uses the structures of language and logic, including members of the Systems Group from the 1970s and current Computer Artists.
- The artists showing in the exhibition use rules or algorithms in making their artworks.
- The exhibition has strong connections with De Montfort University, previously Leicester Polytechnic, where many of the artists have worked or studied.

By 1969 Ernest Edmonds (curator of the show) was already writing computer programs as part of his art, first using the single mainframe computer that Leicester Polytechnic owned at that time.

The Arts Council exhibition '*Systems*' toured in 1972-3 and included Jeffrey Steele, Malcolm Hughes, Peter Lowe and Michael Kidner. None of these artists wrote computer programs, but their art was a strong influence on those who did. Also in the early 1970s Harold Cohen, already a highly respected artist, started his lifelong quest of writing and developing his computer program 'Aaron' that automatically produced drawings and paintings, most recently in partnership with the artist himself.

In 1973 Malcolm Hughes established the Experimental Department at the Slade, where he installed a computer. Artists who studied there are in this exhibition: Paul Brown, Stephen Bell, Stephen Scrivener and Dominic Boreham. Several of these went on to Leicester Polytechnic, now De Montfort University (DMU), where Systems Artists, Colin Jones and Susan Tebby taught, as did Ernest Edmonds.

The Systems and the Computer artists overlap and have many connections - writing computer programs is an extension of the Systems approach and one that provides new opportunities afforded by the

technology itself. Paul Brown, William Latham and the collaboration 'boredomresearch' are inspired by models of growth in natural forms. Sean Clark and Ernest Edmonds explore time-based dynamic and interactive forms.

- Ends -

For press enquiries and images contact:

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Ernest Edmonds (curator) Ernest Edmonds' art explores colour, time and interaction. He has exhibited computer-based and systems art internationally since 1970. He is Professor of Computation and Creative Media at the University of Technology, Sydney Professor of Computational Art at De Montfort University, Leicester, and editor in chief of the Leonardo Journal's Transactions.

www.ernestedmonds.com

GV Art gallery, London fosters meaningful dialogues between contemporary artists and scientists. As developments in art, science and technology are paving the way for new aesthetic sensibilities, GV Art aspires to catalyse the exchange of ideas on the developments and intersections between art and science.

De Montfort University Based in Leicester, in the heart of England, it is a university that boosts the UK economy by £389 million each year and creates more than 12,000 jobs. From 1969, then as Leicester Polytechnic, it pioneered computer-based art and continues the tradition in its Institute of Creative Technologies.

www.dmu.ac.uk

VISITOR INFORMATION

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GALLERY OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 11am - 6pm
Saturdays 11am - 4pm
or by appointment.
Admission Free

