

# Alex May– Algorithmic Photography

## 20 Print Exhibition

In this exhibition, Internationally renowned digital artist Alex May presents *Algorithmic Photography*, a technique he created and pioneered to capture data and reveal hidden or unnoticed information in his own moving image artworks using bespoke computer vision algorithms that he has coded in C++.

Through a multistage process encompassing video capture, motion detection, and colour space conversion, his abstracted compound compositions emerge, exploring subjects as diverse as ant swarms and starling murmurations, to wind farms and New York taxis. Central to May's practice is an attempt to understand time and memory through digital processes.

*Algorithmic Photography* brings together twenty images for the first time that provide a broad contextualising overview of the techniques and subject matter May has been engaging with over the past eight years in his Algorithmic Photography practice.

His wider artistic practice questions how our individual and collective experiences of time, and formation of memories and cultural record, are mediated, expanded, and directed by contemporary technologies. The work forges creative links between art, science, and technology through a wide range of digital new media, including virtual and augmented reality, photogrammetry, photography, interactive robotic artworks, video projection mapping, generative works, performance, and video and sound art.

*A Computer Arts Society Exhibition*

*Supported by BCS The Chartered Institute for IT*

[www.computer-arts-society.com](http://www.computer-arts-society.com)

### **About the Computer Arts Society**

The Computer Arts Society (CAS) was founded in 1968 to promote the understanding of the role of digital and electronic media in the arts. As it has developed over time, a key aim has become to ensure that the long history of the computer arts is recognised by contemporary artists, technologists, audiences and collectors. The society currently organises talks, events, exhibitions and performances, and uses social media to highlight the ways that digital and electronic technologies can be of value to the creative sector. After celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2018, CAS renewed its commitment to promoting the use of digital media in contemporary practice and to providing a forum for diverse audiences of all ages and backgrounds to meet and exchange ideas. The Computer Arts Society is a specialist group of the BCS Chartered Institute for IT and works closely with The Computer Arts Archive Community Interest Company.

## Artworks

1. The ubiquitous yellow trails of taxi cabs in New York City, NY, USA (2019)
2. Sailing past a wind turbine in the Rampion Wind Farm off the coast of Brighton, UK (2018)
3. Taking the train from Brighton to London. A red Gatwick Express train passes by. UK (2018)
4. Birds and a drone pass a family posing for a photo in front of Brighton Pavilion, UK (2018)
5. Ants trace paths around a pond in the Mediterranean biome at Eden Project, Cornwall, UK (2018)
6. Boaters on the River Cherwell, Oxford get stuck in the trees. UK (2018)
7. A couple discretely make out while the boats pass by on Retiro Park Lake, Madrid, Spain (2018)
8. Arriving in Vienna late at night. The view through the front window of the taxi. Austria (2018)
9. Seagulls and tourists navigate around St. Mark's Square in Venice, Italy (2018)
10. Being passed by a vaporetto on the waters of Venice Lagoon, Italy (2018)
11. Cold, darkly clothed tourists cross St. Mark's Square in Venice, Italy (2018)
12. Birds flying to roost as the sun sets over Charleston Farm, UK (2019)
13. Tourists run up the 'Rocky Steps' outside the Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA, USA 92018)
14. Seagulls and tourists around Brighton Palace Pier, Brighton UK (2018)
15. Falling leaves floating in front of a building reflected in a canal, Amsterdam, Netherlands (2018)
16. Murmuration of starlings coming in to nest under the boardwalk of Brighton Marina, UK (2018)
17. Koi carp in the hotel garden pool, Guangzhou, China (2018)
18. Small fish in the sea at Vouliagmeni Beach, Greece (2018)
19. People leaving the El Camino Pilgrim Mass, Santiago de Compostela, Spain (2018)
20. Pigeons search for food on the café paths at Athens Archaeological Museum, Greece (2018)



More information available on the Computer Arts Society website.

[www.computer-arts-society.com/exhibitions/alex-may.html](http://www.computer-arts-society.com/exhibitions/alex-may.html)