

Class 36: Randomized Images

Held: Friday, April 6, 2007

Summary: Today we consider one potentially interesting application of script-fu: The use of script-fu and Scheme's random procedure to produce unpredictable works.

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: Randomized Drawing.
- Reading: Randomized Drawing.

Due

- Exam 2

Notes:

- EC for participating in Hoofin' It.

Overview:

- Randomized Drawing - Some Theory.
- Randomized Drawing - Some Practice.
- Lab.

Randomized Images - The Theory

- Non-mainstream art philosophy: The images that come from random processes (or from nature) can be as interesting as the images that come from actively engaged artists.
- One important movement: Dada. (Early 20th century; also a reaction to facism and industrialization and ...)
- Disclaimer: After creation by random processes, some filtering of good from bad still happens.
- Modernized suggestion:
 - Randomized processes can provide inspiration
 - The ability to constrain some aspects of the process can provide a new mechanism for creation.
- Detour: Genetic algorithms
 - Algorithms generate images
 - Different parameters create different images
 - Different algorithms create different images
 - Apply natural selection:
 - Evaluate the "fitness" of various images
 - Combine code, using a model in which more fit images are more likely to participate in

combinations

- Often done in Scheme
- Large scale genetic art - Electric Sheep (Google it)

Randomized Images - Practice

- Many of the procedures we've written or used have numeric parameters.
- Those parameters can be generated "randomly".
- Many of the procedures we've written take one of a restricted number of inputs (e.g., there are only so many brushes).
- Those inputs can also be selected "randomly".

Lab

- Do the lab.

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