



Abstract "Paintings" Created Entirely By a Computer

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Perhaps in the strictest sense, these abstract pieces by artist Siebren Versteeg aren't paintings (or maybe in any sense they are not really paintings). However, they do say quite a bit about painting and creativity. Versteeg created code that utilizes a complex set of algorithms to create these pieces. The work is then often printed on to paper or canvas. Versteeg observes patterns, tendencies, styles in abstract expressionist painting and uses these as the basis for the code that create these "paintings". His programmed algorithms work with variable qualities such as viscosity, color, drips, and so on. The program then "decides" how to use and combine these variable in several layers to create a complete composition. In a way, the art is in the code Versteeg creates – the paintings merely a visual manifestation of that code.

This series of paintings is only his latest comment on contemporary image production and distribution—an issue that has concerned Versteeg's work for much of his career. In previous works, Versteeg has programmed machines that display world news headlines in the Coca-Cola slogan, sketch random Google Image results for "Satan," and generate an all-consuming digital American flag. In regards to digital art, Versteeg states, "Digital art doesn't have any implicit form. Á
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