

bitforms gallery

Daniel Rozin *Descent With Modification*

May 13 – July 3, 2015

bitforms gallery, 131 Allen Street, New York NY 10002

Reception: Wednesday, May 27, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Gallery Hours: Wed – Sat, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Sun 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Extended Hours May 13-17: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Artist Talk: Sat, May 30, 4:00 PM

bitforms gallery is pleased to announce a solo exhibition with Israeli-American artist Daniel Rozin. “Descent With Modification” marks his first display of interactive sculpture at the Lower East Side location, and his seventh solo exhibition at bitforms gallery, since 2002. Merging the geometric with the participatory, Rozin’s installations have long been celebrated for their kinetic and interactive properties. Grounded in gestures of the body, the mirror is a central theme of Rozin’s practice. In his art, surface transformation becomes a means to explore animated behavior, representation, and illusion.

The exhibition features six installations that are shaped by Darwin’s breakthrough writings on evolutionary biology, particularly “On The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection” from 1859. Marked by a new visual emphasis on the mechanism of descent with modification, Rozin’s works are algorithmically based on the randomness of genetic drift. The pieces also use humor as they synthesize notions of the wild with image complexity, pattern, and dynamic behavior. As a group, they further Rozin’s longstanding investigation of modernist principles, and probe the terrain of artificial life.

Central to the exhibit are four software art installations that Rozin developed over a period of five years. In these works, programmed “evolutionary pressure” pushes the artworks to resemble the viewer’s mirrored image. Engaging the viewer with interactive response, each piece positions the site of the audience differently, and varies the formal properties of line, luminosity, and tempo, as screen-based pictures are built improvisationally.

The largest work in the exhibition, *Penguins Mirror* is an installation scattered on the floor and comprised of 450 motorized stuffed animals. Reductive in palette, yet baroque in behavior, it performs an absurdly homogeneous system of movement. Playing with the compositional possibilities of black and white, each penguin turns from side to side and responds to the presence of an audience. As they perform, the penguins’ collective intelligence is puzzling, yet somehow familiar, as the plush toys enact a precise choreography rooted in geometry.

PomPom Mirror is similarly anthropomorphic, and features a synchronized array of 928 spherical faux fur puffs. Organized into a three-dimensional grid of beige and black, the sculpture is controlled by hundreds of motors that build silhouettes of viewers using computer-vision. Along its surface, figures appear as fluffy animal-like representations within the picture plane, which is made permeable by a ‘push-pull’ forward and backward motion of meshed ‘pixels’. Ghostly traces fade and emerge, as the motorized composition hums in unified movement, seemingly alive and breathing as a body of its own.

The screens for this exhibition have been provided by PLANAR.

Selected current exhibitions and projects featuring Daniel Rozin

Jan 22 – May 3, 2015: “Pixelated: Sum of Its Pieces”, Children’s Museum of the Arts, New York, NY

Feb 13 – May 17, 2015: “Re: Purposed”, The Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL

Jun 12 – Aug 23, 2015: “Self Reflection”, The Clay Center, Charleston, WV

Aug 21 – Jan 10, 2016: “Response is the Medium”, Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, NC

Late 2015: Public commission, Taoyan International Airport, Taipei, Taiwan

Biography

New York-based artist Daniel Rozin (b. 1961, Jerusalem) creates interactive installations and sculptures that have the unique ability to change and respond to the presence of a viewer. His best known works respond in real time, and create live visual representations of the viewer's likeness, staging the audience as an active and creative part of his art projects. Since the late 1990s, his constructions have also investigated the psychological and optical cues inherent to image building, such as pattern and the materiality of the picture plane. Haystacks, woven fabric, stone mosaics, pixel grids, and particulate accumulations are among the diverse structures evoked by his installation work - which often features synchronous visual movement that is controlled through a combination of computer-vision and custom software.

Rozin's art is part of numerous public and private collections including Microsoft, the Chrysler Museum, Borusan Contemporary, AT&T, Fidelity Investments, the Fundación Privada Sorigué, the Thoma Art Foundation, the Taiwan Taoyuan international airport, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, and MUSAC Fundación, among others. Past exhibitions of his work include the Reina Sofia National Museum, Madrid; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; The Garage CCC, Moscow; ICC, Tokyo; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Milwaukee Art Museum; Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester; Taiwan National Museum of Fine Art, Taipei; Barbican Centre, London; CAM Raleigh, North Carolina; Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax; Bunkamura Museum of Art, Tokyo; Katonah Museum of Art, New York; ICA Portland, Maine; the Central Academy of Fine Arts Museums, Beijing; Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota; the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem; and the Sundance Film Festival.

The recipient of many awards, including the Prix Ars Electronica, I.D. Design Review, Chrysler Design Award, and the Rothschild Prize, Rozin is an associate arts professor at ITP in the Tisch School Of The Arts at New York University. He earned a BD at the Jerusalem Bezalel Academy of Art and Design and an MPS from NYU.

bitforms gallery was founded in 2001, and is devoted to emerging and established contemporary artists who embrace the visual discourse of new media culture.

For images and more information on the exhibit, please visit www.bitforms.com.

For publicity requests, please contact gallery director Laura Blereau, laura@bitforms.com or call (212) 366-6939.