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.