Yes, But Is It Art?

FIT 100

Computers can be programmed to produce graphics, but are these graphics art? Is Art a purely human construct? Can computers be creative?

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FIT 100 Food For Thought….

Think about all you have learned and know about how computers work:

- Can a computer be creative? Why or why not?
- Can a computer create art? Why or why not?
  - Discuss these two questions with the person next to you.
  - Write the answers for your group on a single sheet of paper with all your names on it.
  - Turn in at the end of class

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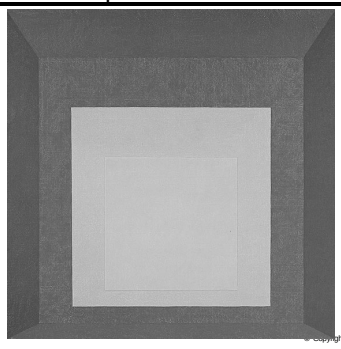
FIT 100 Did a Computer Do This?



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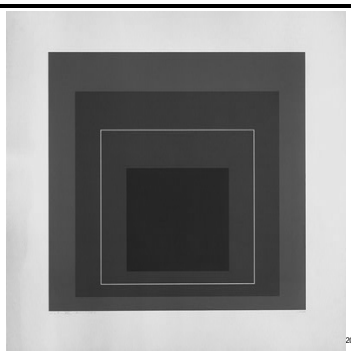
FIT 100 Or This? (2)



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FIT 100 Or This? (3)

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FIT 100 Or This? (4)

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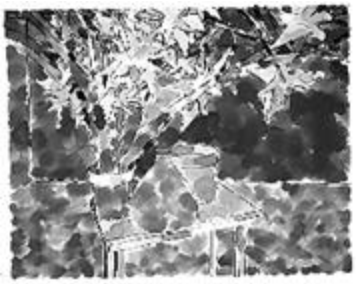
FIT 100 Or This? (5)



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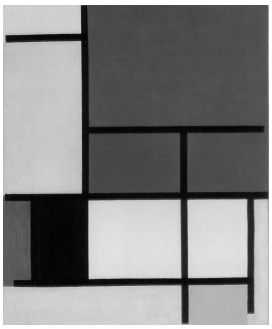
FIT 100 Or This? (6)



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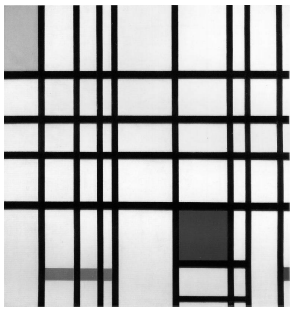
FIT 100 Or This? (7)



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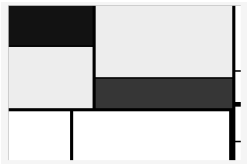
FIT 100 Or This? (8)



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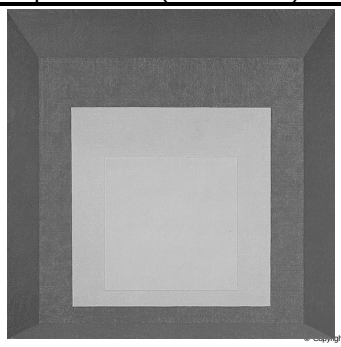
FIT 100 Joseph Albers (1888-1976) (1)



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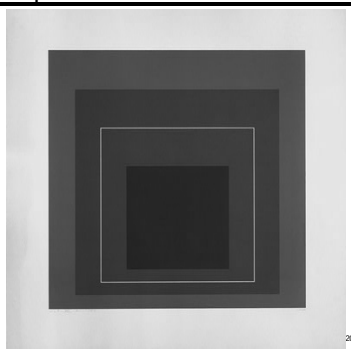
FIT 100 Joseph Albers (2)



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FIT 100 Joseph Albers (1888-1976)

Albers "was fascinated by the ambiguities of visual and spatial perception. This preoccupation is central to his famous Homage to the Squareseries begun in the 1950s and continuing until his death. In this series, color assumes the main role of producing deceptive and unpredictable effects, causing multiple readings of the same hue depending on what colors surround it. Albers did not mix colors, putting the colors on the painting right out of the tube. He forced his viewers into a changing and dynamic relationship with his work, rather than accepting one visual truth."

(http://sheldon.unl.edu/HTML/ARTIST/Albers_J/AA.html)

Also see http://www.sylloge.com/5k/entries/176/1.html

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FIT 100 Henri Matisse (3)

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FIT 100 Henri Matisse (1869-1954)

"The paper cutouts allow me to draw with color. For me, it is a simplification. Instead of drawing an outline and then filling in with color -- with one modifying the other -- I draw directly in color...It is not a starting point, it is a completion."

(http://www.gregkucera.com/matisse.htm)

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FIT 100 AARON (a robot) (4)

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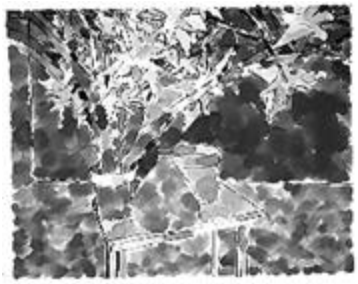
FIT 100 AARON (a robot) (5)



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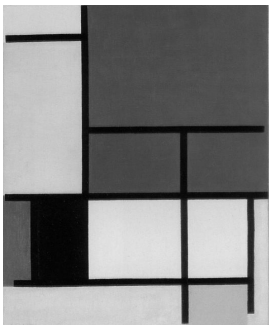
FIT 100 Piet Mondrian (6)



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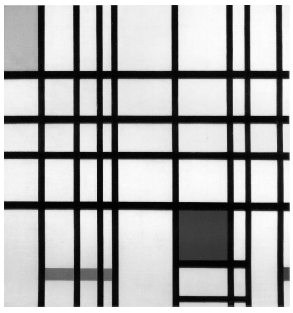
FIT 100 Piet Mondrian (7)



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FIT 100 A Java Applet:
Written by a guy named Ritchie (8)

http://www.netlabs.net/hp/richieb/java/Mondrian.htm

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FIT 100 Piet Mondrian (1872-1944)

"Mondrian has arrived at [the design] 'by feel,' and must have undergone agonies of trial and error. How often, we wonder, did he change the dimensions of [a rectangle], to bring it and the other elements into self-contained equilibrium? Strange as it may seem, Mondrian's exquisite sense for non-symmetrical balance is so specific that critics well acquainted with his work have no difficulty telling fakes from genuine pictures."

(Janson, "History of Art," p. 689)

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FIT 100 AARON, by Harold Cohen

http://www.kurzweilcyberart.com/aaron/

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FIT 100 Project 3

- Project 3 challenges you to explore the question of computation and creativity:
  - Are you creative? Is the computer?
- Part 1, Due Wednesday, November 14, noon
  - You will turn in a graphical program (.frm, .vbp, and .exe files) with the following elements:
    - A procedure with 2 or more parameters
    - A procedure that calls another procedure
    - A procedure that is called more than 5 times
    - A Do While Loop
    - A random number

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FIT 100 Project 3

- Part II, Due Wednesday, November 21, noon
- You will turn in a graphical program (.frm and .vbp files) that is visually pleasing (a.k.a Cool!):
  - It can be an extension of Part I or something completely new
  - If it is an extension, you should produce something that is a significant addition to Part I
  - It should use at least 3 of the 5 technical elements from Part I, if not all of them.

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FIT 100 Project 3

- Write a 2-3 paragraph discussion of your experience expressing creativity through computation. For example, you might compare your experience of visual creativity in writing this program with other sorts of creative activities and visual media (e.g., paint, pencil, photography) you are familiar with. Also consider the more general question of whether, in your opinion and based on your experience, computation could be a viable medium for artistic expression.

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FIT 100 An example

- Let's look at a simple "art" program

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FIT 100 What You Already Know …

- Or, at least you will after lab today and tomorrow..
- How to:
  - Write procedures
  - Write procedures that use parameters
  - Write a procedure that calls another procedure
  - Use iteration (Do-While Loop)
    - Your loop body can contain a procedure call that will be executed every time the loop runs
  - Use conditionals (If-Then-Else)

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FIT 100 What You Need to Learn

- How to:
  - Color
  - Make shapes (lines, boxes, rectangles, circles)
  - Color in shapes
  - Use a random number
  - Convey a sense of motion/animation

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