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Pattern as Process

Gail Joy Kenning

24HR Art | Northern Territory Centre for Contemporary Art

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"Pattern as process" is a work in progress and part of an ongoing project. It is also part of a hybrid research PhD being undertaken through the College of Fine Arts at University of New South Wales.

The research aims to examine pre-existing, physical pattern processes and, by manipulating patterns in a digital environment, explore how patterns evolve.

Nikos Salingaros[1], working with pattern and pattern languages, suggested that patterns arise out of the necessity to solve complex problems and are not 'created' but developed in response to the documentation of cause and effect. Salingaros states: "A pattern is a discovered solution that has been tested for some time and under varying conditions".

Working with such concepts, which suggest that patterns are not 'designed', this work explores conventional pattern-making techniques to reveal the processes inherent in pattern forms.

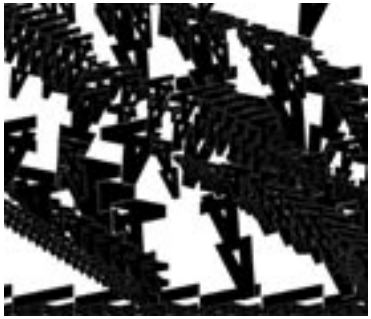
Crochet lace-making is a familiar pattern process that has existed for several hundred years. The pattern forms created (doilies) have not changed significantly over this period. This project immerses a variety of doily patterns in a digital environment and then, by applying algorithmic programming, attempts to evolve the patterns. The emergent hybrid (a mix of computer and human) aesthetic forms may suggest the possibility of completely new pattern forms.

Re-presentations of crochet lace patterns in computer code make the patterns available for digital manipulation – ie 'mating' or 'mutating' using algorithmic programming – with the potential to evolve into new more complex pattern forms, or to break down into chaos.

While some of the work I am currently undertaking involves collaborating with software programmers, the work shown in this exhibition is the result of my personal investigation of the pattern forms. The process involves a mixture of deconstructive and reconstructive techniques to understand the pattern forms. A variety of photographic, film and scanning techniques were used to deconstruct and reveal pattern processes (ie. the Red Round Series) and subsequently a variety of pattern forms were reconstructed in computer code (ie Ch Sc Dc Series).

While the Red Round Series visually resembles the doily pattern, the underlying digital structure of the image bears little relationship to the image appearing on the screen. However, the Ch Sc Dc Series, while abstracting the pattern form visually, has an underlying code structure that resembles the structure of the pattern form.

1 Salingaros, Nikos A. "The Structure of pattern. languages" http://www.math.utsa.edu/sphere/salingar.old/StructurePattern.html 15/4/2005 15.09



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Northern Territory Government

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