

Generative Art Project

AI + Art

How do you conceive of a piece when the data's expression is unknown?

"By wondering what the data will look like. I begin with curiosity. Then I mine it, creating images until I have a strong emotional response – it can be positive or disturbing, but the feeling must unsettle my expectations. The visual output has a certain randomness to it because the data is what it is, so I don't entirely control the outcome and that adds adventure to the art making process. The finished piece is a kind of wrestled collaboration between my intentions and the data's unpredictable expression of its reality."

Why do you choose the data you work with?

"I want to take something – data – that people are really comfortable with and then mess with it till it's alien. I want the work to feel familiar and alien. A synthesis of the antithesis is what I'm after. I don't think about making "art" I think about exploring what the data reveals about itself and us by extension."

What has surprised you most about working with data?

"Data is culturally neutral. When I allow the data to choose the colors, for example, it does it without preconceived notions of good or bad. Its neutrality allows us to escape from and expand our cultural bias. Technology began as just a tool, but it's become a partner in aesthetic exploration. I am also surprised by how painterly and sensual the data is and by its sentience."