

## Drawing Machines



## Automated Drawing

* Drawings made with mechanisms
* Repeatable?
* Controllable?
* Editionable?


Mike Lyon, Kansas City, MO

* Based on data?
* Or made to be as random as possible?


## This Talk

* Start with some images
* to whet your appetite
* Think about an automated drawing taxonomy
* Time Line: historical, computer age, and contemporary
* Not intended to be comprehensive
*. End with some examples of specific curricula


## Jean Tinguely - Switzerland, 1959


http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOo5uq2fH6g


## Eske Rex - Denmark (2011)

## Designguide.tv

## Tim Knowles - England, 2006



## Erik Brunvand - USA, 2013



## A Drawing Machines Taxonomy

| Image | Analog <br> (mechanical) | Digital <br> (electronic) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Random | Random marks with <br> direct control of the <br> drawing tool | Computer control, often <br> using environmental input |
| Deterministic | Mechanical drive of the <br> drawing tool | Computer programmed <br> control |

## A Drawing Machines Taxonomy

| Image Control | Analog <br> (mechanical) | Digital <br> (electronic) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Random | Tim Knowles <br> Eske Rex | Student from Trinity <br> Valley School |
| Deterministic | Erik Brunvand | Mike Lyons |

## A Time Line

* Historical: 18th and 19th centuries (automata)
* Early Modern: 1950’s (Metamatics)
* Computer Age: 1960’s - 1970's (printers/plotters)
* Contemporary: 1990's to Now (lots of artists!)


## Maillardet's Automaton, 1810



## Maillardet's Automaton, 1810



Jaquet-Droz Automata

1768-1774<br>The<br>Draughtsman



## Desmond Paul Henry: 1962



Hewer 16


## Leslie A. Grossman, 2012



## David Bowen, U Minn, 2003



## Example High School Curriculum

* Based on the Postal Project by Tim Knowles
* Katie Campbell Alta High School
Salt Lake City, UT



## Example High School Curriculum

* Overview:
* Advanced art students will participate in the Drawing Machines Experiment by creating a work of art that focuses on mark making in a non-traditional format, specifically where the marks are made without thought or planning.


## Example High School Curriculum

## * Objectives:

* Each student is given a postal box
* Each student chooses a drawing medium
* Each student puts drawing paper as well as their drawing medium inside the postal box
* Each student seals the postal box
* Each student is required to carry the postal box for a period of one day, from sun up to sun down, without opening the box

Katie Campbell, Alta High School, Salt Lake City, UT

## Example High School Curriculum



## Example High School Curriculum



Katie Campbell, Alta High School, Salt Lake City, UT

## Example High School Curriculum



## Example High School Curriculum



## High School Summer Workshop

* Trinity Valley School - Fort Worth, TX, July 2012
* Erik Brunvand and Ginger Alford
* 3-day workshop
* Computer Controlled Drawing Machines
* Arduino, foam core, masking tape



## High School Summer Workshop



Explore Arduino and components

Prototype with foam board


## High School Summer Workshop



## High School Summer Workshop



## High School Summer Workshop



## High School Summer Workshop



## Specific Workshop Projects

* A couple specific drawing machines that are easily prototyped
* Computer control with Arduino
* Introduces computing in an arts context
* Introduces art in a computing context
* Great for interdisciplinary groups
* Details in handout...
* also http://www.cs.utah.edu/~elb

The Dancing Arms Drawing Machine


## The Harmonograph



## From an Educator Workshop



## Procedure

Start with potentiometers (knobs)


## Procedure

Connect them to Arduino


## Procedure

Now connect two hobby servos


## Procedure

Cut some foam core


Procedure
Make linkages with nuts/bolts


## Procedure

Put a pen through the foam core


## Procedure

Tape the arms to the servos



## Procedure

## Upload some simple code to Arduino

```
#include <Servo.h> // include the Servo library
Servo servo1, servo2; // create objects for both servos
int servo1Pin = 10; // define where the servos are connected
int servo2Pin = 9; // choose any digital pins you like
int pot1Pin = A0; // analog pin for first pot
int pot2Pin = Al; // analog pin for second pot
int pot1val, pot2val; // variables for pot values
void setup() {
    servol.attach(servolPin); // attach the servo objects to digital pins
    servo2.attach(servo2Pin);
}
void loop() {
    potlVal = analogRead(pot1Pin); // read pot1 value
    pot2Val = analogRead(pot2Pin); // read pot2 value
    // map the values received on the analog inputs from the pots
    // to the servo's range of motion.
    potlVal = map(potlVal, 0, 1023, 0, 179);
    pot2Val = map(pot2Val, 0, 1023, 0, 179);
    // send the data to the servos
    servol.write(pot1val);
    servo2.write(pot2val);
    delay(30); // give the servos time to react...
}
```


## The Dancing Arms Drawing Machine



## Conclusions

* Drawing Machines are an intriguing way to combine art and engineering
* Long and interesting history
* Potential for collaboration
* Art students are introduced to engineering
* Engineering students are introduced to art


## Contact / Handouts

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* Handouts/slides - http://www.cs.utah.edu/~elb


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