

TASK 5 // ALGORITHMS IN ART

I was somewhat puzzled when seeing the different examples of algorithms in art. Not because I did not fully understand them, because as Sol Lewitt stated “Whether the viewer understands this information is incidental to the artist; he cannot force the understanding of all his viewers”, so it might be pretentious to try and fully understand the art piece.

Perhaps it was a bit hard for me to empathize with such art pieces through my computer, and the ones I preferred I think can trigger a higher level of empathy when seeing them in real life. I am referring to Mai Yamashita and Naoto Kobayashi “Infinite”, On Kawana’s “One Million Year” and Yannick Fournier’s works.

I was very fascinated by the works in general, especially by the artist’s “obsessions” and how they translated them into intellectual exercises and art works. It’s like if they opened their very personal sphere and opened it to the public, and everyone from the public can take a different information or a different aspect of it. I guess this is happening to every art piece, but I felt that the pieces in the presentation had something very personal to them.

I wonder if the artists are interested in the different perception that people have or if it’s not so relevant to them. I also wonder if the idea that they have at the beginning changes through time while working on the art piece, or if the obsessions becomes stronger or weaker, or if there is a change in perspective or perception in what they are doing. I think it’s both an intellectual exercise but also a very introspective exercise and I find this very fascinating.

I wouldn’t know if my daily life is characterized by algorithms, I would maybe define them as automatisms. Waking up, going to the bathroom, turning on the coffee machine, getting dressed. Something I do without thinking.

Through the presentation, I interpreted algorithms more as little obsessions that characterize my person and habits, for example always cutting food in half before eating it, eating only in white plates, putting my alarm only on odd numbers (5 not included), my little obsession for striped t-shirts as my personal uniform. Some obsessions are more temporary than others, but I still find them a very significant form of personal expression.