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Artists Lab IV
August 3, 2020
Task 7

Kinetic Sculpture

While Connect by Andreas Muxel and Kinetic Sculpture by Art & Com has some slight similarities, I feel like they couldn't possibly be more different. Connect seems to be very interaction-based, in which one actively moving ball makes contact with the other components of the piece, causing the balls to aggressively dance in a chaotic manner. It's this unplanned chaos that doesn't sit well with me, the lack of symmetry between the different balls makes me feel strange. This is very contrasted with Kinetic Sculpture, which seems to have a very different style of movement. Kinetic Sculpture moves like a wave and it's incredibly peaceful to watch. Each move is calculated and choreographed, the balls are like synchronized swimmers moving in unison. Their movement is beautiful to me and makes me feel tranquil.

Where things get interesting to me with Connect is the magnetic rod component. Rather than being perfectly choreographed like Kinetic Sculpture, the magnetic rod leaves the movement of the balls to chance, calculated by physics and chance. Unless one believes in predetermined fate, most of the steel balls in Connect are not choreographed in the slightest. While I can appreciate the unpredictability of this piece, watching it triggers my ADD in a very unsavory way. I much prefer the ballerina-like movement of the steel balls in Kinetic Sculpture, as each one of them moves exactly as intended by the creator. Humans have an innate ability to recognize patterns, in fact, we prefer them. I think this is part of what makes Kinetic Sculpture my preferred art piece.

I don't entirely understand how Epiphora by Yunchil Kim works, but it seems to be fairly self-organizing. How the pistons and the accompanying liquids interact seem to have symbiotic nature, and the piece moves with a certain flow. Interface I by Ralf Baecker also seems self-organizing in a way, where the movement of the strings is

dictated by “natural ambient radiation of the earth”. This reminds me of a bit of Connect by Andreas Muxel, in the sense that a natural factor such as magnetism or earth’s radiation levels dictates the choreography of the pieces movement. I do find Interface I to be more peaceful than Connect though as I appreciate that the strings are all on guided rails, unlike the truly chaotic nature of the steel balls in Connect.