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Artists Lab IV
August 12, 2020
Task 8

The Digital Image

I believe that in regards to the artist from presentation 1 who deserves to be mentioned for their work regarding the digital image is Myron Krueger for his early work Videoplace and Responsive Environment. Krueger's work surrounded centered around the filming of participants, and the subsequent processing and displaying of the participant's image after it's been and manipulated and modified into different expressions of color and form. This video could then be further processed and manipulated by participants, allowing their image to be further shaped and warped. This was a relatively new concept at the time, and Krueger seemed to be a pioneer in several respects. Upon further research, it appears that many claim that Krueger was the first to invent the concept of "multitouch", in which more than one finger can be used at a time to resize and manipulated an object in 2D space, a technology present on all smartphones and laptops today.

I believe that David Rokeby's 1995 Watch is the groundbreaking work that was noticeably missing from this presentation. David Rokeby's "Watch" features the installation of surveillance cameras that were placed around Toronto. With early real-time processing, different visualizations are shown. Through a medium of overlaid fog and blur, humans in the footage are either highlighted or hidden, depending on whether or not the footage is being processed to notice movement. The project was meant to demonstrate the theme of surveillance, as the resulting video is projected onto a wall in the installation space to be shown to passers-by.

As described by Rokeby, "The artwork is a live perceptual filter through which the audience watches. The system has embedded itself into the feedback-loop of

perception, transforming the process of looking. What is most interesting to me about this transformation of looking is that it invariably also involves a transformation of the apparent "meaning" of what is being watched" (Rokeby). Rokeby's "Watch" project existed in a similar vein to "Border Patrol", another project he did in collaboration with artist Paul Garrin that same year. Both projects evoke critical and unsettling sentiments regarding the mass installation of CCTV cameras in public places. This time, inspired by the De-Militarized Zone that was built between North Korea and South Korea. "Border Patrol" was also created to shed light on other national borders such as the United State's shared border with Mexico, which, a subject more relevant than ever today.