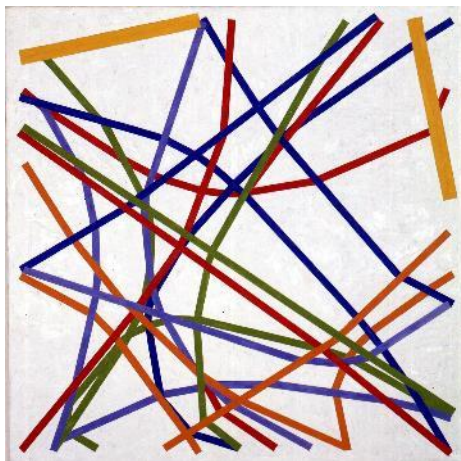# Automatic Art
human and machine processes that make art
PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition : 4 July until 26 July 2014
Private View : Thursday 4 July, 6pm – 9pm
GV Art gallery, London, 49 Chiltern Street, Marylebone, London W1U 6LY

Sponsored by De Montfort University

Kenneth Martin, *Chance, Order, Change 21...Divergences 1*, 1982, oil on canvas, 91.4 x 91.4 © The Estate of the Artist, courtesy Annely Juda Fine Art, London

Artists include: Dominic Boreham, boredomresearch, Stephen Bell, Paul Brown, Sean Clark, Harold Cohen, Ernest Edmonds, Michael Kidner, William Latham, Kenneth Martin, Stephen Scrivener and Susan Tebby

"*The technique of any art consists of a language and a logic*" Paul Cézanne

An artist's "language" consists of many elements - colours, lines, shapes. The "logic" is the set of rules developed by the artist for selecting those elements and putting them together.

Over the last 50 years British artists have been pioneering Systems Art and Computer Art. These artists create artworks using personal rules or by writing computer programs that generate visual forms. The artworks in the exhibition range from paintings and drawings to computer-based displays that evolve dynamically through time. All of them use some form of organized static or changing structure. The art may be abstract but it is full of life.

Key points
• The exhibition provides a survey of 50 years of British art that uses the structures of language and logic, including the Systems Group exhibition of 1972-3 and current Computer Artists.
• The artists showing in the exhibition use rules or algorithms in making their artworks.
• The exhibition has strong connections with De Montfort University, previously Leicester Polytechnic, where many of the artists have worked or studied.

By 1969 Ernest Edmonds (curator of the show) was already writing computer programs as part of his art, first using the single mainframe computer that Leicester Polytechnic owned at that time.

The Arts Council exhibition '*Systems*' toured in 1972-3 and included Steele, as well as Malcolm Hughes, Peter Lowe and Michael Kidner. None of these artists wrote computer programs, but their art was a strong influence on those who did. Also in the early 1970s Harold Cohen, already a highly respected artist, started his lifelong quest of writing and developing his computer program 'Aaron' that automatically produced drawings and paintings, most recently in partnership with the artist himself.

In 1973 Malcolm Hughes established the Experimental Department at the Slade, where he installed a computer. Artists who studied there are in this exhibition: Paul Brown, Stephen Bell, Stephen Scrivener and Dominic Boreham. Several of these went on to Leicester Polytechnic, now De Montfort University (DMU), where Systems Artists, Colin Jones and Susan Tebby taught, as did Ernest Edmonds.

The Systems and the Computer artists overlap and have many connections - writing computer programs is an extension of the Systems approach and one that provides new opportunities afforded by the

technology itself. Paul Brown, William Latham and the collaboration 'boredomresearch' are inspired by models of growth in natural forms. Sean Clark and Ernest Edmonds explore time-based dynamic and interactive forms.

– Ends –

For press enquiries and images contact:
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T: 020 8408 9800 | E: media@gvart.co.uk
This press release is available on line at

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Ernest Edmonds (curator) Ernest Edmonds' art explores colour, time and interaction. He has exhibited computer-based and systems art internationally since 1970. He is Professor of Computation and Creative Media at the University of Technology, Sydney and Professor of Computational Art at De Montfort University, Leicester.
www.ernestedmonds.com

GV Art gallery, London fosters meaningful dialogues between contemporary artists and scientists. As developments in art, science and technology are paving the way for new aesthetic sensibilities, GV Art aspires to catalyse the exchange of ideas on the developments and intersections between art and science.

De Montfort University Based in Leicester, in the heart of England, it is a university that boosts the UK economy by £389 million each year and creates more than 12,000 jobs. From 1969, then as Leicester Polytechnic, it pioneered computer-based art and continues the tradition in its Institute of Creative Technologies.
www.dmu.ac.uk

VISITOR INFORMATION
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GALLERY OPENING HOURS
Tuesday to Friday 11am – 6pm
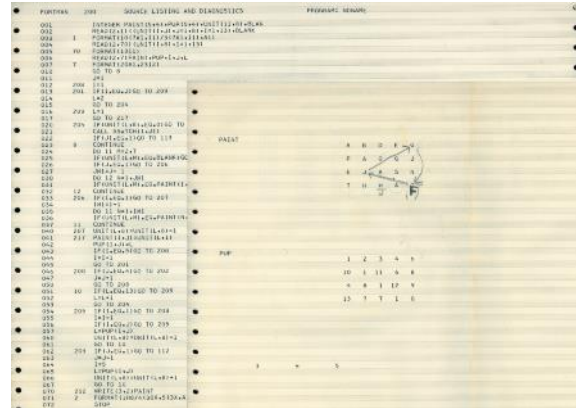Saturdays 11am – 4pm
or by appointment.
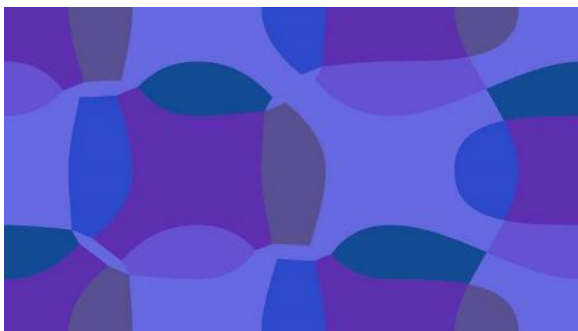Admission Free

Automatic Art

Group Show

Images

Nathan Cohen, *Criss-Cross*, 2014

Ernest Edmonds, *computer program*, 1968,
used to compose his relief "*Nineteen*"

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Ernest Edmonds, *Shaping Space*: interactive installation in the Light
Logic exhibition, Sire Gallery, Sheffield, Nov 2012-Feb 2013