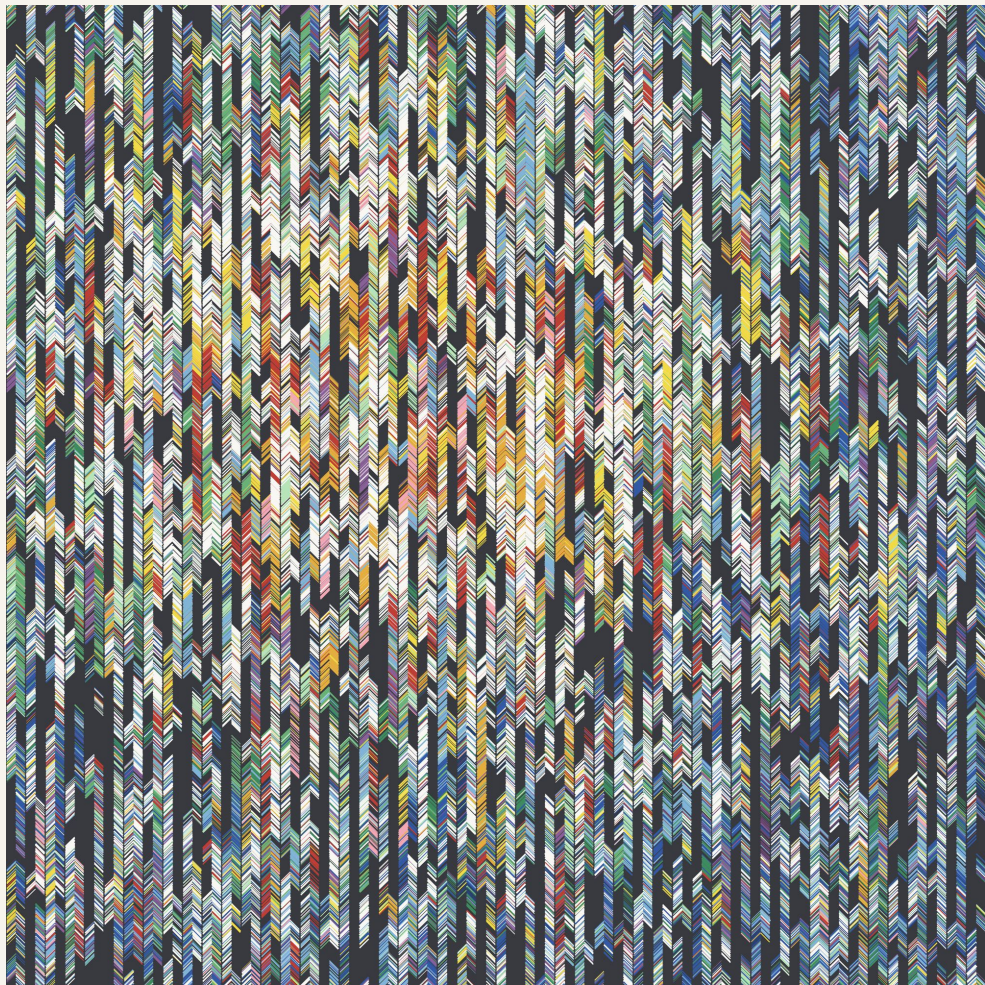
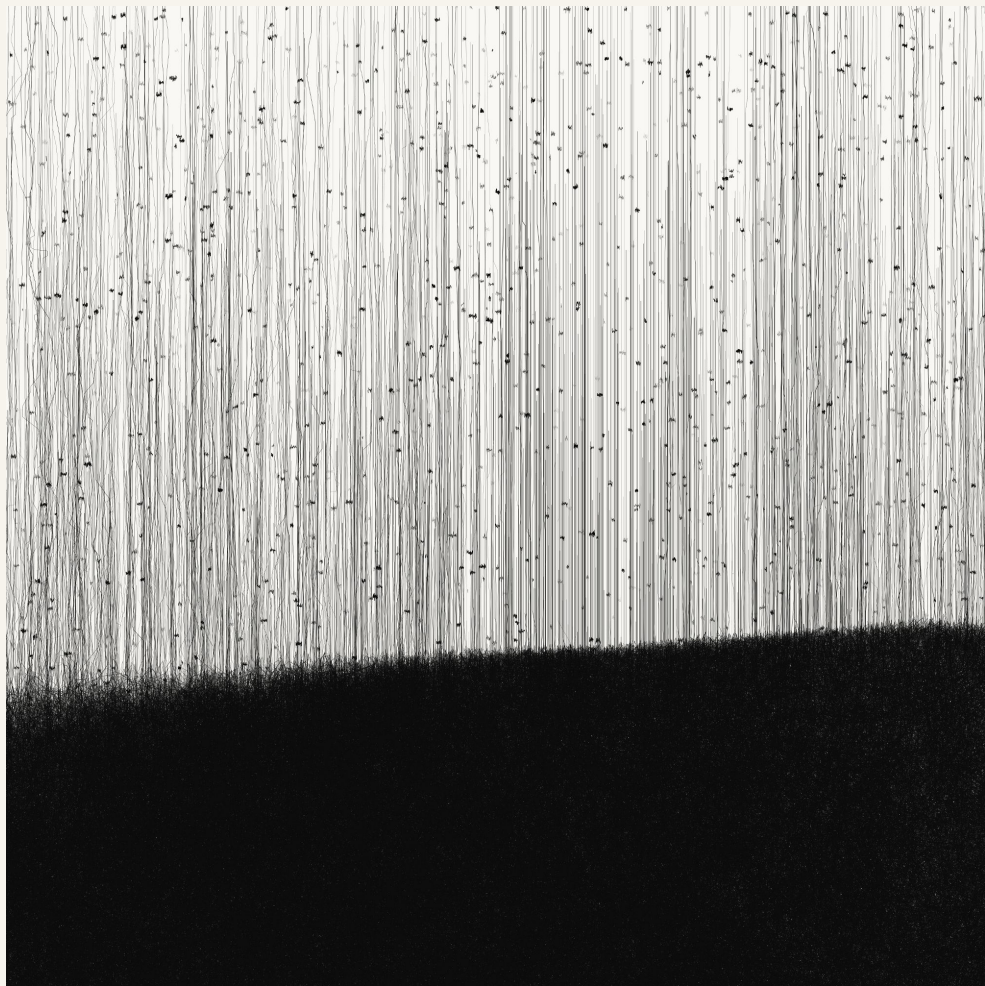


generative art  
is not about  
math

tyler hobbs









is  
generative art  
about

math?

is  
writing  
about

typewriters?

is  
painting  
about

paintbrushes?

is  
music  
about

pianos?



is  
generative art  
about

math?

is  
generative art  
about

computers?

computer science is no more  
about computers than astronomy  
is about telescopes

- edsger dijkstra

means

vs

goal

tool

vs

subject

math

vs

art

sure,  
you can write  
about

typewriters



sure,  
you can paint  
about

paintbrushes

sure,  
you can generate art  
about

math

just  
realize that it's  
quite

specific

but  
is math a  
required

tool?

are  
paintbrushes  
required for

painting?

sol lewitt's  
instructions were  
executed

manually

wall drawing #46:

vertical lines

not straight

not touching

covering the wall evenly



wall drawing #130:

grid and arcs  
from four corners

one drop of paint  
in the center  
every 5 minutes  
for three months

fold paper  
eight times  
dip in watercolor  
unfold

no real math  
used here

just instructions

math makes  
some instructions

possible

math makes  
some instructions

precise

wall drawing #130:

grid and arcs  
from four corners



sometimes  
i use math:

sometimes  
i use math:

basic algebra

sometimes  
i use math:

basic trigonometry

sometimes  
i use math:

basic geometry

sometimes  
i use math:

basic probability

are there  
interesting things  
in math

to focus on?

are there  
interesting things  
in watermelons

to focus on?



are there  
interesting things  
in colors

to focus on?

are there  
interesting things  
in relationships

to focus on?

are there  
interesting things  
in math

to focus on?

why has so much  
generative art  
been about

math?

why was so much  
painting  
about

the church?

access  
was  
limited

sponsorship  
was  
limited

it took a while  
to see

the bigger picture



generative art

had a similar tale

what is

the bigger picture?

is your life  
about

math?

is your life  
about

watermelons?

maybe so.

if not,  
don't feel compelled

so what  
is generative art

about?

so what  
is music

about?



so what  
is your life

about?

is there anything  
left for generative  
art to be

about?

it's art,  
you get

to pick

it's art,  
you have

to pick

what does it  
mean to make

generative art?

you're working  
with

instructions

are your  
instructions

precise?

are your  
instructions

ambiguous?



are your  
instructions

based around relationships?

are your  
instructions

repetitive?

are your  
instructions

executable by hand?

are your  
instructions

executable by machine?

are your  
instructions

executable by computer?

are they

good instructions?

patterns and  
processes tend  
to make

good instructions

patterns and  
processes tend  
to make

concise instructions



imagine writing  
instructions  
for

a van gogh painting

the instructions  
are not good

not as good  
as the painting

good instructions  
have just the right  
amount of

control

sometimes  
math is a tool  
to provide

control

but math is  
just

a tool

make

art

thanks



addendum:

everything is about  
math.