Creative Coding in the High Desert

Daniel Calderon, Lecturer and David Politzer, Associate Professor
UH School of Art in Marfa, TX
IART 6070-02
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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will create aesthetically and conceptually challenging iterative works of art using web-based computer coding platforms. This will be achieved through 1) daily coding lessons, 2) short, non-coding assignments that connect physical gestures with coding concepts, and 3) ample studio time to experiment. Students will gain an understanding Marfa's unique collision of communities including the artists, Mexican Americans, ranchers, and border patrol. Students will observe and identify the flora and fauna of the West Texas Desert. This will be achieved through field trips, readings, and discussion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Overcome the learning curve to creative coding
- Gain an understanding of how computer code is used to make digital media-based art
- Learn core structures of computer programming from the perspective of an artist
- Hands on practice writing and reading creative code sketches using Javascript and the p5.js library
- Explore concepts related to generative art, such as iteration, randomness, and interactivity
- Learn to think algorithmically
- Consider the moral implications of NFTs
- Become familiar with the West Texas landscape
- Understand the complex collision of cultures and histories in Marfa
- Continue to articulate your unique creative vision and voice
- Make connections between the concepts of generative art, the physical landscape and minimalist art traditions

CREATIVE CODING:

Lessons are demo-based, fun, and casual, and aimed at getting students comfortable with writing your own code. Sessions are usually about an hour long and each lesson is delivered at a steady pace with plenty of room for questions and comments where needed. After each lesson there is extra lab (CollabLab) time to further digest and discuss topics with your peers. In the mornings we'll code while sipping coffee. In the evenings we'll code under the stars.

This course was made possible through generous support from ArtBlocks.io

COURSE AT A GLANCE:

Week 1:	Sun – 6/12	Mon - 6/13	Tues -6/14	Wed - 6/15	Thurs - 6/16	Fri - 6/17	Sat - 6/18
Morning 9am-12pm	Travel	**Creative Coding** 9-10:30AM – Lecture/Demo 10:30-11:30 – CollabLab	**Field Trip:** Chihuahua Desert Research Institute	**Creative Coding** 9-10:30AM – Lecture/Demo 10:30-11:30 – CollabLab	**Field Trip:** 8:30 Dixon Water Foundation	**Creative Coding** 9-10:30AM – Lecture/Demo 10:30-11:30 – CollabLab	**Field Trip:** US/Mexico Border Drive
Afternoon 1pm-5pm	Travel	Individual Meetings + Discovery Assignment	Free Time	Individual Meetings + Discovery Assignment	Free Time	Discovery Assignment	**Field Trip:** US/Mexico Border Drive
Evening 6pm-8pm	Welcome/ Orientation	Dinner/Discussion: Generative Art Aesthetics (Molnar, Bailey, Monro, Greenberg)	**Creative Coding** 7-8:30PM – Lecture/Demo 8:30-9:30PM – CollabLab	Dinner/Discussion: Guest, Ann-Marie Nafziger	**Creative Coding** 7-8:30PM – Lecture/Demo 8:30-9:30PM – CollabLab	Dinner/Discussion: US/MX Border (Gramlich – Pew Research, US Customs website, Franco)	Free Time

Week 2:	Sun - 6/19	Mon - 6/20	Tues - 6/21	Wed - 6/22	Thurs – 6/23	Fri – 6/24	Sat – 6/25
Morning 9am-12pm	**Field Trip:** Downtown Marfa (Blackwell School, Ballroom, AB House, etc.)	**Creative Coding** 9-10:30AM – Lecture/Demo 10:30-11:30 – CollabLab	**Field Trip:** Judd Foundation	**Creative Coding** 9-10:30AM – Lecture/Demo 10:30-11:30 – CollabLab)	**Field Trip:** Marfa Maid Dairy	**Creative Coding** 9-10:30AM – Lecture/Demo 10:30-11:30 – CollabLab	**Field Trip:** Davis Mountains State Park
Afternoon 1pm-5pm	Free Time	Individual Meetings + Discovery Assignment	Free Time	Individual Meetings + Discovery Assignment	Free Time	Discovery Assignment	**Field Trip:** Davis Mountains State Park
Evening 6pm-8pm	**Field Trip:** Point of Rocks	Dinner/Discussion: NFTs (Monroe, Upson, various podcasts)	**Creative Coding** 7-8:30PM – Lecture/Demo 8:30-9:30PM – CollabLab	Dinner/Discussion: Donald Judd and his legacy (Judd, Franco, Draper)	**Creative Coding** 7-8:30PM – Lecture/Demo 8:30-9:30PM – CollabLab	Dinner/Discussion: Marfa Reflections	Free Time