Welcome to Creative Coding and Overview of Week 1

Video Transcript

JON McCORMACK:
Hello and welcome to creative coding.

Over the next six weeks we're going to introduce you to the basics of computer programming using creative examples.

You'll be using the Processing environment to develop your code. Processing is designed for creative use rather than being a highly technical system for software developers. This makes it both easy and fun to use. It's based on a simplified version of the Java programming language and its already used by thousands of creative coders all over the world.

Its becoming increasingly important to learn about programming, because computers are now involved in almost every aspect of modern life. Language literacy and numeracy have always been essential skills in education, and now we can add programming literacy to that list. Having even a basic understanding of programming opens a world of new creative possibilities, accessible using the universal language of code.

This is also a course about how to use computers creatively, so we'll be looking at how professional artists work creatively with computers, and asking some really interesting philosophical questions that are raised by creative coding.

So, let's get started with week 1.

This week, Mark will be looking at the history of creative coding and introducing some important artworks in this area. Then we'll download and install the Processing software and you'll create your first Processing program, or "sketch" as its called. You'll be using a simple program to draw your name and share it with others. We'll also be introducing some basic programming constructs and conventions and showing you how to draw different kinds of graphics on the screen.

Remember if you get stuck on anything and need help, post a comment in the relevant section of the course. But before posting check that no one else has already posted a similar question. Similarly, if you have an answer to a question being asked please post it in reply to that question. MOOCs work best when everyone contributes both questions or answers.

So if you're ready, let's begin.