Final Project Outline

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MAT 594X

Research Objective:
Evaluate how my personal understanding of “abstract art” has changed after turning Kandinsky’s analytical drawing process into a computer program. (reflection piece)

To discover whether the process of reconstructing Kandinsky’s analytical drawing using my expertise in the area of image processing and computer vision has improved myself in looking, precise observation, and the precise representation not of the external appearance of an object, but of constructive elements and of their logical construction (Teaching of drawing at the Bauhaus as Kandinsky explained).

Reflection on Analytical Drawing Program Outline:
I would like to answer the following questions to assess whether building an analytical drawing program has fulfilled my personal motivation of understanding “abstract art”.

- *Why did Kandinsky assign to still life as a pedagogical tool?*
- *Why is color so important in abstract art?*
- *Where are the lines drawn and what are the functions of line?*
- *How can we define composition and harmony of an image?*

Hypotheses that came from the initial approach

- I will have better understanding about how outwardly “silent” forms can be internally resonant with expression and be more confident in reading abstract art.

- I will have a more systematic view on the effects of color and chromatic temperature by developing this computer program.

- **Programmatically finding the tensions discovered in the structure and representing them by means of linear forms will aid myself in**
    - Looking, precise observation of constructive elements and the laws that govern the forces (=tensions) that can be discovered in given objects
    - Precise representation of logical construction of given objects

Development (what I am currently doing)

Building on observations of the literature *Kandinsky’s teaching at the Bauhaus*, prior research to:

- develop/ refine computational expression of analytical drawing
- modify program to support different still lifes and diverse expressions

Narrative Reflection Proposed Approach

Build on the hypotheses generated from the initial approach to evaluate the effects of both the pedagogical and expressive features of the program

How does the combination of the drawing instruction and computational models of analytical drawing improve my own ability to **understand the meaning** of abstract art in comparison to representational art (naturalism or realism)?

How does the activity of the simplification, analysis, and transformation of the graphic characteristics presented by the motif helps people **investigate the structural relationships** among objects?

How does the combination of form and color help artwork to **divorce from the representation of any identifiable objects we know from other experiences** and find an “inner nature”?

How does writing an analytical drawing computer program as a research tool support myself in **seeing both the evident and the hidden relationships among forms**, relationships parallel to underlying natural principles? (I.E. does the program enhance the creativity of myself?)

How does the impact of science in abstract art can be revisited with computer technology? How would Kandinsky have used the programming language?

Proposed Reflection Methods:
Write my observations and reflections on abstract art before and after I create artwork using the program.

Collection of in progress and finished artworks created by myself and other people.

Analysis of the both writings and artworks.

Find opportunities and limitations of using a computer program to create abstract art.

Get feedback from abstract artists (potentially).