

## GALERIA PALÁCIO

Andrés Stephanou  
*Growth and Decay*  
May 12 – July 1, 2018

Galeria Palácio is pleased to present *Growth and Decay*, Andrés Stephanou's second solo exhibition with the gallery. *Growth and Decay* presents a single work.

*Growth and Decay* (2017–18) simulates thousands of particles acting in collective behavior, existing under a random, unpredictable, and non-replicable sequence of events in quick succession. Affected by a never-ending and non-repetitive process of self-organization, the particles continually change their state, behaving collectively. Thousands of particles in which each particle acts independently but following the same set of behavior rules. Such a set of behavior rules guide each particle on how to respond to the relationship with its nearest neighbors (interaction, alignment, cohesion, and volume). *Growth and Decay* investigates notions of randomness and unpredictability, motion and change — the order coming from the chaos. The simulation confronts the dichotomies of life and death, growth and decay, natural and artificial.

Dealing with notions of space and nothingness, *Growth and Decay* explores the existential void expressed through the black color. The simulation employs the black color as a visual metaphor of the mind-bending concept of infinity. The blue color scheme presented in the visual language has a direct relation with the color psychology, as the perception of the blue color promotes relaxation and calmness in the human brain, producing tranquilizing qualities that contribute to the immersive and contemplative purpose of the visual experience. As a result, the blue color scheme dialogues with the audience's emotional sense and their resulting psychological state while contemplating the artwork.

*Growth and Decay* takes inspiration from processes of self-organization found in nature and society, in the broadest sense of representation, encompassing from micro to macro scales. The simulation is rich in possibilities of meaning and perception, proposing new ways to interpret the world, the everyday, the life itself, and the universe as a whole. At first glance, *Growth and Decay* exhibits a visual language that connotes something not experienced before, but at the same time, dialogues with the sense-memories of everything each individual had ever looked at. In other words, an strangely familiar visual language, but at the same time, curiously strange.

No two visual experiences of *Growth and Decay* are alike. Every simulation frame is a singular composition. Each hour, the simulation generates more than two hundred thousand distinct compositions, generating more than three thousand per minute. Computer-generated in real time, the current composition exhibited by the simulation exists for a brief instant of time and after that is discarded, not occurring again. *Growth and Decay* sheds light on two principles that rule nature and society phenomena: the impossibility of replicating events and the possibility of endless results.