

## GALERIA PALÁCIO

Andrés Stephanou  
*Collective Motion*  
May 4 – June 23, 2019

Galeria Palácio is pleased to present *Collective Motion*, Andrés Stephanou's third solo exhibition with the gallery. *Collective Motion* is dedicated to the presentation of a single work, with the same title of the exhibition. Known for his large-scale simulations, Andrés Stephanou's practice explores the fields of nature and society, investigating the concept and role of art in the digital age and the intersections of art and technology, connecting to multiple art historical and contemporary references. The artwork presented in this exhibition embodies Andrés Stephanou's research around minimalism, which in his practice, is obtained through the refinement of essential compositional elements. In other words, the simple expression of complex thought.

*Collective Motion* (2018–19) simulates a network of individual bodies acting in collective motion, under a random, unpredictable, and non-replicable sequence of events. The network of individual bodies constantly changes its formation and arrangement, performing a never-ending, non-repetitive, and unscheduled process of self-organization. A network of individual bodies in which each body acts independently but following the same set of behavior rules. Such a set of behavior rules guide each body on how to respond to the relationship with its nearest neighbors (interaction, alignment, cohesion, and volume).

*Collective Motion* takes inspiration in the nonlinearity, decentralization, and emergent behavior seen in self-organized pattern formations of the natural and social environment. In the broadest sense of representation, encompassing from micro to macro scales: complex systems with many constituents exhibiting decentralized behaviors. Based on multiple references at once, the visual experience explores possibilities of meaning, proposing new ways to interpret the world, the everyday, and life itself. Displayed on a big screen, *Collective Motion* results in a visual experience that invites the viewer to a long, immersive, and richness exercise of contemplation, followed by a free and personal interpretation of the visual matter presented. Exploring the viewer's sense of visual perception, the artwork investigates notions of motion and change.

Generative, the visual experience presents the ability to generate endless possibilities of self-organized pattern formations. Each hour, *Collective Motion* composes more than two hundred thousand distinct self-organized pattern formations; composing more than five million in twenty-four hours. Proposing notions of ephemerality and singularity, the current self-organized pattern formation exhibited by the artwork exists for an instant of time and after that is discarded, not occurring again. No two visual experiences of *Collective Motion* are alike, evidencing a circumstance that rules nature and society phenomena: the impossibility of replicating events. Computer-generated in real time, having no beginning, middle, and end, the artwork introduces a sense of temporality.