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* presents a single work.

Collective Motion (2018–19) simulates a set of particles acting in collective motion, existing under a random, unpredictable, and non-replicable sequence of events in quick succession. 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). Affected by a never-ending and non-repetitive process of self-organization, the particles dynamically interact with each other. Presenting an endless lifecycle and lifetime, the set of particles continually and slowly mutates and develops itself, incorporating three main changes during its existence: an increase in the ability of the set of particles to utilize resources and energy more effectively and efficiently; an increase in the ability of the set of particles to process and make sense of information; and an increase in the set of particles' knowledge on how to manage the process of self-organization as a result of learning and relearning from history. Exploring the viewer's sense of visual perception, the simulation investigates notions of motion, change, and mutability.

Collective Motion takes inspiration from processes of self-organization found in nature and society, in the broadest sense of representation, encompassing from micro to macro scales: complex systems with many constituents exhibiting decentralized behavior. Based on multiple references at once, the artwork is rich in possibilities of meaning and perception, 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 an immersive exercise of contemplation, followed by a free and personal interpretation of the visual language presented in the simulation.

Computer-generated in real time, having no beginning, middle, and end, *Collective Motion* explores the sense of temporality and passage of time. Every simulation frame is a singular composition. Algorithm-driven, the simulation can generate endless possibilities of compositions. Each hour, *Collective Motion* generates more than two hundred thousand distinct compositions, generating more than five million in twenty-four hours — not exhibiting the same composition twice. Generative, the artwork sheds light on two principles that rule nature and society: the impossibility of replicating events and the possibility of endless results.

Proposing notions of unpredictability, ephemerality, and singularity, the current composition exhibited by the simulation exists for a brief instant of time and after that is discarded, not occurring again; demonstrating the impossibility to predict what composition will emerge and when or even if any composition would emerge at all. Each composition is a result of a singular equation of circumstantial factors, algorithmically calculated and defined, which can't be replicated; each composition is an event

that occurs just once time, with a duration of a brief instant of time. No two visual experiences of *Collective Motion* are alike.