



Generative Art, SVG, and Celestine

GO TO: Github: [redcodefinal/raw_crystal_2020_talk](https://github.com/redcodefinal/raw_crystal_2020_talk)
DOCS: <https://docs.celestine.dev>



Who Am I?

I'm Ian.

- **Web Developer @ sol.vin**
Writing fun web apps and what-not
- **Generative Artist**
Crafting pretty pictures and stuff
- **Security Dabbler**
Making poorly written Chinese netcam software suffer
- **Celestine Author**
Shamelessly plugged throughout this whole talk

Who is this talk for?

- People who want to make art
- Web Developers
- Plotters, charters, and visualizers
- Dopamine addicts

What should you know?

- Basic to complete knowledge of Crystal/Ruby
- Basic Kemal/Sinatra usage
- Very Basic HTML/SVG (Celestine does all the heavy lifting don't worry!)

SVG

Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) is an Extensible Markup Language (XML)-based vector image format for two-dimensional graphics.

- (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scalable_Vector_Graphics)

```
<svg viewBox="0 0 200 200" width="200" height="200" xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg">
  <defs></defs>
  <path stroke="#5D737E" fill="#C0FDFB" stroke-width="3" transform="rotate(40 100 100) "
    d="M100,100c-50,100 -50,100 0,180c50,-100 50,-100 0,-180" /><text x="87" y="110" fill="#64B6AC"
    style="font-size:40px">C</text>
</svg>
```

What that means for us?

SVG can make pretty graphics, and do it with an HTML-like structure.



DID YOU KNOW?

SVG CAN....

- Make complicated animations?
- Use incredibly strong filters?
- Use CSS and JS in the file format itself?

Celestine

An SVG library for Crystal.

- Domain Specific Language for SVG
- All drawing can be done through **Celestine.draw**
- **Ctx** can draw simple elements to the canvas.
- Can be used with **IO** for on-demand server-side creation of assets
- Easy to use filters, masking, transforming and animation
 - Animation of:
 - Simple attributes
 - Motion along a path
 - Simple transform ops

```
require "kernal"
require "celestine"

get "/" do |env|
  Celestine.draw do |ctx|
    ctx.view_box = {x: 0, y: 0, w: 100, h: 100}

    ctx.rectangle do |rect|
      rect.x = 10
      rect.y = 20
      rect.width = rect.height = 30

      # Use CSS color names
      rect.fill = "red"
      # Use Hex Colors
      rect.stroke = "#000000"

      rect.stroke_width = 10
      rect.stroke_width_units = "px"

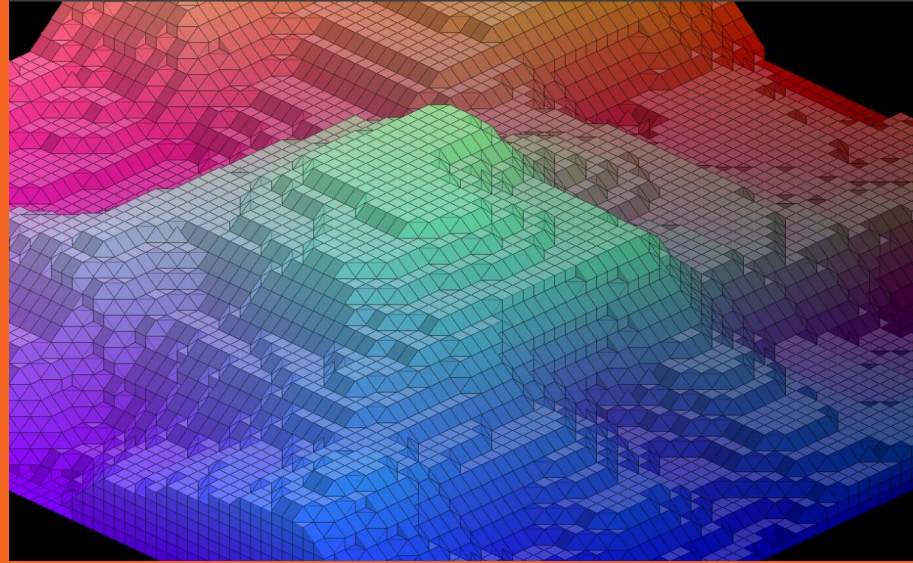
      # Always return
      rect
    end
  end
end

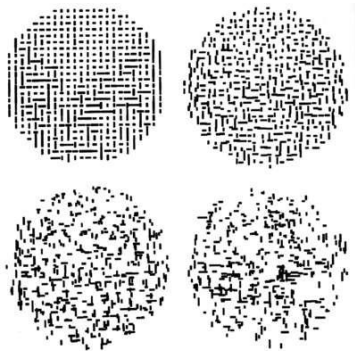
Kemal.config.port = ARGV.size == 0 ? 3000 :
  ARGV[0].to_i
Kemal.run
```



Generative Art Techniques

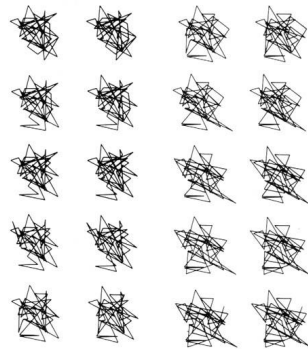
Or how to generate pretty
numbers





What we really need is a new breed of
artist-computer scientist.

- **Michael Noll**



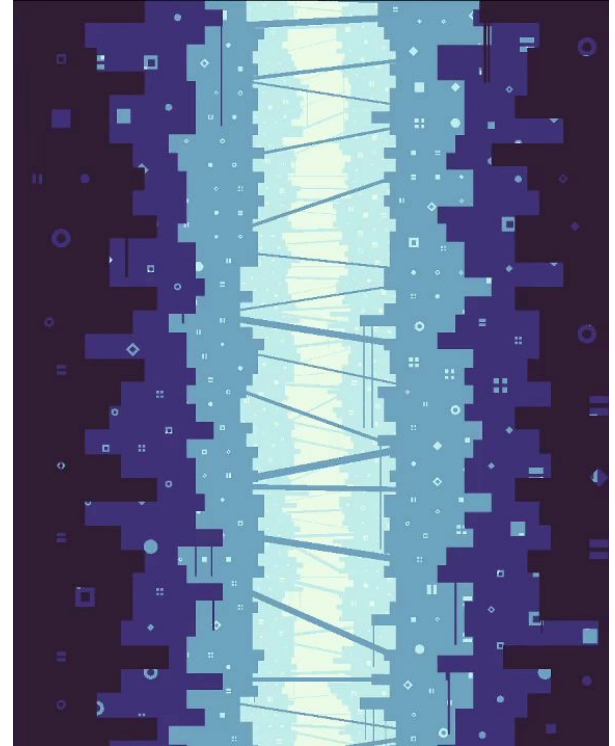
What is Generative Art

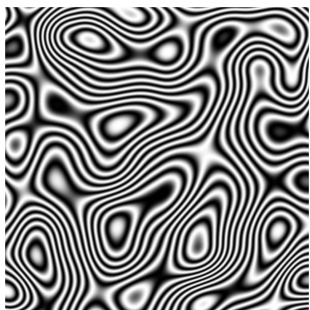
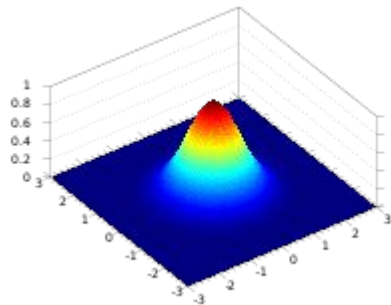
Generative art refers to art that in whole or in part has been created with the use of an autonomous system.

- (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generative_art)

What that means for us?

Programs can make art.





Random Numbers

1. PRNG (Pseudo-random)
 - a. Generates a random number with an even distribution
 - b. Can be seeded to "re-roll" the same random values
 - c. `Random.new` and `rand()`
 2. Gaussian/Normal Distribution
 - a. Generates random numbers but distributes them closer to the "center" mark of zero.
 3. Perlin Noise
 - a. Takes an (x), (x, y), (x, y, z) coordinate and returns a value from `Float32::Max` to `Float32::Min`.
 - b. Attempts to normally distribute, at least from my understanding of the rubygem I ported.
-

Using Perlin Noise

```
require "perlin_noise"

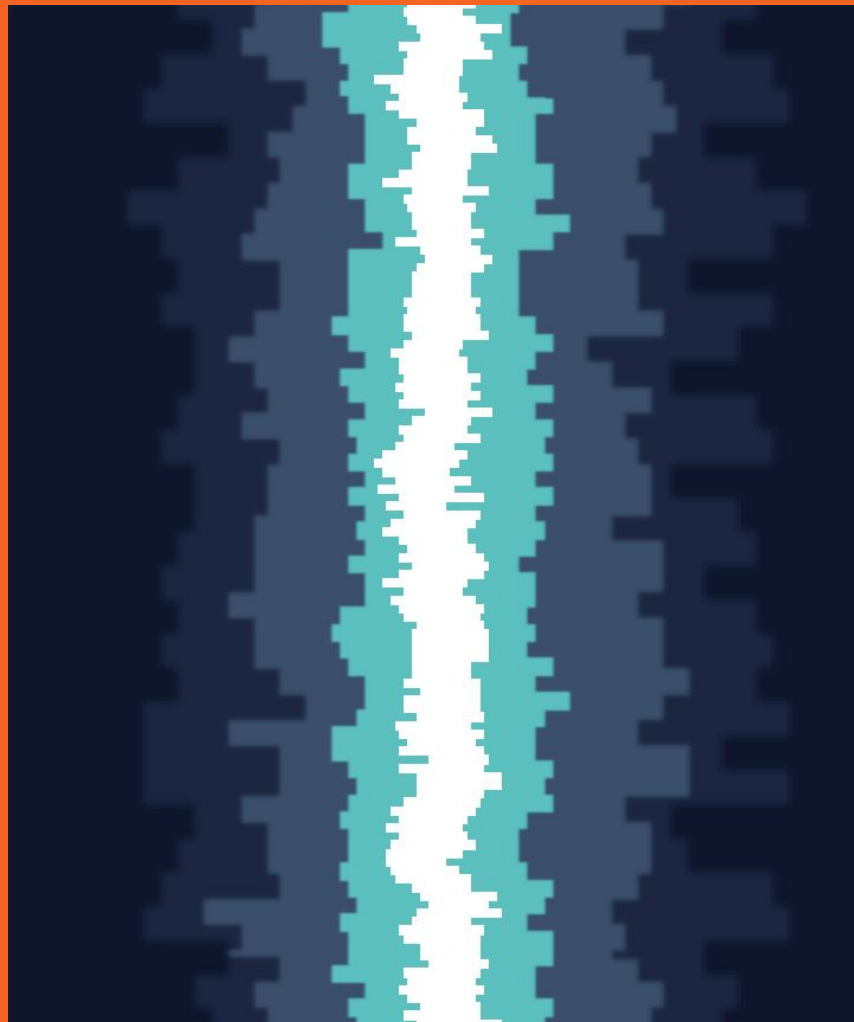
pn = PerlinNoise.new(rand(1, Int32::MAX))
pn.noise(x: 0, y: 0, z: 0)
pn.normalize_noise(x: 0, y: 0, z: 0) # Restricts the noise by inverting the values between 0 and 1.0
pn.int(x: 0, y: 0, z: 0, min: 0, max: 100) # Gets an int via perlin height
pn.prng_int(x: 0, y: 0, z: 0, min: 0, max: 100) # PRNG using perlin noise as a seed
pn.item(x: 0, y: 0, z: 0, items: ["red", "orange", "yellow"]) # Pulls an item out based on perlin height
pn.prng_item(x: 0, y: 0, z: 0, items: ["red", "orange", "yellow"]) # Pulls an item out based on prng_int

# Use seeds to prevent "tied" values
pn.prng_int(x: 0, y: 0, z: 0, min: 0, max: 100, a_seed: 1.2)
pn.prng_item(x: 0, y: 0, z: 0, items: ["red", "orange", "yellow"], a_seed: 1.1)
```

“The Process”

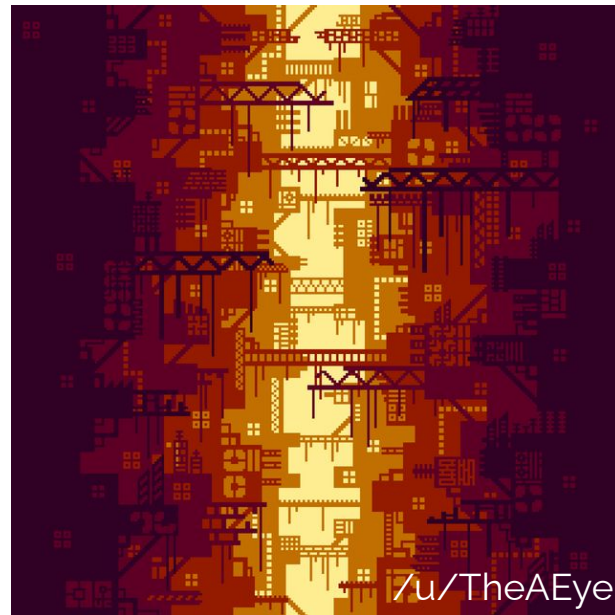


Mineshift-Simple



The setup

- So I'm browsing on Reddit when I come across this picture.
- Something about it really called to me. I like the colors, the way they achieve "depth", and the layout.
- I can easily visually identify the steps I need to take. (construction, masking, etc)

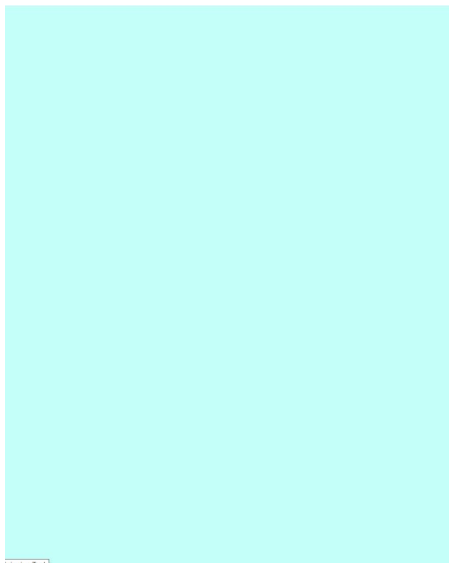


Step 0 - Basic Setup

```
COLORS = [  
    {bg: "#e2f1af", levels: ["#e3d888", "#84714f", "#5a3a31", "#31231e"]},  
    {bg: "#ddf3b5", levels: ["#83c923", "#74a31d", "#577a15", "#39510e"]}  
]
```

```
module Seeds  
    COLORS = 1.1_f32  
    CENTER_RECT_DEVIATION = 1.2_f32  
    CENTER_RECT_PERLIN_DEVIATION = 1.3_f32  
    CENTER_RECT_WIDTH = 1.4_f32  
end
```

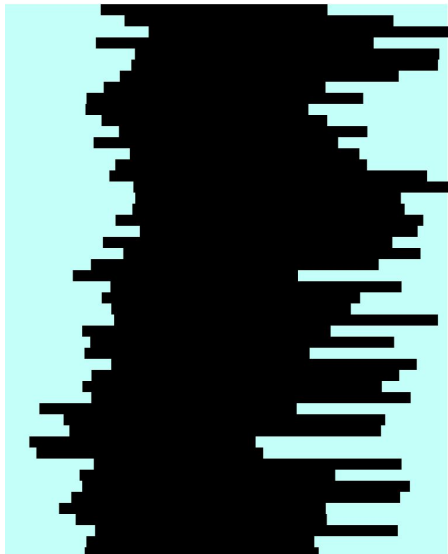
Step 1 - Choose Color Scheme



```
perlin = PerlinNoise.new(seed)
colors = perlin.prng_item(0, COLORS, Seeds::COLORS)
Celestine.draw do |ctx|
  ctx.view_box = {x: 0, y: 0, w: WIDTH, h: HEIGHT}

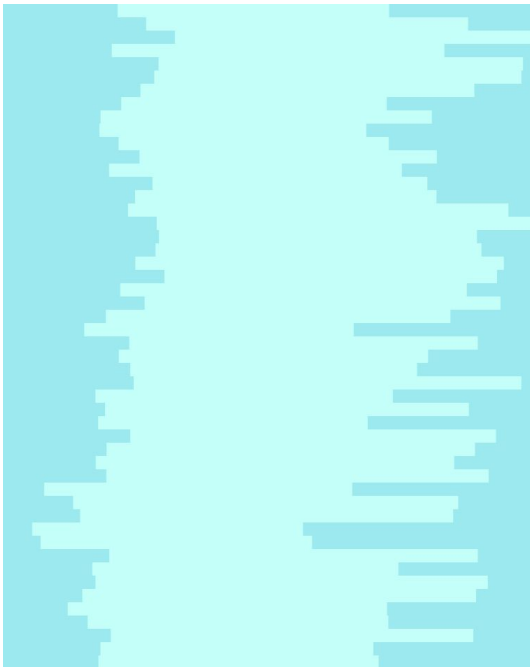
  ctx.rectangle do |r|
    r.x = 0
    r.y = 0
    r.width = WIDTH
    r.height = HEIGHT
    r.fill = colors[:bg]
  end
end
```

Step 2 - Make Chasm Mask



- This is the negative space between the two different sides.
 - Make a bunch of random width rectangles in the middle x axis. The height will all be the same.
 - Apply the perlin noise function to each rectangle from the center on the x-axis. (wave)
 - Apply x-axis deviation (jitter)
-

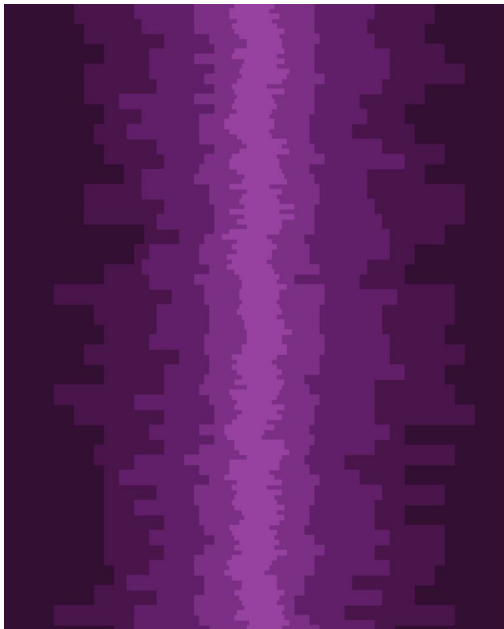
Step 3 - Mask



```
ctx.rectangle do |r|  
  r.x = 0  
  r.y = 0  
  r.width = WIDTH  
  r.height = HEIGHT  
  r.fill = colors[:levels][0]  
  r.set_mask mask  
r  
end
```

```
ctx.mask do |mask|  
  mask.id = "center-rects"  
  
  mask.rectangle do |r|  
    r.x = 0  
    r.y = 0  
    r.width = WIDTH  
    r.height = HEIGHT  
    r.fill = "white"  
  r  
end  
  
center_rects.each do |c_rect|  
  mask.rectangle do |rect|  
    rect.x = c_rect[:x]  
    rect.y = c_rect[:y]  
    rect.width = c_rect[:w]  
    rect.height = c_rect[:h]  
    rect.fill = "black"  
  rect  
end  
mask  
end
```

Step 4 - Clean up chasm generation



- Improve the chasm generator to be cleaner, better centered, and more visually appealing
 - Resize the base chasm rectangle height and width to match the depth of the level.
 - Ensure the chasm itself gets smaller so we can see the other layers.
 - Layer the results on top of each other, making a unique mask per layer.
-



Step 5 - Animate!

- Use `animate_motion` to draw a simple path from 0,0 to 0, -screen height.
 - Make an exact copy with use of each layer and paste it under the current frame.
 - Change the duration to be longer the further back the layer is.
 - Enjoy your parallax scrolling!
-

```
group.animate_motion do |anim|
  anim.duration = (((3 - level)/3.0)*200) + 40
  anim.duration_units = "s"
  anim.repeat_count = "indefinite"
  anim.mpath do |path|
    path.r_move(0, 0)
    path.r_line(0, -FRAME_HEIGHT - 1)
  path
  end
anim
end

group.use(lvl_rect) do |use|
  use.y = (FRAME_HEIGHT) - 2
  use
end
```

Step 6 - Filters



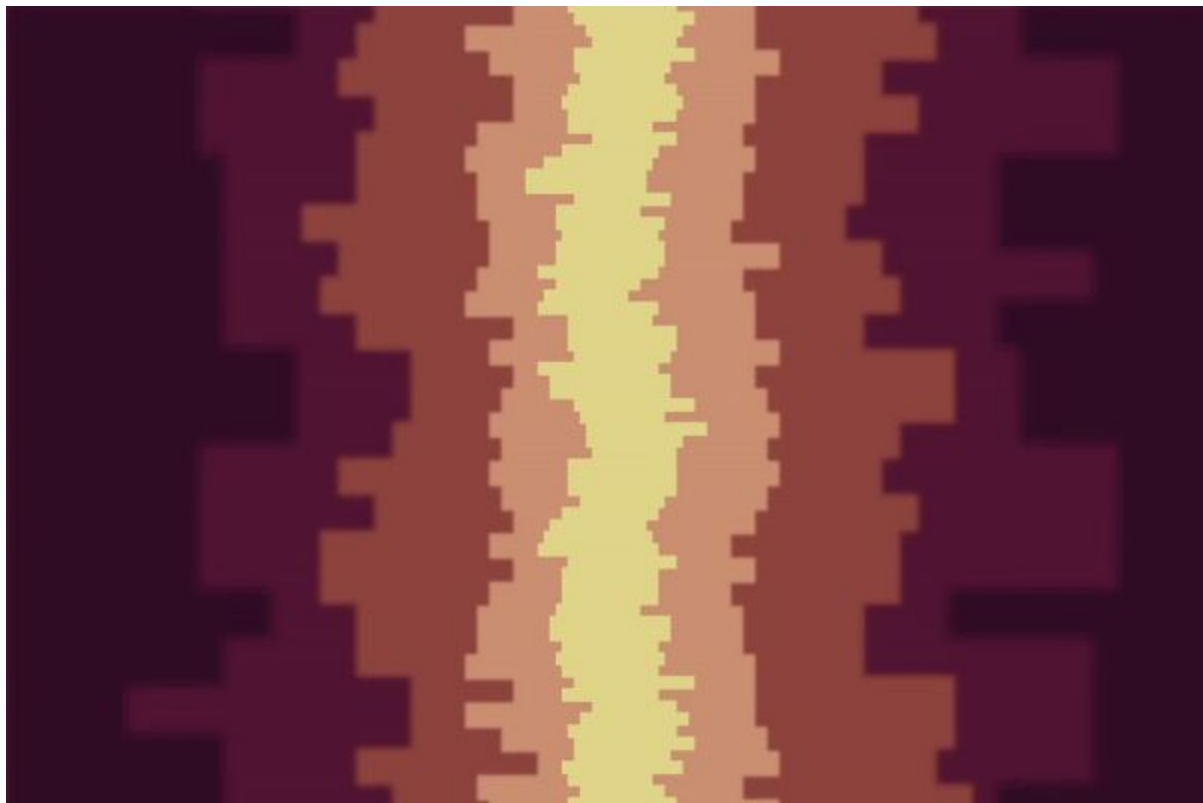
- I wanted to create a cool little DoF effect, to do this I need to use filters
 - Define a filter for each layer, using blur
 - Change the blur amount to be more blurry the closer it is.
 - EZPZ DoF
-

```
MAX_LEVELS.times do |level|
  ctx.filter do |f|
    f.id = "filter-#{level}"
    f.blur do |b|
      b.input = Celestine::Filter::SOURCE_GRAPHIC
      b.standard_deviation = level
    b
  end
  f
end
end
```

```
group.set_filter "filter-#{level}"
```





Links

Github: [redcodefinal](#)

Business or buy my art: ian@sol.vin

Email me about your thing: ian@0x42424242.in

Celestine: github.com/celestinecr/celestine

Docs: docs.celestine.dev

Thanks for watching!

Q & A
