

## Paths and Loops: Automatic Drawings by JFSjr

In this exhibition, 'Automatic Drawing' has a double meaning. It refers to both the Surrealist's practice of allowing one's hand to roam freely as a means of evoking subconscious imagery and to the coded graphics continually drawn and redrawn on the screens by computers. My introspective art practice is based on improvisation with a pencil, as Paul Klee says, "An active line on a walk, moving freely, without goal", repeated while directing my attention inside, to discover and code my own drawing rules.

Paths are my meditations, the traces of my lifelong quest to encompass the sources of creativity; the meandering lines I draw are records of this journey. Loops are fundamental operations in computer programming, statements in code repeating until an ending condition is met. Loops are also the day, the week, the year, the seasons, and the cycles of symbols that emerge from daily creative practice.

Writing software drawing tools was my failed attempt to escape the 'tedium' of drawing, instead I now spend hours in practice, flow, discovery, and wonderment about where it all comes from. As my programming gets more complicated, my questions broaden - can I write an artificial intelligence that mimics my creativity? I peer inside and see creativity in all aspects and I wonder, "how vast is this pool of creative source?" My practice moves between advancing concepts and observing flow - alternatively putting attention on figure and then ground, allowing one to inform the other and glimpsing the deep interlock of attention and awareness expressed in our lives and everything we create.

-John F Simon, Jr. 2019