Robert Spahr

Live Performance: **American Dream Cycle (Resignation)**

Abstract:
Appropriating and remixing source material from online news sources, this work explores the inconsistencies and cognitive dissonance of the information presented to the American people by the mainstream media. Images and text are processed and the algorithm selects and displays a command of 'Hope', 'Salute' or 'Pray.' I then watch the ever changing images and commands while taking the appropriate pose. The commands of 'Hope', 'Salute' and 'Pray' in effect become the performance score for this live art action.

Using genetic algorithms based on Darwin's theory of natural selection, the code creates an initial population by downloading source images and text in real time from the Internet. The algorithm does not create new images as much as it discovers them from among those most fit to survive. Pairs of images are selected and combined to create a generation of offspring. Images in each successive generation are tested for fitness and the most successful then reproduce forming a new generation of composite images. The commands are created and added to the composite image. My actions are based upon the commands selected by computer code.

Topic: Live art action using real time generative algorithms to create the images, text and score.

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Live art using genetic algorithms, Brunell University, London 2010

References:
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Keywords:
genetic algorithms, computational art, performance, live art