

Chronosism

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Final assignment Essentials in Art & Music

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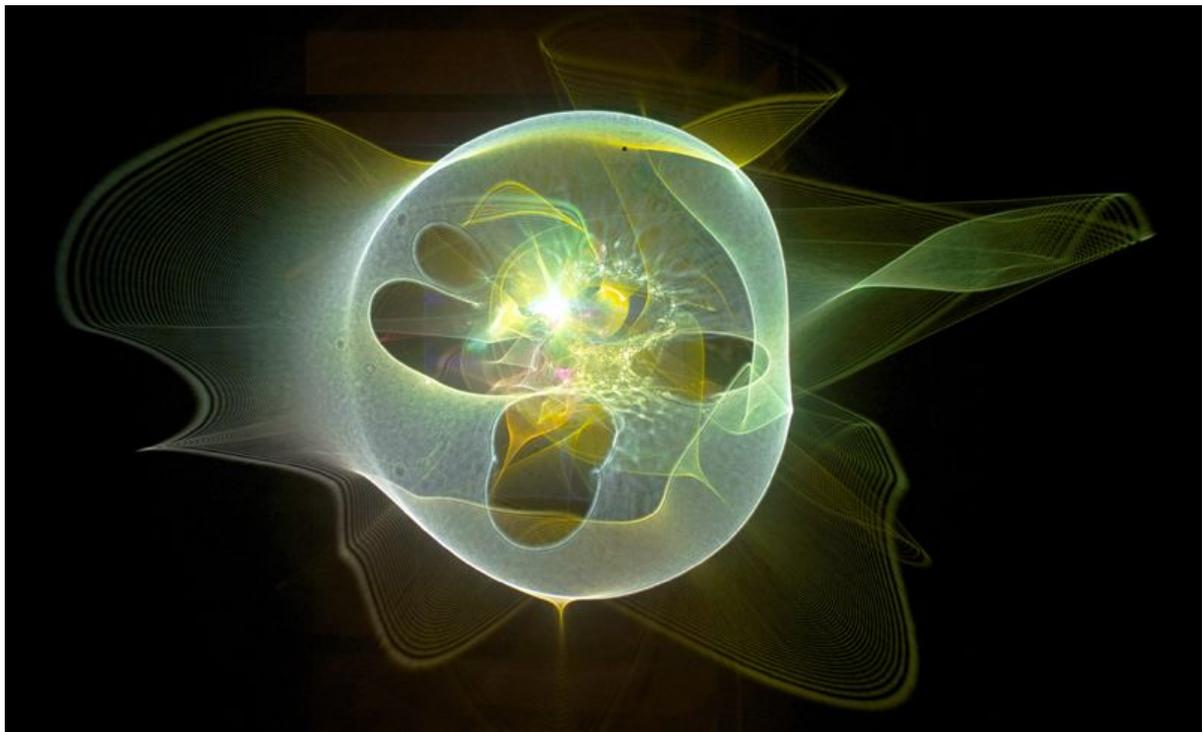
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Time it started 13.8 billion years ago, when the Big Bang occurred. Since then time has played a significant role in our lives. In physics to measure things and time passing slower near black holes. In chemistry the original time is defined by the electrons transition in a cesium atom. Without time we wouldn't be able to exist.

Throughout the years the way we look at art and how we interpret art has changed. The different styles in which paintings are made, but also the techniques that are being used to create works of art. We started with analog techniques and involved to a digital age which made it possible to express our feeling in ways which we could have never imagined. Time also is affecting the works in matter of degradation. Moreover a painting will get destroyed after a certain amount of time when the care for this painting gets neglected. In most cases this is not the intention of the artist, but sometime the artist has the intention to let time do it's thing.

Destructive Observation Field

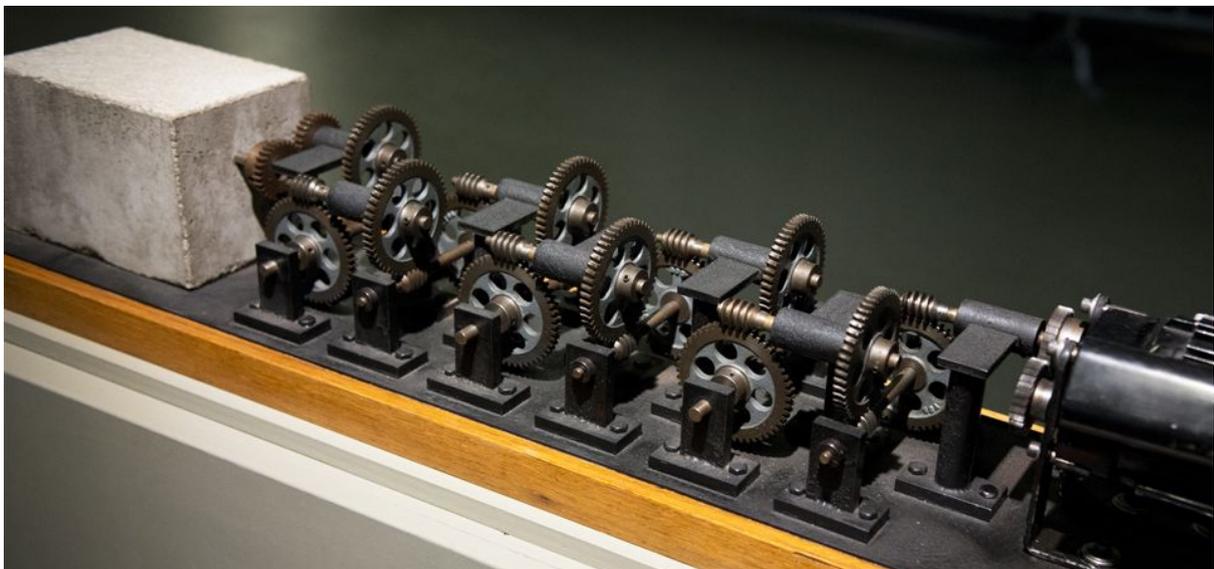
Now I want to introduce you to Chronosism, the way time affects an art piece and how art is affected by time. When the art is affected by time this can be the intention of the artist, so the piece changes all the time and keeps it interesting at any given time. The piece is always different, correlated to when you experience the piece. This is the case with "Destructive Observation Field" by Robert Henke (2014). This installation consists of a high powered multicolor laser beam that is directed at a reflective sheet of black plastic hanging from the ceiling. When the laser beam hits the sheet of plastic most of the light is absorbed by the plastic and converted into heat. A small part of the light is reflected across the room to a white screen forming a projection of the laser beam. The heat that is created by the laser is also slowly deforming the plastic, hereby changing the surface of the reflective material and changing the projection.



In this piece time plays a huge role in what the outcome of the installation is going to be. It starts with a certain projection but after a while this projection will dynamically change by the deformation of the plastic. I think this deformation of the plastic can be seen as a form of generative art, but then in an analog way. Or an impressionist approach because the way light is displayed and used. This change can we see as the degradation of the work because the laser is destroying the plastic sheet, therefore changing the whole installation. But is it actually destroying the work or is it just being altered for the better. In my opinion the work is only getting better by the work of time. If you would watch this piece at different moment through time there is always something new and interesting to see, it is never going to be the same. Time is adding value to the originality of the work and creates more room for interpretation over time.

Machine with concrete

The next piece is really focusing on the perception of time and how it can be impossible to understand for us as a human being, because we only live for approximately 80 years. The piece is called "Machine with concrete" by Arthur Ganson (1992). Machine with concrete is build with several different parts. It starts with a motor turning at 200 revolutions per minute connected to the motor are 12 gear reduction mechanisms. The last gear at the opposite side of the motor is encapsulated in a block of concrete, thus unable to turn without breaking the concrete. The first gear is turning with a rate of 4 revolutions per minute, the second is turning with 4.8 revolutions per hour. If we keep going it would take the last gear enclosed in concrete 2.3 trillion years for one full revolution. I find this absolutely mind boggling how slow this machine is turning after a couple of gears.



The concept of time is completely destroyed. Imagine that the universe is only 13.8 billion years old this is a fraction of the time it would take for one full rotation of the last gear. After the fifth gear we as a human aren't able to experience one full rotation, everything beyond that is just frozen in time. This piece in itself is not changing that much only the gear are

turning but it gives you a physical way to think about what time is and how small we should feel us amongst objects that have existed for many years more than we.

The Clock

This movie can't be excluded from the list of works I'm mentioning in this paper. "The Clock" is a movie created by Christian Marclay (2010). The clock is all about time, the whole movie is about time itself. It took Christian 3 years to make this movie, what doesn't come as a surprise because the movie is 24 hours long and can be looped. The movie is made with short clips of already existing movies that show a clock, watch, tower, microwave LEDs anything that tells you the time. Approximately 12000 clips were used to make the movie.



The Clock is an entirely immersive experience, by watching you become absorbed by the different ways the time is represented in the film. Throughout the film you are watching the time, rather than thinking about how much of it is left in your life. The Clock isn't telling you a story about a bunch of character it is merely about humanity itself. If you try to find a plot in the film, well this is impossible. Time links all the clips together forming a story about how time progresses throughout the day. In my opinion this movie is a good example of how an artist communicates time in a conceptual way. In The Clock it is also using a clock to literally give the time but in the basics it is about the perception of time. Before I watched a piece of this film I would have certainly said how can this be entertaining. But after watching it, I came to the realisation that in most clips where time is involved something is going to happen. The character is waiting for something, a build up to a small climax. This is happening a lot of times during The Clock and makes it interesting to watch for a longer period of time.

Water freeze

For us humans, as of the technology that we have to our capacity time always moves in one direction with a predefined speed. We move into the future with a linear speed, one hour is one hour. It is not possible yet to travel further in time or go backwards. We aren't able to travel fast enough to manipulate time. Now with this work they replicate time travel, furthermore by using a stroboscope they change the way we see the water drops. It looks like if the drops are not falling but rising. In the other example they use sound instead of light to create this stream of water that defines the laws of gravity and moves in slow motion.



Time plays a crucial role in these 2 installations. If the time wouldn't exist the installations would be just a stream of water flowing at a constant rate. But the stream is perceived different than we would expect. This is occurring with the right frequency of strobe light or sound. This fits right in the thema Chronosism due to the way the installations are bending time, therefore move slower, faster, forwards, backward or standing completely still in time. Without the manipulation of time the installations would be a bit bold, there would be nothing interesting to look at or play with.

Biodegradable painting

The world's biggest biodegradable is made by the french painter Saype on Chaux-de-Mont ski slope in Leysin, Switzerland. The painting is made with all natural ingredients, flour, linseed oil, water and biodegradable natural pigments. Saype made the painting in 5 days.



I consider this painting as street art. Street art is influenced by time because it is out in the open and affected by the weather, people, anything that can get to the art. In a museum it is all about the preservation of the art works, by restoring them and keeping them safe. Most street art is made with paint that will last a bit longer. This biodegradable painting will be gone a lot sooner, therefore only visible for a limited amount of time. The way the painting degrades has some similarities with the previous work mentioned "Destructive Observation Field". When watching the Destructive Observation Field it is changing constantly as time progresses. So a particular frame of the projection is only visible for a certain amount of time. The biodegradable painting works the same way. The painting will get less visible with each passing day till it disappears for good.

To conclude Chronosism is about the changing over time in good ways but also in the bad ways. Art pieces like Destructive Observation Field change throughout time creating a different projection everytime you look at the piece. This can be seen as a good thing because the work is always different and will never get boring. It could also be a bad thing, if you see a projection that you really like you better take a picture before it's gone. With the creation of street art like the Biodegradable painting the work will always degrade until it's gone. This is a bad thing because after some time the piece will be gone and will only be

observable through pictures or videos. Moreover after the degradation it creates more space for other artist to be creative and fill the space again. Some pieces just take a long time to get visible for example The Machine With Concrete. The ultimate goal of this work is to crack the concrete but this will take forever. This changes the way we look at time and how big it actually is. Time is also able to let us perceive something in a different way. The water installations are perceived in a different way because time moves slower or even backwards. This gives us an other inside into the installation. Time is just there and we have to accept it. The only thing that we can do is change the way we look at time or perceive it.

Reference

Destructive Observation Field

<http://roberthenke.com/concerts/destructive.html>

Machine with concrete

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5q-BH-tvxEg>

The Clock

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xp4EUryS6ac>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQ_wKD6XQTM

<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/christian-marclay-clock>

Water drops

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FG_I1oacWoQ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0Wqw1rIs6A>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uENITui5_jU

Biodegradable painting

<https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/french-artist-creates-worlds-largest-biodegradable-painting>