

FLOW IS PLEASING AND REMINDS US HOW NATURE WORKS

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Abstract: We could say that art flows through movements. But art movements are just the big branches the flow creates. Technique is the medium that art's flow crosses, creating thousands of branches, big and small.

When I blow diluted pigment onto a canvas, the blowing direction that I choose determines the result. Also the canvas surface determines the result. And the amount of water I dilute the pigment with. An experiment where constructal law has the last word. Intentional, but at the same time "spontaneous".

When talking about art evolution and taking this experiment as a metaphor, I imagine that canvas (surface roughness) is the known techniques (available technology) and blow direction is enlightenment. The pigment stain could be a graphic, the roads art travels.

Often, an artist (a scientist) has a plan but while making the art piece (the experiment) something unexpected happens and the result is very different (and better!). Chance is beautiful.



Fig. 1 – One of my first spontaneous paintings, 2007.



Fig. 2 – Just for fun "Madrid Skyline" 2013.

Unique...

Not like any other shape: tree branch, lightning, wall crack, etc. A manmade natural-like form. The pigment stain on my canvas cannot be redone, the one and only, a luxury.

The other day I was looking for satisfaction, (hehe) so I typed "satisfaction" on youtube search and besides the Rolling Stones videoclip...guess what!? I found "Ultimate Satisfaction"! There was this compilation of machines working metal and wood; honey dropping; domino effect; a water swirl; toffee being pulled, water falling onto a dry sponge; a wave... There is a pattern here: Flow is pleasing. It reminds us that nature works.

I make pigment flow for the pleasure of watching it stream.

Key words: Manmade, Natural, Art flow, Stream, Pleasing.

1. FOR ART TO BE UNIVERSAL, FIRST IT HAS TO BE PERSONAL

1.1. Blowing pigment

Forever young, playing with pigment has been a constant in my life. When I was 11, a pen broke and I poured the ink on a blank paper and blew onto it ... it made me very happy while the ink was flowing in unexpected directions and ramifications.



Fig. 3 – Blown acrylic ramifications and bead embroidery.

Okapi is the closest living relative to the giraffe. There is a war in Congo due to coltan exploitation, an ore containing tantalum, an essential component of very compact electronic devices: smartphones, laptops, computers, guided weapons, etc. Therefore, the okapi is currently in danger. Coelacanths have not changed their design for 400 million years. First the fossil was discovered, and later the animal that still lives in the sea.

Malachite Sunbird, forming an exclusive relationship with the flower with which he feeds, the disappearance of the bird involves the same destination for the plant and vice versa. This is the same with some human relationships.

This is what I call oxymoron: intentional random. The meanings that this concept has for me are numerous. It explains why though I was raised catholic I always stayed away from religion and preferred philosophy and it's links with science.



Fig. 6 – Title: “The fine line distinguishing characteristic from tare”. Measures: Round Canvas 50 cm in diameter. Materials: Acrylic and beads collage. Year: 2015.



Fig. 7 – Title: “Mutant” (detail). Measures: Round Canvas 50 cm in diameter. Materials: Acrylic and beads collage. Year: 2015.



Fig. 8 – Title: “Codependent”. Measures: Round Canvas 50 cm in diameter. Materials: Acrylic and beads collage. Year: 2015.



Fig. 9 – Title: “Oxymoron: Insignificant necessary.” Measures: Round Canvas 50 cm in diameter. Materials: Acrylic and beads collage. Year: 2015.

Oxymoron makes me think of life as a complex arrangement of events we try to control and understand. The best feeling is to be out of control (like in a rollercoaster or watching a horror movie), but still people avoid it...another oxymoron. I am out of control when I make art: is a mixture of joy, fear, care, know-how...What makes the “out of control” feeling a good feeling is the combination with a safe feeling, a happily ever after feeling. To “live to tell” is better than to not live and have nothing to tell.

1.2. Constructal Art

Constructal law on life evolution reminds me of the many, many events that lead us to civilization and even understanding where we come from, how life works. I consider Constructal law discovery a big step for humankind and it’s the main reason why I make art about it, a beautiful memory of this achievement.



Fig. 4 – Title: “Veteran”. Measures: Round Canvas 50 cm in diameter. Materials: Acrylic, beads embroidery. Year: 2015.



Fig. 5 – Title: “Obsolete”. Measures: Round Canvas 50 cm in diameter. Materials: Acrylic, beads embroidery. Year: 2015.



Fig. 10 – How to make ink flow (17 seconds). Same technique with diluted acrylic and watercolour.

2. ART FLOWS

2.1. What is Art

Art's flow. High to low. Hot to cold. High pressure to low pressure.

We could say that art is one of those “useless” things that humans do in order to show off. Just like athletes. Frustration drives these people's will. High pressure perceived by their mind is turned into low pressure through manual, intellectual, physical work and finally public recognition. Wait, did I say that art is useless? Let's analyse that:

If art is a **warning** for society, it reaches most minds with delay. Way too much delay.

If art is **sensuality**, why sunbathe isn't art?

If art is a **memory** (for example, so that the future generation avoids repeating a mistake from the past) why people don't remember?



Fig. 11 – Andreas Gursky, 99 Cent, 1999.



Fig. 12 – Shooting on 3rd of may, Goya, 1814.

If art is a **craft**, why is my grandma not an artist?

Art is a warning for the illiterate, a manmade sun, a beautiful memory you want to protect, a craft that takes a workshop's lifetime, a **new way of thinking**.



Fig. 13 – Olafur Eliasson – The weather Project, 2003.



Fig. 14 – Ai Weiwei crafting porcelain sunflower seeds.

We go to the moon because we can. We make art because we can. Art calls for technology.

Art is about pushing the limits, being harder, better, faster, stronger.

Art is acknowledgement, representing what we interpret from what's new, an opinion to be discussed. Science fiction is art's friend. Science fiction is a self-fulfilled prophecy and so is art.

2.2. Art Evolution

Art evolves through all* of these means but, could it be predicted?

One art piece might take one (sensuality) or more ways at the same time (acknowledgement + craft + warning), many ways make a masterpiece.

Can we predict technology? Can we predict the news (a war, an earthquake)? Can we predict philosophical ideas?

Science fiction is man's dreams about technology that, sooner or later, humans somehow achieve to make real. What have we now? dreams about androids.



Fig. 15 – Inochi kun, Takashi Murakami's android kid.



Fig. 16 –Ai Weiwei covers Berlin in refugee life vests.

The news, history, follows a sad pattern: Fight for resources, often the real reasons for fighting are disguised with cultural, religious reasons. Of course the news cannot be predicted, but our behaviour remains the same..."I can't help but to get what is mine; my reptilian brain says I need another pair of shoes this summer; I am going to ask for a loan to go on a holiday because I am sure I will keep my job for the next decade; no I don't care who made the shoes in what condition, they are really cheap and cute." What have we now? War over a succulent, strategic territory for the distribution of natural gas and oil.

Acknowledgement, what have we now? Our use of social network shows an egocentric behaviour, self-censorship, fake-happiness...



Fig. 17 – *Unknown*, Javi al Cuadrado, pencil drawings based on a random-picked instagram profile.

The most difficult is to predict philosophical ideas. I don't want to talk about that now so I leave by saying: Philosophy is tangled with science, they feed each other.

I dare say future's art (year 2036?) will be related to: augmented reality; human gene mix & match; deep ocean discovery; out of the earth experience; pharmaceutical products; how stock market bots started a crisis; amusement surgery; intimacy loss; autodidact revolution; tech-implants, honeybee death.