

# *Misuser*

## *Artists Working at the Edge of Computing*

 @dschmudde

 <http://schmud.de>



# Purpose?





# What is Art?



~~What is Art?~~



What is Technology?

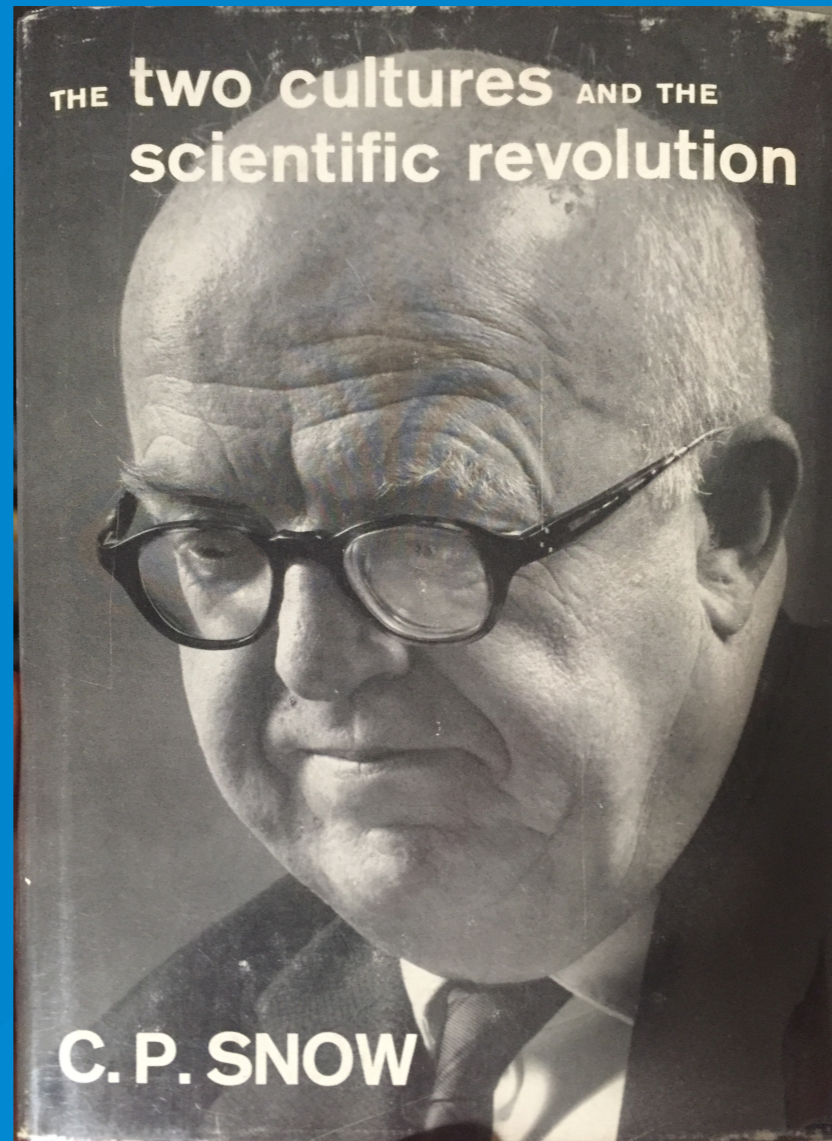


# Art as a Technological Endeavor

- Early adopters
- Creative
- Intellectually curious.
- Often subversive

# Art as a Technological Endeavor

- Early adopters
- Creative
- Intellectually curious.
- Often subversive (misuse)
  - A tool's intention
  - A tool's potential



 **2nd Law of Thermodynamics**

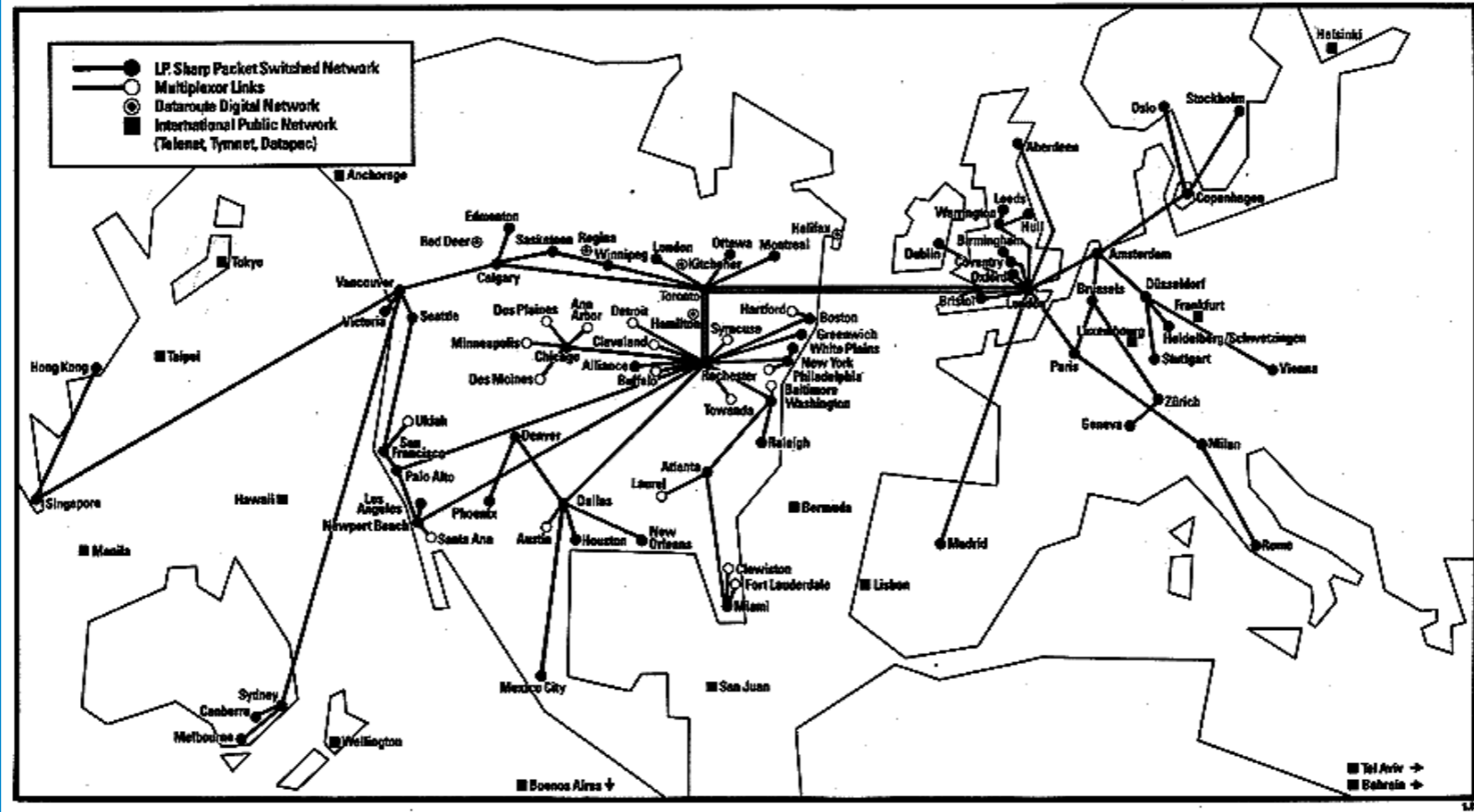
≈

 **A Work of Shakespeare**

# ARTEX on IPSANET



I.P. SHARP ASSOCIATES LIMITED  
APL TIME-SHARING NETWORK







# Roy Ascott

## *La Plissure du Texte* (1983)



# ARTEX on IPSANET

-  IPSANET → 
-  ARTEX → 
  - Misuse? (creative experimentation)
  - R&D? (narrative tools → business applications)
  - Edge case? (engineering problem)



# Edge Cases and Misuse

Designing

Testing

White hat hacking

# Edge Cases and Misuse

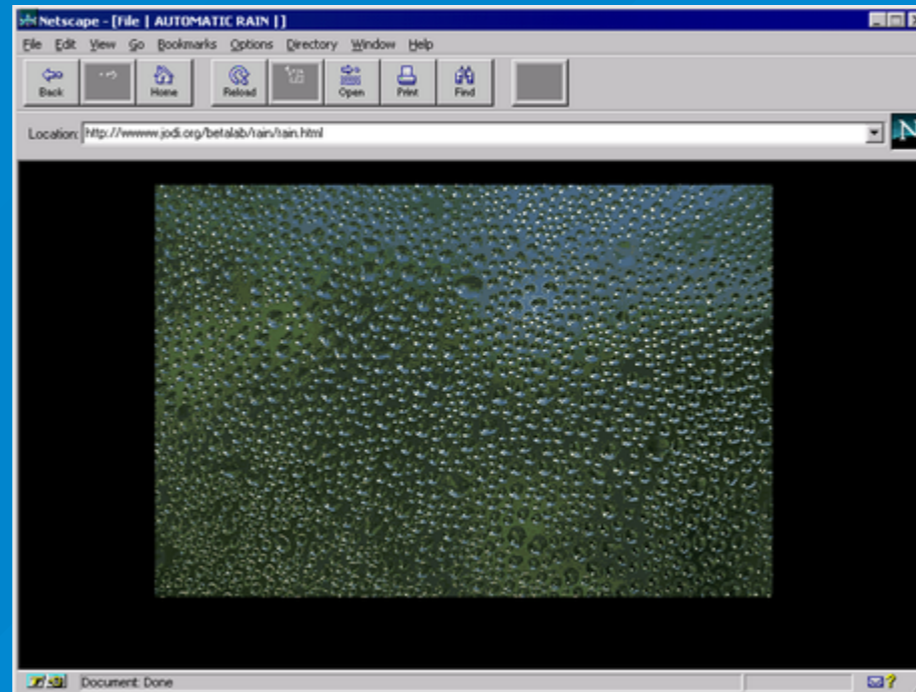


# Jodi

*[www.jodi.org](http://www.jodi.org) (1995) *

# Jodi

*Automatic Rain* (1995) 



# **Creative Misuse**

## **Using Slowness as a Feature**



# Jodi

## Netscape 1.1 Animation

(April/95-March/96)

- Bug in Netscape 1.1
- One `<head>` with multiple `<body>`s.
- Load `<body>`s sequentially
- First web animations

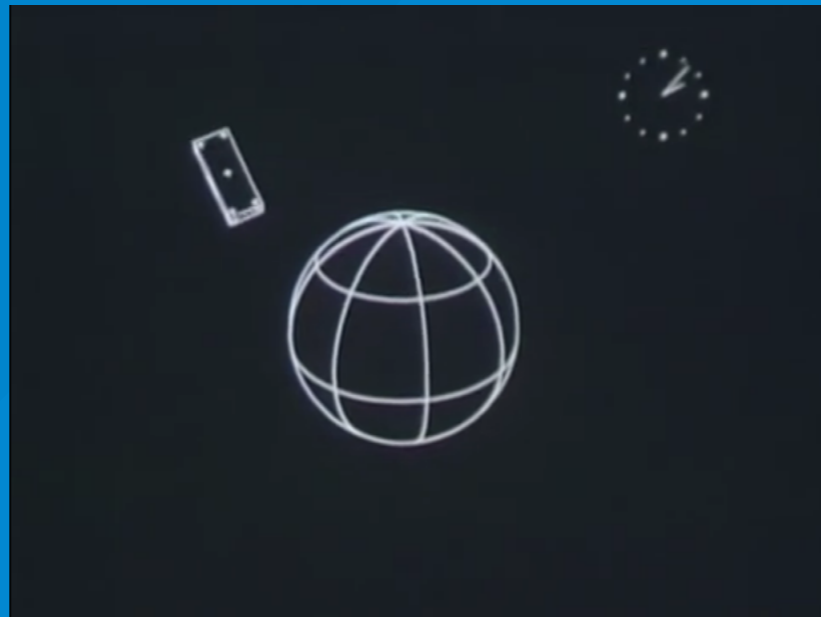


**Creative Misuse**  
**Hastens Obsolescence**  
**or**  
**Influences the System**

# Bell Labs

Edward Zajac

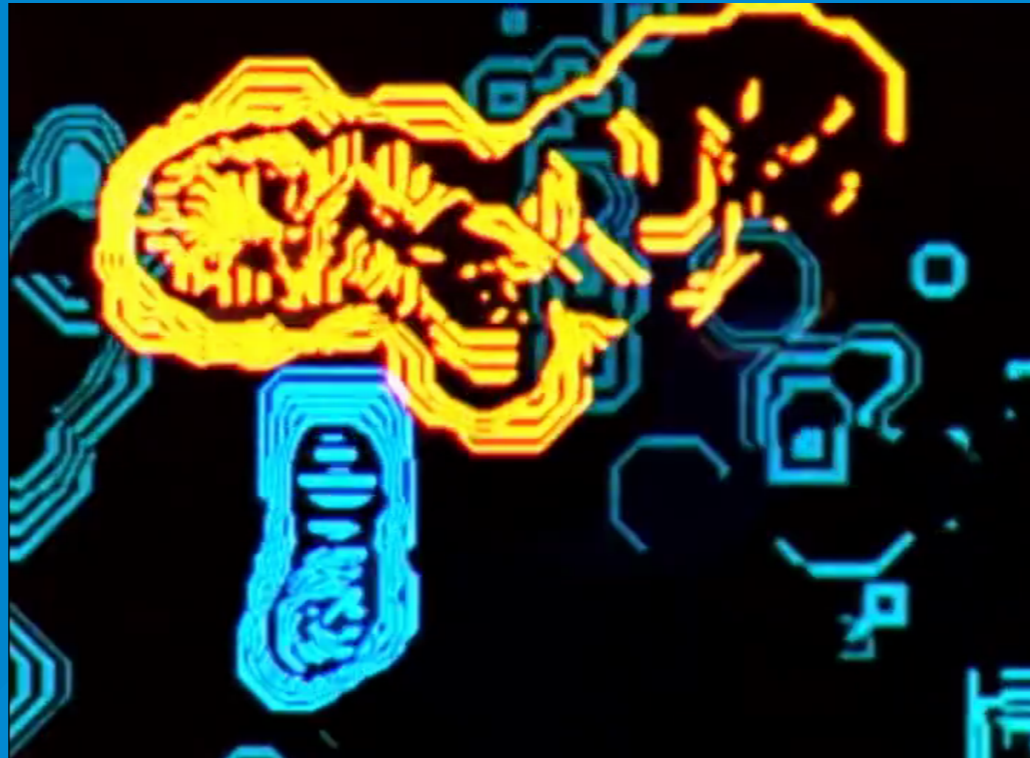
## *Simulation of a Two-Gyro Gravity Attitude Control System (1963)*



# Lillian Schwartz

*UFOs* (1971) [🔗](#)

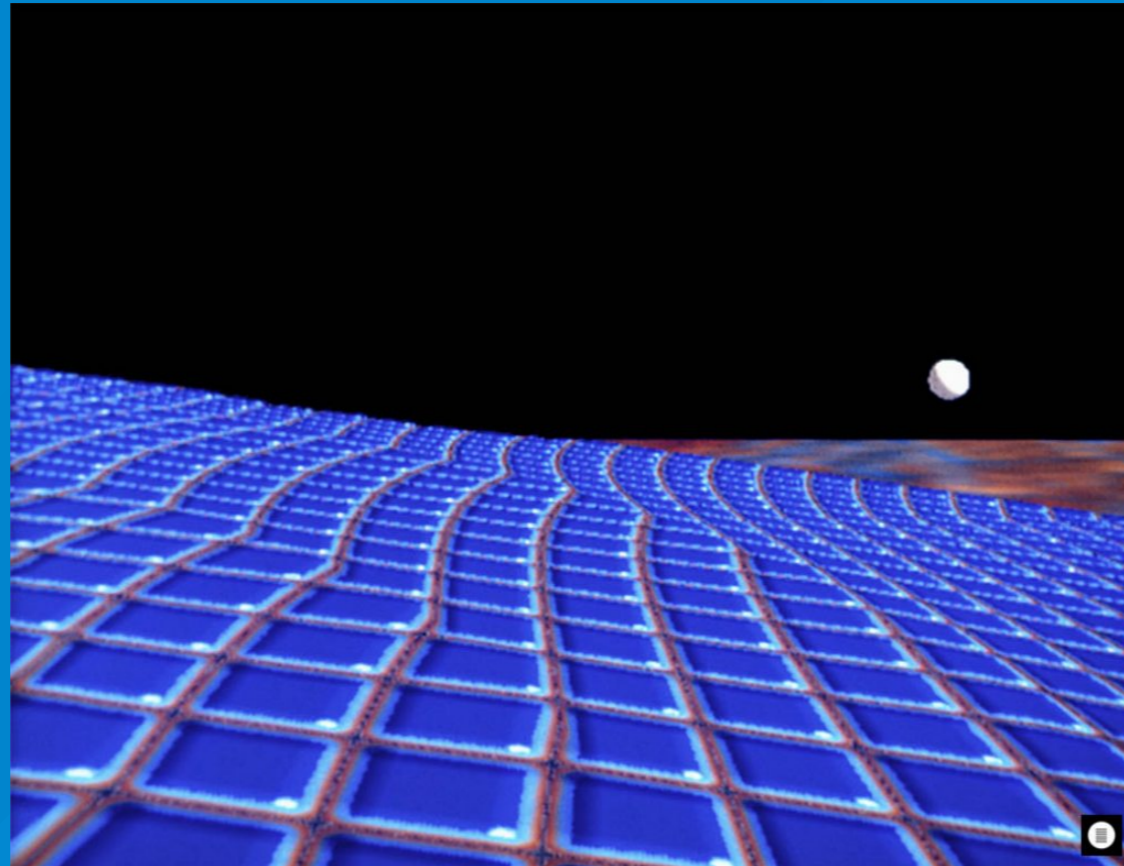
Ken Knowlton's BEFLIX DSL (1963) → EXPLOR (~1970)



**Misuse  $\Rightarrow$  Features**

# David Em

## *Approach (1979)*



**Misuse ⇒ More Human**

# Dianna Smith

*Francine* (2018) [🔗](#)





**Misuse ⇒ Not Rare**

**Accidental: Life**

**Intentional: Art**

# Dianna Smith

## *Francine* (2018)



# Misuse $\Rightarrow$ Illustrates the System

**Robust?**

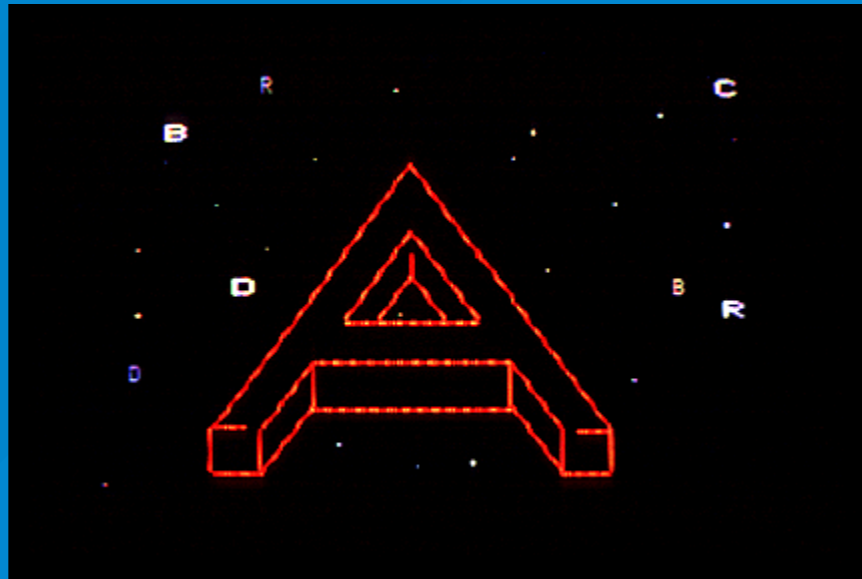
**Consistent?**

**Expressive?**

# Eduardo Kac

*Reabracadabra* (1985) [🔗](#)

Neo-Concrete Poetry



# Eduardo Kac

## *Reabracadabra (1985)*

### Digital Preservation

- ~~Videotexto (Brazil Minitel)~~
- Essence: telematic art → computer animation

# Eduardo Kac

*Reabracadabra (1985)*

## Digital Preservation

- It has no explicit application.

# Eduardo Kac

*Reabracadabra (1985)*

## Digital Preservation

- It has no explicit application.
- It is not a pipe, it points to the pipe.



# Eduardo Kac

*Reabracadabra* (1985)

## Digital Preservation

- It has no explicit application.
- It is not a pipe, it points to the pipe.
- It is art.

**Technology Changed**



**Expression Changed**

 **What is Technology?**

**Art?**

**The Screen?**

**The Terminal?**

**The Network?**



# What is Technology?

## Blinded by Purpose

# What is Technology?

**The Entire System of Engineering**

**Physics, Design, Social Relationships, Education,  
and Culture**

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