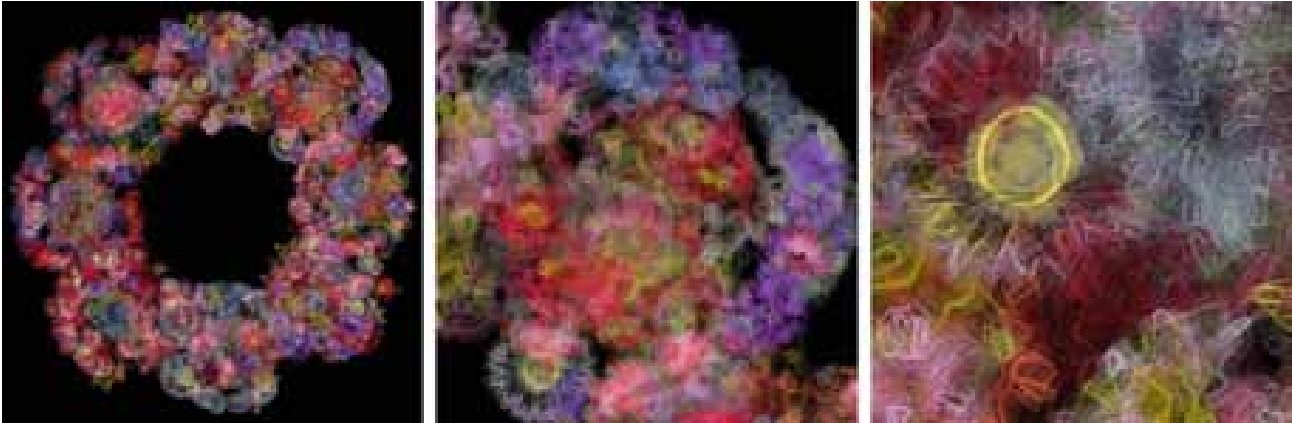


Amelie's Progress Gallery / Imaginations #1

Simon Colton, *Department of Computing, Imperial College, London*
sgc@doc.ic.ac.uk



4 Digital prints - 89cm x 38cm, 100cm x 100cm, 185cm x 40cm, 203cm x 40cm

Description

The *Amelie's Progress* Gallery pays homage to the fine acting skills of Audrey Tatou in the film *Amelie*, where she portrays a range of emotions. The gallery contains 222 portraits of the actress which were generated automatically by *The Painting Fool*. From left to right, the emotions portrayed range from very sad to very happy, and the painting styles fit this scheme. The gallery also contains 24 short video sequences of *The Painting Fool* producing the portraits.

The *Imaginations #1* Gallery is a work in progress, and currently contains three large, multi-faceted images. Firstly, there is a (simulated) pastel and pencil painting of a wreath-like arrangement of flowers. Secondly, there is a (simulated) pastel and pencil painting of Madrid, which consists of dozens of paintings of buildings taken from Google's 3D Warehouse, arranged shambolically to create an overall disorienting effect. There is a similar (simulated) pencil sketch of London.

Artist Statement

With each new gallery produced by *The Painting Fool* (in collaboration with me), its abilities expand to include more behaviours exhibited by artists. With the *Amelie's Progress* gallery, *The Painting Fool* was trained to appreciate how its painting styles can heighten the emotional content of a portrait. To do this, I developed an expert system to map key-

words such as 'happy' or 'sad' onto painting styles (which include colour palettes, abstraction levels, natural media choices, etc). With the *Imaginations #1* gallery, I'm expanding *The Painting Fool's* abilities to create and paint scenes from its imagination (inspired by Cohen's AARON program), for example by using evolutionary techniques.

Artist's Biography

Simon Colton is a senior lecturer in computing at Imperial College, London. He researches the development and application of Artificial Intelligence techniques for creative tasks such as mathematical invention, scientific discovery and painting. In the last five years, he has embarked upon a personal odyssey to build an automated painter called *The Painting Fool*. It is his intention that *The Painting Fool* is eventually taken seriously as a creative artist in its own right. To achieve this, he is equipping *The Painting Fool* with behaviours which are skilful, appreciative and imaginative.

The Painting Fool's city series of artworks was presented at the 2006 Computer Generated Artworks exhibition, and a live demonstration was given at the Darwin Festival in Shrewsbury. By combining *The Painting Fool* with an emotion detection system (also developed at Imperial), the team won the BCS Machine Intelligence Competition in December 2007.

<http://www.thepaintingfool.com>