

# **Colors of AI**

**Portrait of V.I. Lenin in the Style of Jackson Pollock**

**A Critical Outlook on Generative AI/Art**

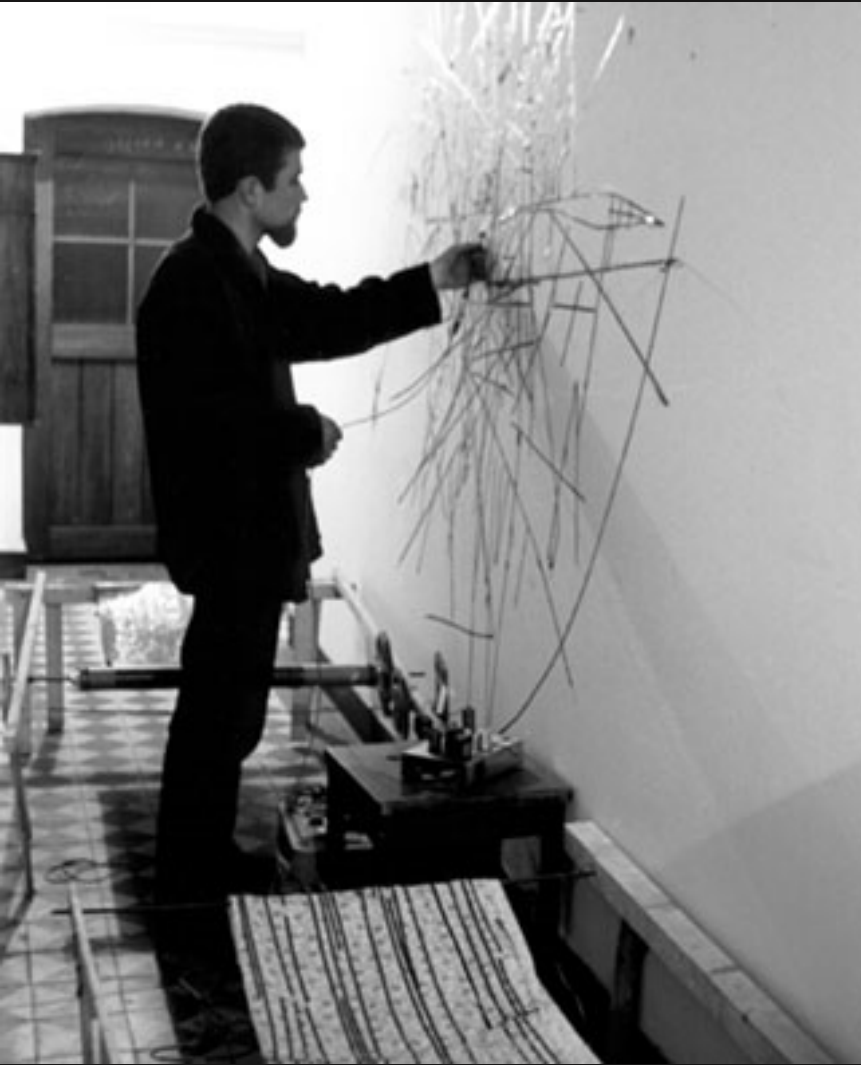
**Dejan Grba**

Changing notions of art, authorship, creative agency, and ideas about the future of art.

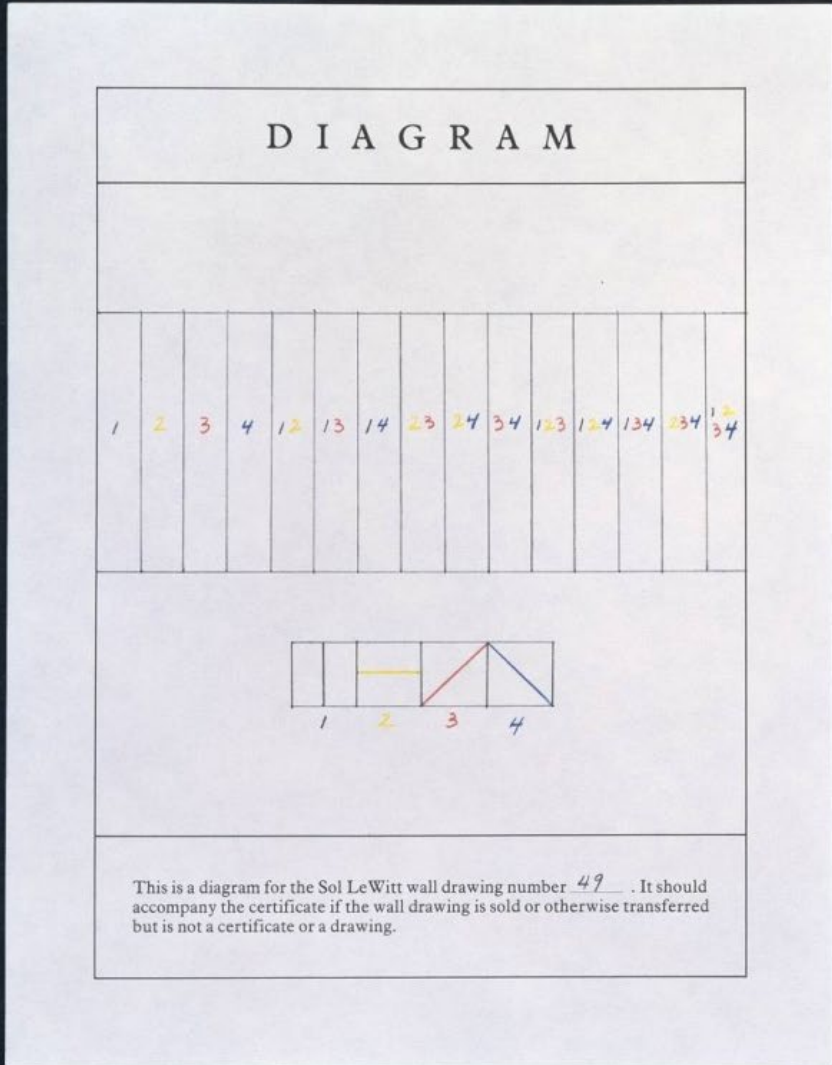
Thinking critically about the conceptual and ideological vectors in AI-related cultures.

How seriously do technical changes disrupt our relationships with the sense of the word “art” and the arts’ relational, economic, and political functions?

# Generative Art and (Generative) AI



Nam June Paik, *Random Access*, 1963



Sol LeWitt, *Wall Drawing Diagram*, 1970

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the Sol LeWitt wall drawing number 49 evidenced by this certificate is authentic.

A wall divided vertically into fifteen equal parts, each with a different line direction and color, and all combinations.

Red, yellow, blue, black pencil  
 First Drawn by: Chris Hansen, Nina Kayem, Al Williams  
 First Installation: Jewish Museum, New York, NY. June, 1970

This certification is the signature for the wall drawing and must accompany the wall drawing if it is sold or otherwise transferred.

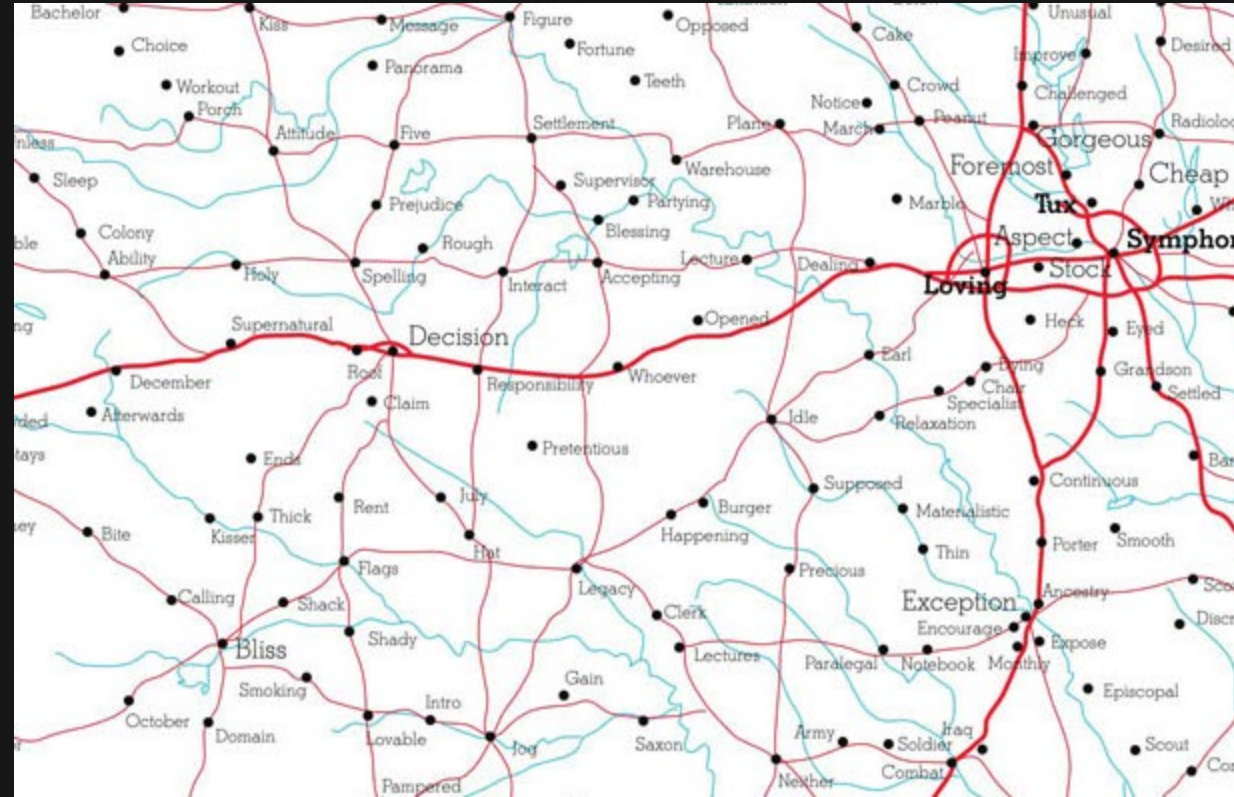
Certified by Sol LeWitt  
 Sol LeWitt

© Copyright Sol LeWitt \_\_\_\_\_ Date

# Generative Art and (Generative) AI

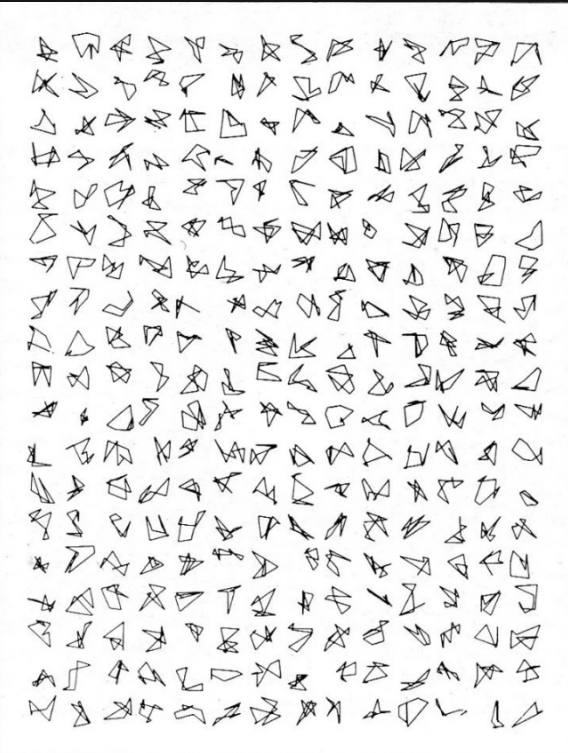


Roman Signer, *Bicycle*, 1991



R. Luke DuBois, *A More Perfect Union*, 2011-2012

## Terminological Drift



Georg Nees, *Untitled*, 1965



Mario Klingemann, *Memories of Passersby I*, 2018

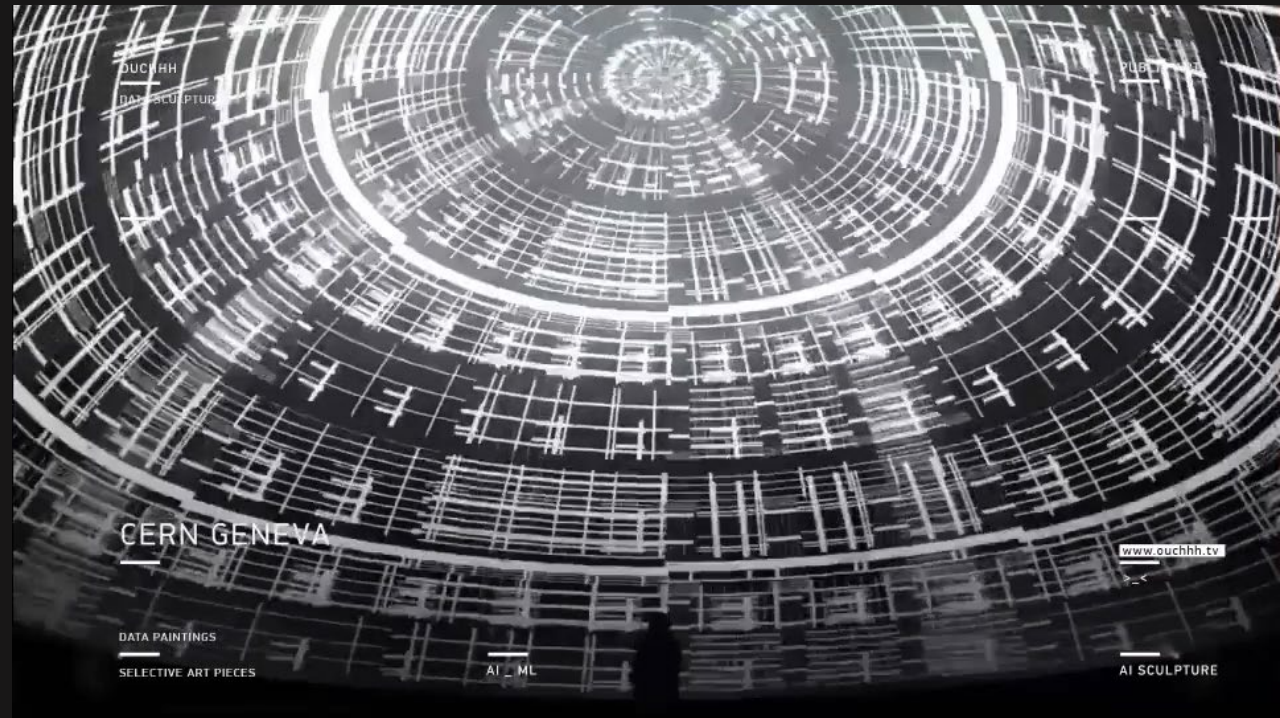


Aidan Meller et al., *Ai-Da*, 2019

# Terminological Drift



Refik Anadol, *Machine Hallucination*, 2019-2020



Ouchhh Studio, *Showreel*, 2021

## **Generative AI Issues**

Legal and ethical concerns about using online data and labor for model training,

Biases,

Modeling constraints,

Limitations of text-based paradigm for visual expression,

Narrow levels of output and authorial control,

Simplistic notions of style (in both designing and using models),

Flimsy aesthetics of derivative visuals,

Cultural conventionalization and homogenization,

Expressive novelty and poetic cogency inferior to other artmaking practices,

Systemic censorship,

Short- and long-term impact on the creative and media industries.

## **Transmit Problems from Computer Science and AI Industry**

Fetishism of machinic agency,

Equalization of computers and humans,

Sociotechnical blindness, and

Cyberlibertarianism.

Shaped by coalescing technical concepts, philosophical premises, and political views—many have the overtones of alienation, sociopathy, and misanthropy.

Largely absent/attenuated in the AI debates, underexposed in AI studies, and require keener attention in the artistic communities.



## **Some Manifestations**

Cyberlibertarian myths about the democratizing powers of markets and digital technologies.

Info-capitalist exploitation of creativity.

Anthropomorphism in AI art reinforces sociotechnical blindness.

Users' compliance with generative models' censorship upholds the AI industry's confinement of clients' socioeconomic benefits.

Artists' adoption of first-aid tech solutions against the misappropriation of their work, such as data poisoning or style masking, plays in tune with the techno-solutionist rhetoric whereby only the tech can save us.

## Critique in the Arts



A dimly lit room with mismatched chairs arranged in a circle.

Jonas Lund, *The Future of Something*, 2023



Silvia Dal Dosso, *The Future Ahead...*, 2023



A **midday** photo taken at  
**Cliffordstraat, Amsterdam**  
The weather is **partly cloudy**  
and **18** degrees. The date is  
**Wednesday, 24 May, 2023** .  
Near by there is **parking** and  
**yoga studio** .



A **evening** photo taken at  
**Westerstraat, Amsterdam**  
The weather is **clear sky**  
and **14** degrees. The date is  
**Kings day 2023 (event)** .  
Near by there are **resturants** ,  
**bars** and **grocery store** .



# Thinking through Comparison

Portrait of V.I. Lenin in the Style of Jackson Pollock

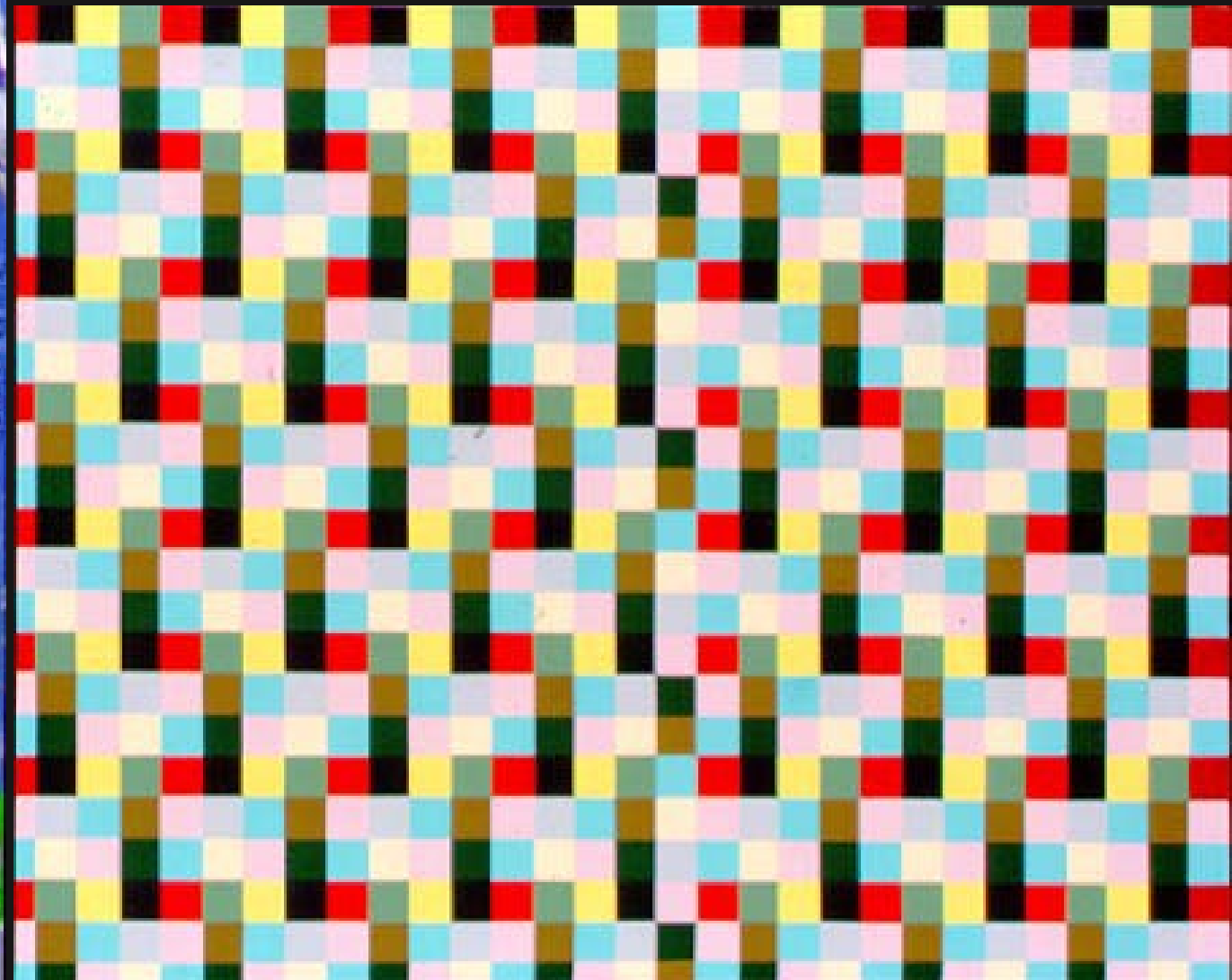


Art & Language, 1980.



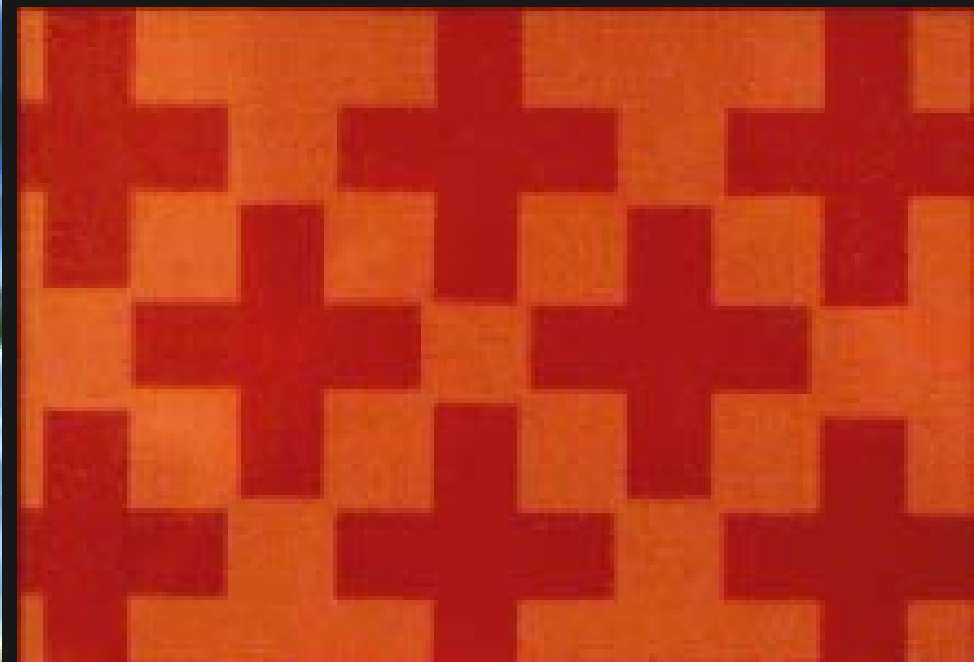
Stable Diffusion, 2024

Vitaly Komar and Alex Melamid, *The People's Choice*, 1994–1997



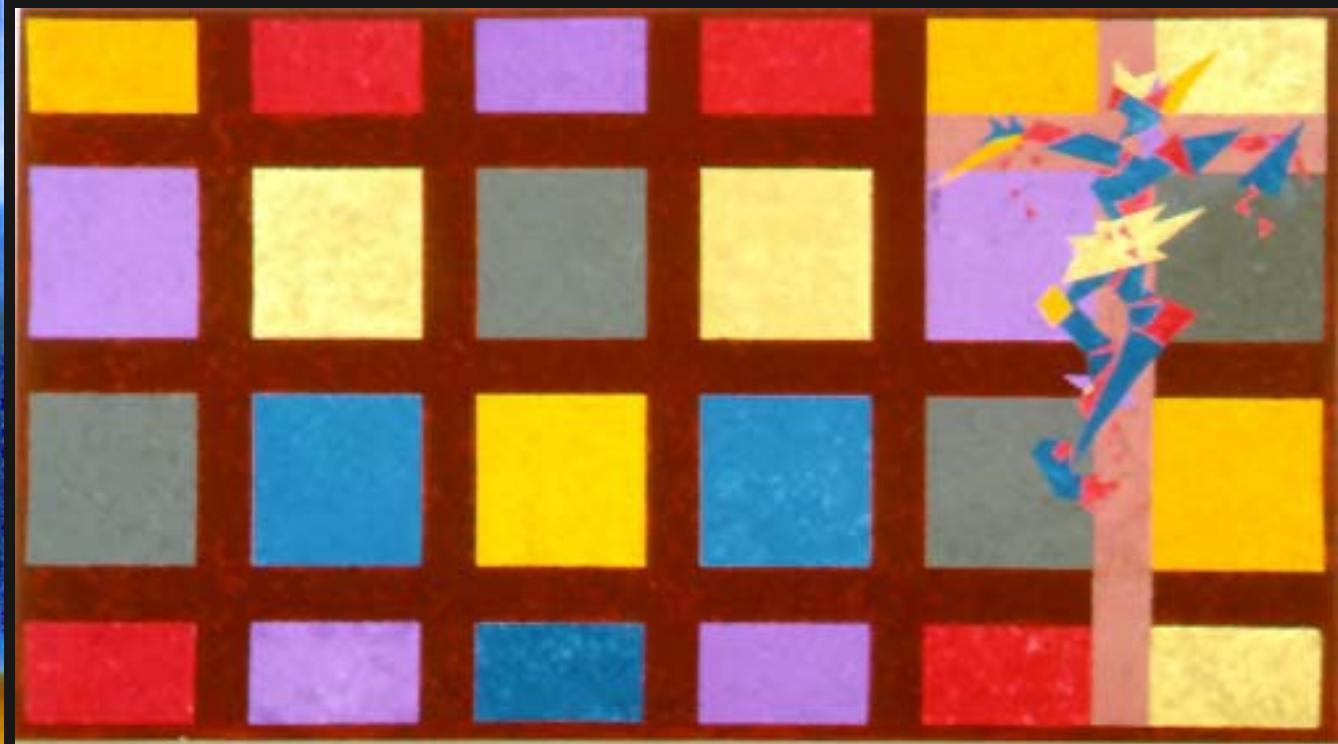
Germany

Vitaly Komar and Alex Melamid, *The People's Choice*, 1994-1997



Portugal

Vitaly Komar and Alex Melamid, *The People's Choice*, 1994-1997



France

Vitaly Komar and Alex Melamid, *The People's Choice*, 1994–1997



Turkey



Vitaly Komar and Alex Melamid, *The People's Choice*, 1994-1997



Finland

Vitaly Komar and Alex Melamid, *The People's Choice*, 1994–1997



USA

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