

**Peter Beyls**

*Installation*  
**PETRI**



**Abstract:**

The present work expresses faith in the idea that rewarding human-machine interaction may emerge from the articulation of human originated *influence* over an otherwise autonomous process. It views spontaneous bodily behavior of a human interactor as complementary to the internal behavior of an artificial world. This parallel, synthetic universe is thought of as a distributed system consisting of a population of basic entities called particles. Particles interact locally using very simple rules. However, when considering the population as undivided, simple local interactions give rise to interesting, complex global behavior that could not be anticipated by the systems designer – *emergence* is said to happen implicitly without the need for global explicit human-engineered guidelines. Petri takes its name from the shallow Petri cell culture dish commonly used in the field of microbiology. Petri reveals itself as a window on a complex dynamic universe that is self-sustaining and in perpetual flux. Human interactors may develop a degree of sensitivity and fractional understanding of what is actually happening inside a population of interacting particles. However, they may never really develop a complete understanding of the installation in its entirety; a particular mix of meaning and mystery acts as a source sustaining *rewarding* machine mediated aesthetic experiences.

**Topic:** *Installation*

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**References:**

[www.beyls.org](http://www.beyls.org)



*Petri, an interactive audio-visual installation.*

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**Keywords:**

Interaction, artificial life, computer vision, emergence