

CRUFT

Robert Spahr
New York, NY
e-mail: rob@robertspahr.com

Abstract

"CRUFT"

Borrowing the computer hacker term "Cruft" I have applied it to my current series of images. I create these CRUFT images by writing 'recipes' (also known as an algorithm). These scripts are written in shell script and perl, using imagemagick for command line image manipulation. An automated system follows the instructions, first harvesting selected source material from the Internet, and then processing that information into a CRUFT, generating images 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

"Distress Cruft (my fellow americans)"

"Distress Cruft (my fellow americans): Visitors to the Empire State Building are required to have their photo taken. This security photo is cleverly disguised as a tourist friendly service with a beautiful night view of the Empire State in the background. You and your party then have the ability to purchase this photo as you leave the building. (When I tried to opt out of the photo, I was specifically told I could not for security reasons.) This cruft process downloads one of these photos and creates a composite image with an American Flag.

Section 8a. of the Flag Code states: "The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property."

URL:

<http://www.robertspahr.com/work/cruft/distress/>

"Crayon Cruft (Childhood's End)"

This cruft process downloads an image from the Arabic website "Asharq Alawsat" (<http://www.asharq-e.com/>). From one hundred official Crayola Crayon™ colors, one is selected and a composite image is created.

URL:

<http://www.robertspahr.com/work/cruft/crayon/>

"Babylon Cruft"

This cruft algorithm extracts images from the United States Air Force site (www.af.mil) which are then combined with images from Internet sex sites. The images are manipulated and a composite is then created.

URL:

<http://www.robertspahr.com/work/cruft/babylon/>

Brief Bio:

ROBERT SPAHR B.F.A., Art Academy of Cincinnati, M.F.A., Parsons School of Design.

Robert Spahr is a visual artist and educator, who produces digital images, generative art programs, and time-based media. He lives in New York City.

Internationally his work can be seen in festivals such as: Online Gallery D-ART 2006, London, England and the CGIV 2006, Sydney, Australia; Trampoline Event #19, Nottingham, United Kingdom; Hz Journal, Stockholm, Sweden; 6th International Salon of Digital Art, Havana, Cuba.

Nationally his work can be seen in exhibits such as "Adding Insult to Imagery? Artistic Responses to Censorship and Media" at Indiana University of Pennsylvania which then traveled to Central Missouri State University in September 2006, the recent edition of the refereed on-line journal DrainMag.com, as well as the festival and symposium "2006 Perform.Media" hosted by Indiana University in Bloomington.

Teaching experience includes the University of the Arts, Hartford Art School, Dowling College and the State University of New York, Purchase College. He has been a visiting artist at the Art Academy of Cincinnati, and Xavier University.

<http://www.robertspahr.com/>