



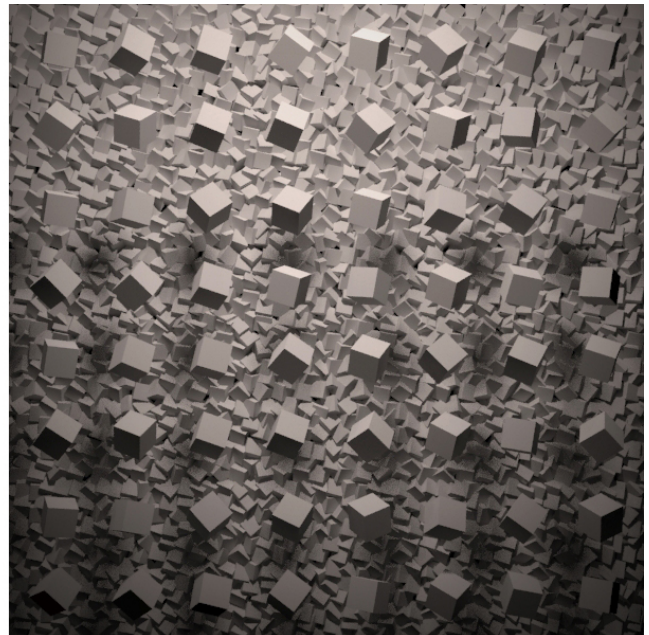
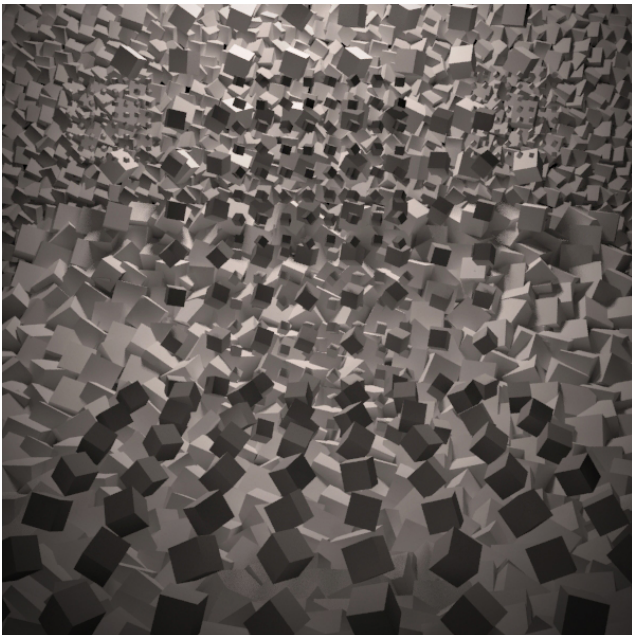
**TITLE: Generative Tensions
(Live Performance)**

Topic: (Art, Design, Creative Cognition)

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Abstract

The extent to which an artist can imagine visual ideas is limited in scope and fidelity. Therefore the generation of visual art requires some representation that can be reflected upon by the artist. As the vague image from the imagination is turned into a representation by the artist, the intent of the artist changes with it. In a sense the representation itself becomes a kind of partner in the creative process as its creation suggests to the artist new possibilities. I hold that this tension between the artist's mental image and the representation of that image that the artist iterates upon is the most fundamental mode of generating visual ideas in visually creative domains. The present work attempts to illustrate this generative process through images and subtle animations of combinations of geometric shapes. The subtle tension between shapes of varying sizes, shapes moving at various speeds, subtle variations in lighting and variations of geometric combinations are intended to place the viewer in a subtle contemplative state of apprehension. The looping animations suggest what is about to happen next, what the combination will look like given a few seconds of movement. This tension between the image suggested in the mind of the viewer and the representation as it changes into that expectation is meant to suggest the tension between a creative idea and the manner in which images themselves suggest their realization.



Still images from *Generative Tensions* live performance video by Val Sirbu.

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Key words: art, design thinking, design theory, cognition, representation, tension.