

# Concrete Ephemerality

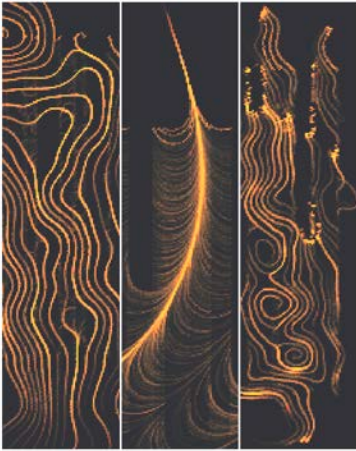
(Artworks)

**Rowan Simmons**

New Zealand, University of Waikato, Department of Design  
[www.waikato.ac.nz](http://www.waikato.ac.nz)

**Chin-En Keith Soo (ceks)**

New Zealand, University of Waikato, Department of Design  
<https://www.cms.waikato.ac.nz/people/ceks>.



## **Abstract**

Concrete ephemerality is a project designed to capture something that was once transitory and seeks to create something concrete from it. With ever more tracking and aggregation of our digital lives, online identities that were once transient and fluid are becoming more fixed by forces outside our control. We seek to visualise what our digital identities might look like to these forces as a “fingerprint”. Concrete ephemerality is created by taking standard online identifications and merging them into a unique form.

## **Method**

We begin with a credit card number and from that we generate a linear barcode (as seen in figure 2) which then grows across a flow field. This flow field is created with a noise seed generated from an md5 hash of one of the 10,000 most popular passwords leaked online. This noise seed is generated by summing all the values of the ASCII characters. We realise that this can result in many values in the same relative area, but this is just a first attempt at a larger possibility.



1 CE final output



2 CE final output with barcode visible

We believe that in spite of the output being beautiful, but there is ample room for improvement as this is only a beginning.

This could easily take input from many different online spaces such as social media and could become a live display of one's online persona.

**Key words:** art, design, identity, fingerprint, flow