

Mizota, Sharon. *5 million Wikipedia articles made into art? How Jason Salavon turns code into cascading color.* Los Angeles Times. March 2016

# Los Angeles Times

Review

## 5 million Wikipedia articles made into art? How Jason Salavon turns code into cascading color



Jason Salavon, installation view, "The Master Index (MMG.1)," 2016, at Mark Moore Gallery in Culver City. (Jason Salavon and Mark Moore Gallery)

**By Sharon Mizota**

These relatively early days of “post-Internet” art might feel something like the early days of conceptual art. The idea that an artist issues a set of rules and makes art by following them (or enlisting other people to follow them) was a game-changer in the 1960s. It didn’t always matter what the result looked like or meant.

Nowadays, an artist might also be a computer programmer, like Jason Salavon, whose exhibition is at Mark Moore Gallery in Culver City. The rules are a program, and the collaborators are the hive mind of the Internet. The output might be pretty, multicolored abstractions, but the interesting part is how they are made.

Salavon’s exhibition includes wallpaper generated from the colors of every episode of “The Simpsons” or from the top 5 million Wikipedia articles. Of the latter, only a small portion is installed in the gallery. It is accompanied by a video monitor that displays a cascade of colorful polygons generated from the code of

those pages. The hues are pulled from the most popular color palettes on software company Adobe's website. And the image is generated in real time, as the software pulls data from the Internet. You may never see the same arrangement twice.

Of course, the works don't tell us much that we don't already know. "The Simpsons" is colorful, and Wikipedia reflects the Internet's most pressing concerns: sex, celebrities and tech. But the notion of an artwork that is endlessly responsive and crowd-sourced is powerful in its possibilities.

REF: <http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/la-et-cm-jason-salavon-at-mark-moore-gallery-20160229-story.html>