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Adventures In Sound And Music

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Picture gallery: Laurie Spiegel's early computer art

- [Issue #344 \(Oct 12\) | Picture Gallery](#)
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Laurie Spiegel - Xerograph 22

A selection of composer and computer music pioneer Laurie Spiegel's early computer art, created during the 1970s at Bell Labs. Spiegel is featured in an article by Frances Morgan in *The Wire* 344.

Since the 1970s, US composer Laurie Spiegel has worked to develop new electronic music systems at Bell labs and elsewhere.

About her art series, Spiegel says: "I created the following images (and many more) in 1974–1976 using a Rand Tablet and Fortran IV software I wrote that, at the time, I called a drawing program. The same software would now be called a paint program because, in the 1980s, the word "drawing" came to be construed as referring to vector, rather than raster, image creation software.

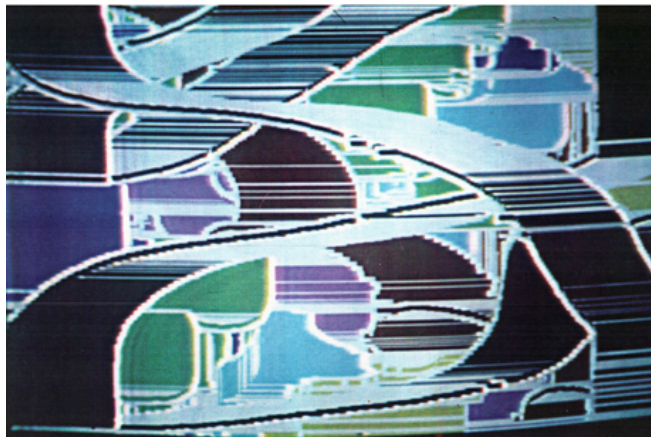
"I hope you will be able to imagine these images not as the small snapshots presented here – hastily digitized from small darkish photograph prints – but as the glowing images that filled the cathode ray screen on which they were created. Picture them in your minds the way I saw them: they were the first output from software I was then still actively writing that permitted a person to experience the act of drawing directly on to a luminescent display screen when this was not yet a common experience."

[Click here to stream Spiegel's "The Orient Express" track.](#)

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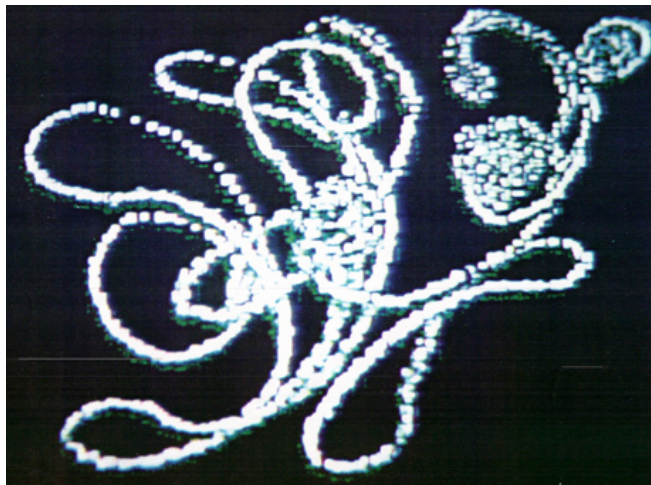
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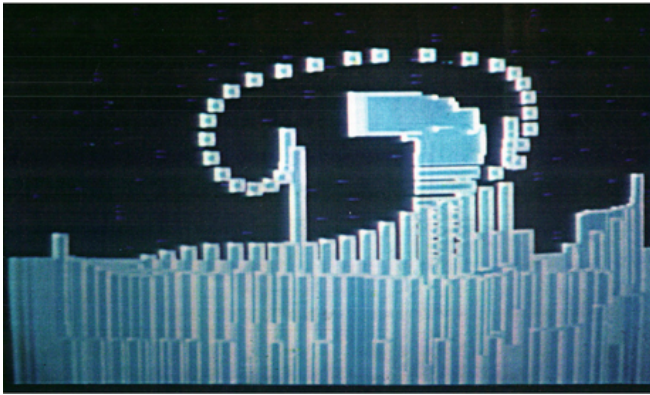
Xerograph 3



Xerograph 4



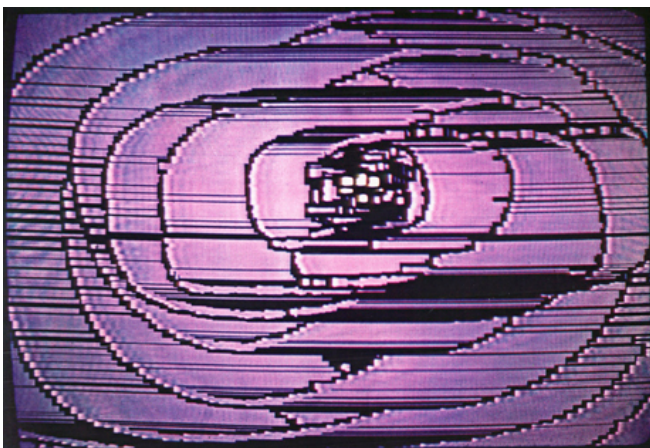
Xerograph 5



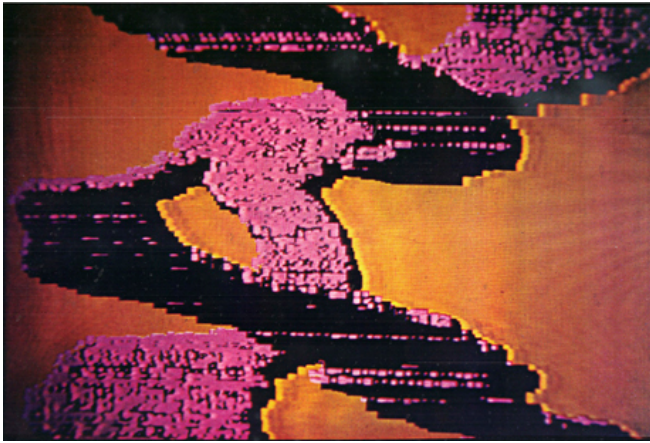
Xerograph 6



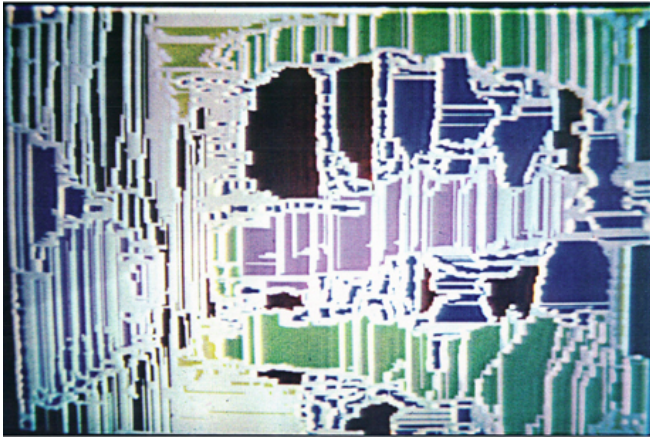
Xerograph 8



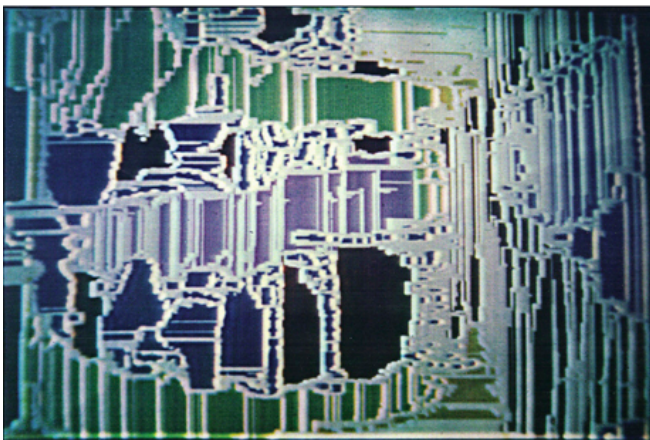
Xerograph 9



Xerograph 10



Xerograph 17



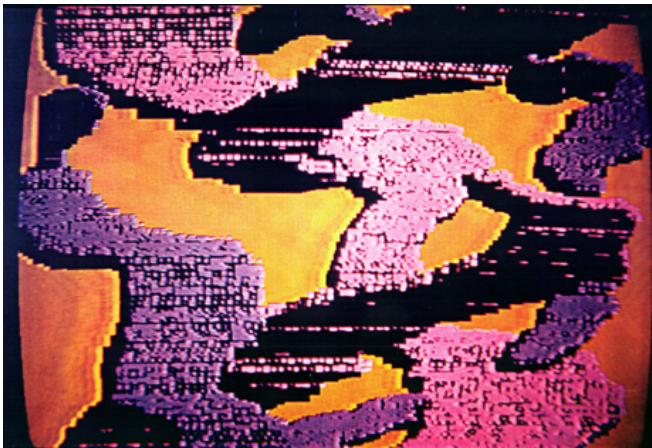
Xerograph 18



Xerograph 19



Xerograph 21



Xerograph 22



Xerograph 23

All images © Laurie Spiegel

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