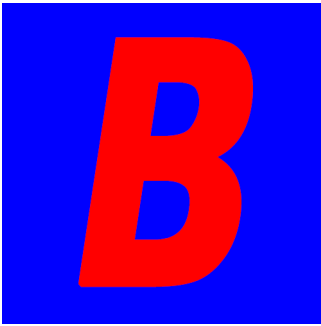


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Peace Crane Project

**NETTT**

## **NETTT**

The cranes in this room have been arranged according to an architecture that I call the NETTT. The model made of straws is an example. A crane is positioned at each node or intersection point. It is a spontaneously formed open structure in that it can be added to indefinitely. The overall configuration is modelled on white noise: an infinitely extending field of patternless material of uniform intensity throughout. This is the raw material of eternal source – the ground, the unformed potential from which all meaning emerges and then dissolves back into.

There are many approaches to using the NETTT:

### **State Schematics**

It is a study of the human state of being – an architecture of consciousness. The process used is a *human* generated algorithm: distribute the birds throughout the space in roughly the same proximity to each other but with some variation. The key is that it is generated by hand, rather than by a mechanical, automated process and therefore serves as a direct document of living presence.

Since there is no rule defining *exactly* where each bird is to be positioned, then what is it that accounts for their precise placement? Since it is arbitrary, I suggest that it is everything: mood, habit, character, aesthetics, personality, taste, environment, psychology, state of mind, social climate, the subconscious, and on. It is through this channel that human presence is able to assert itself and this is how the resulting spontaneously formed structure serves as a document of state of being - a state schematic, a MRI for the soul. Like a table of data or an oracle, it can be read and interpreted and information can be obtained. For example, it can be used as a document to understand the otherwise invisible inner dynamics of the psyche of the author, interpreter, and environment (both physical and non-physical) within which it has been generated.

### **Scientific Visualization**

The artistic gesture has been reduced to a simple formalized process. In the manner of scientific method, variables have been reduced so that all visible activity is contained within a manageable, 'statistically significant' (ie. the results are decipherable, legible, and meaningful) bounded range.

The resulting set of points can be reduced, with the use of software, to a data set – a table of values. There is no limit to how this information can be transformed, manipulated, and read. In visualizing data, different configurations will reveal different aspects of the structure, thereby revealing different aspects of state of being. This is one of the main purposes of this investigation, but there are others:

## Distributed Non-linear Network

The NETTT can also be described as a distributed non-linear network. From Wikipedia: "In physics and other sciences, a **nonlinear system**, in contrast to a linear system, is a system which does not satisfy the superposition principle - meaning that the output of a nonlinear system is not directly proportional to the input." For instance, if one were to remove one of the lines, it would have an undetermined effect on the entire system, influencing channels throughout the network in an unpredictable way. A line halfway across the structure would be rendered inactive along with a few others in locations that are difficult if not impossible to know beforehand.

The non-linear aspect is significant in many ways; the understanding of consciousness, emergent behavior, and a model of new forms of social structure. It is abundantly clear and clearer every day that there needs to be some radically new form(s) of social organization if we, as a race, plan on working our way through current world wide dilemmas. The top-down hierarchical model is clearly destroying life on earth and is the structure of fascist ideology. Self-organizing, non-linear, decentralized systems are a possible alternative and one that I see worth investing time and energy in exploring.

The initial inspiration for this project was not to create a form of artificial intelligence but to develop approaches to studying consciousness, in this case using the tools of the field of artificial intelligence. There is much to explore in terms of network science. I am currently studying different aspects of AI research that provide rich avenues for discovery in terms of the emergence of consciousness. For example, there are many innovative machine learning approaches that have been developed in recent years in the field of computer science such as self-organizing maps, and deep belief systems that model with increasing precision, flexibility, and detail, a 'bottom up' theory of cognition. All that being said, I view the NETTT as not only a representation but as a rudimentary form of consciousness.

## Simultaneous Music

The NETTT is an example of a simultaneous structure like TV snow or a waterfall: at each instant you are hearing the whole sound, a *noise* – it sounds the same continuously, yet no two moments are precisely the same. It is in this way that I suggest that it transcends linear time – the form is meant to be apprehended all at once.

In a single NETTT, a number of different consciousnesses may be encoded thus rendering the structure an example of simultaneous realities. This is also how neural networks function. In this installation there are different birds which have been created by different people and groups of people with (slightly) different purposes. The white cranes, some with writing on them, have been created by visitors to the gallery, including children, and are within the spirit of the the Peace Crane Project ([www.peacecraneproject.org](http://www.peacecraneproject.org)). The coloured cranes were created by Lucas for the gallery and also for the Peace Crane Project. Some of the cranes I made are mixed within as well. The resulting NETTT, therefore, is a blend of the three general forms (note that the first group, the visitors, is itself a collection of various consciousnesses – a subgroup – this is where something like a deep belief system, consisting of different (nested) levels of data, may apply).

There are two different blending modes that I have identified so far: coincident and integrated. Coincident are two NETTTs that are occupying the same space but cohere internally still as separate

fields – like two galaxies passing through each other (McLuhan) – a mixture. Integrated means the NETTTs as separate structures have dissolved and now have recombined to form a single architecture – a solution. This installation is an example of the latter and reflects the cooperative blending of different groups (different consciousnesses) to form a new cohesive whole – reflecting the harmonious nature of the project's impetus.

## **Experience Recorder**

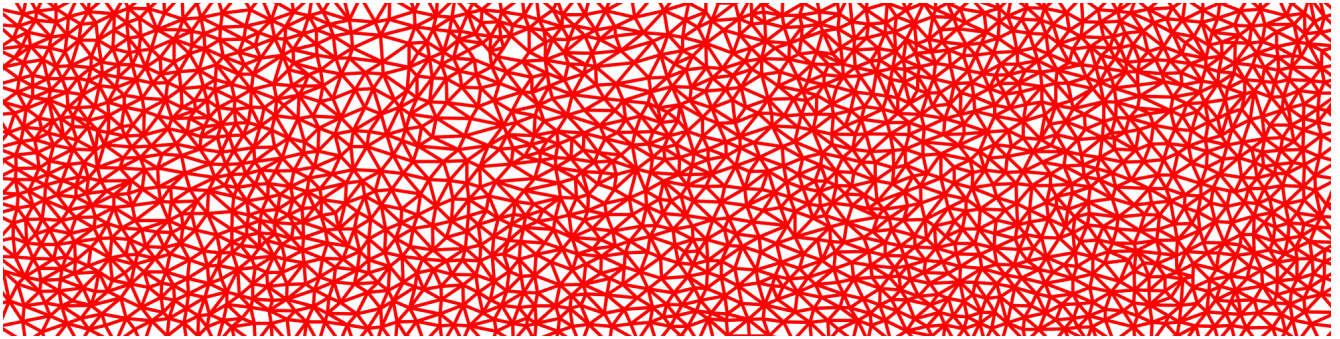
The NETTT is an empty field of pure potential that can be filled with and formed by any kind of presence into a meaningful structure. As it is a document of consciousness, it is in that way recording experience. During each of my shows and installations I install the NETTT (usually a 2-D version) above the area where most of the action takes place. All activity underneath, within, around, and directed towards it is absorbed by the structure. For example, the act of simply ascribing meaning, interpreting – 'it looks like', is a way of interacting with it and that presence is absorbed and asserts an influence on the NETTT's form. This is what I call 'programming the NETTT', so as I continue working with this form, setting one up at each consecutive show, it absorbs more and more presence and becomes more and more meaningful – more fully formed or differentiated. The language becomes richer, just as in a computer language. Over time libraries are continually developed by the users creating a richer and deeper collective vocabulary. It is easy to see that the development of a broadly available computer language, for example, Java or C++ can be seen as a collective emanation of intelligence – a collective form of consciousness as code and algorithms.

The NETTT is ultimately a purely conceptual, psychological, spiritual structure and any physical manifestations of it are simply pointing to the invisible one, serving to augment its configuration or affect it in some way by, for example, performing operations on it or adding to it. It is an exercise in pure manifestation in that it is entirely imaginary and therefore can be whatever one is capable of imagining. As others are involved both as participant and collaborator, the NETTT becomes an example of a collective emanation.

## **Receivin and Transmittin**

As the NETTT serves as a field within which consciousness may be encoded, it may also serve as a medium through which presence may be transmitted and received. Messages from other places, realms, possibly beings. In my HARPPP installations which I have been constructing in downtown Huntsville for the past four years (2010-2014) for Nuit Blanche North (Edge of the Woods Theatre with Huntsville Festival of the Arts), I have been attempting to connect with earth energy lines, also known as 'ley lines', in order to facilitate two-way communication in the subtle realms. I am looking for a way to invoke the sense of a different world, another dimension. This is an example of a visionary form of spirituality – techno-shamanism – the world of visualization, journeying, dream work, and making visible normally invisible spiritual entities. This is an apparatus designed to provide a field for invoking, witnessing, and working with other realms in a controlled, observable, and neutral manner. It is all just data after all.

## 2-D NETTT



## Super Butterfly Blaster 2012 (Art Space, Huntsville):

