



The Art of Alan Rath: Living Machinery

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Introduction

- ✦ Alan Rath has an Engineering Education from MIT
- ✦ He instills lifelike qualities in primitive electronic sculptures.
- ✦ Explores human interest and repulsion reactions to machinery with human characteristics.

Types of Art Pieces

- ✦ Digital Video Sculptures
- ✦ Counters
- ✦ Throbbers
- ✦ Robots



Digital Video Sculptures

- ✦ Recognizable human traits
- ✦ Overtly electronic:
monochrome CRT display
- ✦ Sculptures seem “alive”, yet
exaggeratedly robotic.



Counters

- ✦ Columns of counting digits
- ✦ Invokes curiosity and sense of some imminent event.



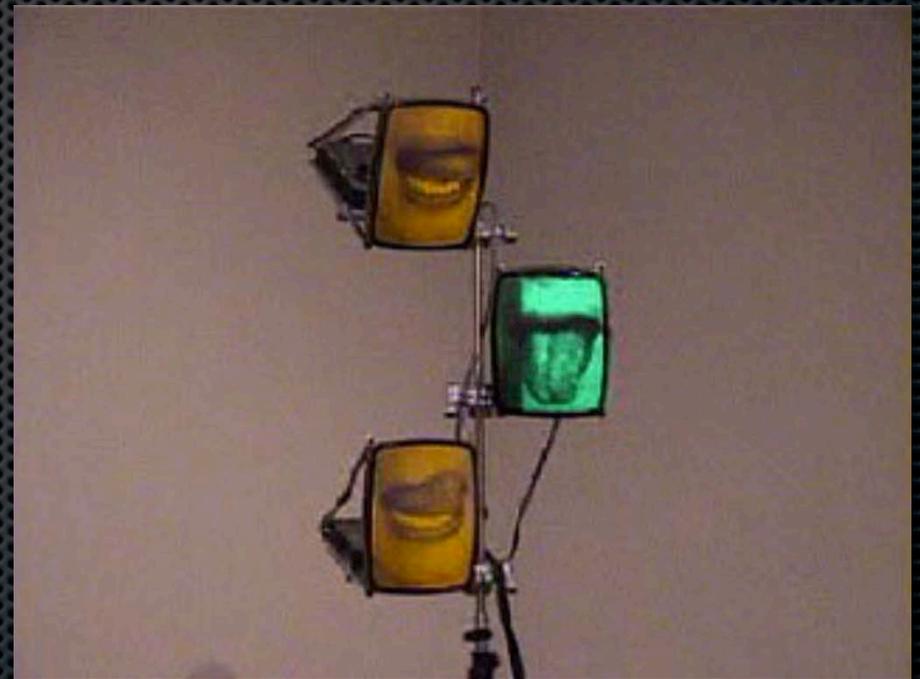
Robots

- ✦ Peacock:
 - ✦ Synchronized wall-display of moving feathers
 - ✦ Intriguing motions and movement patterns.



Why do People Feel Alienated by Machines?

- ✦ We manufacture robots to resemble humans in looks and traits.
- ✦ Contrasting combinations of man and machine invoke a sense of repulsion.



References

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[6] David M. Rath, "Rath of the Machines, Sculptor Alan Rath questions the promises of technology" 1995, MetroActive Art, www.metroactive.com/papers/metro/12.14.95/rath9550.html