

The Robot Drawings

Gregory Hilton

This is the age of AI and rapidly advancing technological developments in robotics 3D printing processing and remotely controlled Drones. Technology is moving away from fossil fuels. Solar power and wind energy and electro magnetic fuel cells are advancing the way towards a better place for humans to survive on this and possibly other planets.

I discovered that a Roomba vacuum cleaner could be used as a drawing and painting tool. I experimented at first with various drawing tools, but they didn't give me very satisfying results. Next, I tried scattered powdered pigments which since the vacuum is designed to pick up dust, worked much better and gave me more interesting results. Of course, the preparation of the surface is a major part of the drawing and painting process, there are various ways to program it, but mostly I let the Roomba do what it's programmed to do from the factory. If left to its own devices, it will work over a large area so it must be confined to space the size of the canvas or paper by barriers strong enough to keep it from pushing its way out. It is like having a robot as an art assistant. It is predictably unpredictable. These paintings and drawings express my feeling of an interpretation of a kind of spherical aesthetic embracing towards a feeling of tranquility and calm.

Sphereism is the new Cubism. Spheres and circles, seconds and minutes, hours and days, weeks and months, years and decades, centuries and millennia. The planet is not completely uploaded. We are going back to the future and paintings is a recording of this. The artist is a reporter with the painting of a new lease on canvas and paper. In theory, it doesn't matter if you are in step with the rhythms of the universe. A life is only for a short period of time compared to the age of the planet much less compared to the age of the universe.