

DAM GALLERY

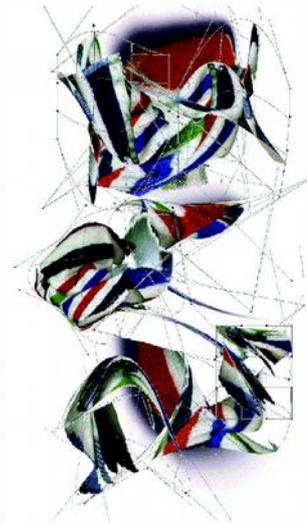
DRKRM

Preview: 30 October 2015, 7 – 9 PM

Exhibition: 31 October 2015 – 16 January 2016

Artists:

Anthony Antonellis, US
Kim Asendorf, D
Driessens & Verstappen, NL
Faith Holland, US
Olia Lialina, RUS
Lorna Mills, CDN
Manfred Mohr, D
Emma Talbot, UK



Lorna Mills, SCRAP: Terry, 2013, animated GIF

In 1987 the era of black and white images on the net ended. With the invention of the GIF format, Steve Wilhite paved the way for images composed of 256 individual colors to be sent quickly and compactly throughout the digital world.

“GIF for Graphics Interchange Format is a graphic format for color images. It allows compression of images without losses. In addition, several... individual images are stored in a file that can be interpreted as animations by suitable viewing programs such as Web browsers.” — Wikipedia 2015

For the present net rate and capacity, the almost antiquated format is despite everything still very popular. It allows users to send and receive cheap and fast animated images with little storage capacity. Like many innovations on the Internet, the GIF also inspired many artists. The boundary between art and design or simply slapstick is fluid here.

In the new exhibition, the DAM Gallery anticipates an aesthetically diverse selection of animated GIFs. Already the title DRKRM indicates a deliberate omission of unnecessary information. The exhibition turns the white cube into a darkroom, where it twitches and flickers on screens and projections. The spectrum ranges from internationally known artists such as Manfred Mohr to new discoveries like the English painter Emma Talbot.

The fast short rhythm recurring often in less than a minute is how we know internet GIFs. They are definitely comparable to the loop in digital music. They also characterize short intervals prompting the viewer to engage in this timing.

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Works by Lorna Mills, who has become internationally known with GIF animations, correspond to exactly that which the audience awaits. Already earlier this year, the Canadian Embassy in Berlin devoted a solo exhibition to her as part of the Transmediale. Mills shows both through her abstract work as well as through her virtuoso manner of collaging GIF animations how everything melts into a pulsating whole. The absurd is always just a small step away. This is found again in the *Geyser* work by the artist Faith Holland.

Olia Lilalina represents a pioneer of net art who has previously exhibited her GIF animations in the DAM Gallery. Her work *Animated GIF Model* from 2005 shows an accordion playing and Hula hoop dancing artist—yet it is in an unusual format, which evolves into her very poetic verse.

Completely varying from this is the work of the Dutch couple Driessens & Verstappen, who morph various everyday objects into different connotations. Also worth seeing as well as being interesting is how Kim Asendorf can encircle dazzling geometric shapes.

The artist Anthony Antonelli works against the minimalistic. In his work *My un-bio*, he lists the main points of an un-biography and displays them in text format. Only the blinking of the vertical line at the end of the text suggests animation.

Winterbreak: 23 December 2015 – 9 January 2016