

Brynn Shepherd

*Artist Statement*

For the culmination of my senior fine arts thesis, I have created a system to document, process, and visualize information from everyday life that might otherwise go unnoticed. The units of this system are sets of images, usually photographs or screenshots. For each set, I record one image every ten seconds for thirty minutes, for a total of 180 images per set. I then create visualizations of the images by selecting and analyzing certain aspects of their data over time. I choose the content of the images according to personal significance or interest. Usually this content is already a kind of system: for example, Grand Central Station (a transportation system) or Facebook (a communication system). In this way, my work can be thought of as a system to document systems, or meta-system.

The meta-system represents an automated approach to making art. I am interested in the intersection of art and technology and the ways in which artists can employ technology as a creative tool. While I write code to generate the visualizations and display the images on a computer screen, it is important to me that the process of recording them remains entirely manual; as such, I use a stopwatch to time the ten second intervals rather than a timed shutter. The fact that a human being assumes the role of an automated machine during this process, in my opinion, informs the meaning of the end result.

The images in each set exist both as individual frames and as a single aggregate sequence, and can be interpreted by the viewer in both contexts. As frames, they contain a high level of information density, functioning as snapshots of specific moments in time. As a sequence, they reveal change over time, and through this abstraction lose a degree of detail. I am interested in the transformation that occurs between these two states, and I try to display the images in a way that highlights the tension between the individual components and the sequence as a whole.