“The Painters Tale”

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What a remarkable story. A renowned British artist by the name of Harold Cohen has ingeniously been able to program a computer to randomly draw as if it were a real artist. Cohen designed and developed the program that he named AARON. This illustrates the advance in technology and begins to pave the way for similar programs. Through many potential applications, prospective computer programs intend to push the envelope in what is possible with the aide of computers. The idea of a machine producing or replicating art is a strong step towards artificial intelligence in computers. The question arises: is it just a grouping of random stuff, or is it art? If what AARON is making is not art, what is it exactly? What is the difference? True art, it may be argued, can only come from the hand of man, the artist. Through thought and human process, art is formed. The computer program is not thinking. It is rather, deducing by random selection. It follows no line of thought or human process. Harold Cohen began making a sort of hybrid, where he would paint color onto a piece of AARON art. This collaboration is intriguing due to the computer program and the artist working both separately and in conjunction to create a finished piece of art. Now the question arises: who is the artist? The computer, or is it Cohen? One great aspect of Cohen and his computer program is that they jointly create something together as we wish we could do with some computer programs today that don’t understand our wishes, and beep back at us without positive constructive assistance in the right direction.