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The Painter’s Tale

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It’s amazing how looking at something in a new or different way can change our perspective. Harold Cohen not only changed his way of making art, but also his ways of looking at things. His desire to learn a whole new language (of computers) without knowing anything of the subject before, and then his ability to develop new ways of creating art through computers makes me appreciate our need for change and new development and understanding. There is a log of importance involved in learning to view computers in various ways. Instead of looking at the basic input and output functions of a computer, Cohen looked further into the possibility of computer programming languages as forms of representation. It is really interesting how Cohen relates representation through computers to representation through art. A big step was taken when art without intention, or unpredictable was created. The comparison of biological evolution and other unpredictable forces of nature to art as an unpredictable act lead to the importance of, once again, viewing things from different points of view. This brings me to asking the inevitable question, of who the artist really is in Cohen’s case: is it he, or his computer? With the ways in which computer technologies are changing our lifestyles, I think it is important to realize the importance of human created art and computer created art together as one entity and apart as separate ones. What I mean by this is that I think it is important to allow the artist and the computer to create together, without allowing either one of them to overrule the other. In this day and age, we need computer technology as much as we need art and vise versa.