Symmetry: Culture and Science
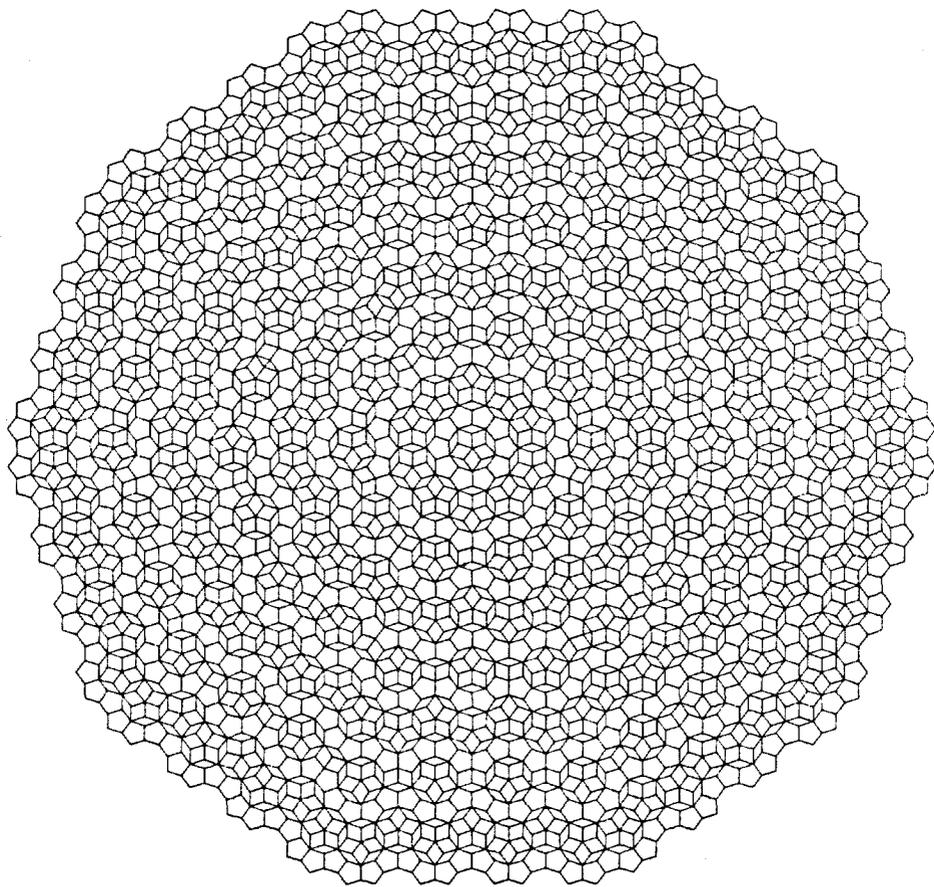
EXPERIMENTAL ANIMATION

Larry Cuba

### 1803 Mission St. #123, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, U.S.A.

Calculated Movements
by Larry Cuba

(1985)
6 minutes
16mm, B/W
optical sound

Distributed by:

Chicago Filmmakers
1229 West Belmont Ave
Chicago, IL 60657

(312) 281 8788
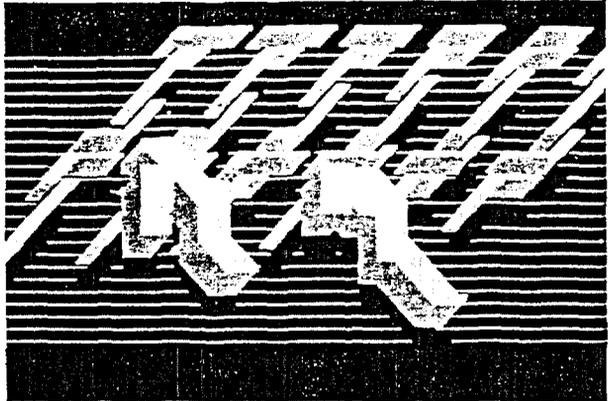
DESCRIPTION:

A choreographed sequence of graphic events constructed from simple
elements repeated and combined in a hierarchical structure. The
simplest element is a linear ribbon-like figure, that appears,
follows a path across the screen and then disappears. The next level
up in the hierarchy is an animating geometric form composed of
multiple copies of the ribbon figure shifted in time and space. At
this level the copies are spread out into a two-dimensional symmetry
pattern or shifted out of phase for a follow-the-leader type effect,
or a combination of the two. The highest level is the sequential
arrangement of these graphic events into a score that describes the
composition from beginning to end.

3/78
by Larry Cuba

(1978)
6 minutes
16mm, B/W
optical sound

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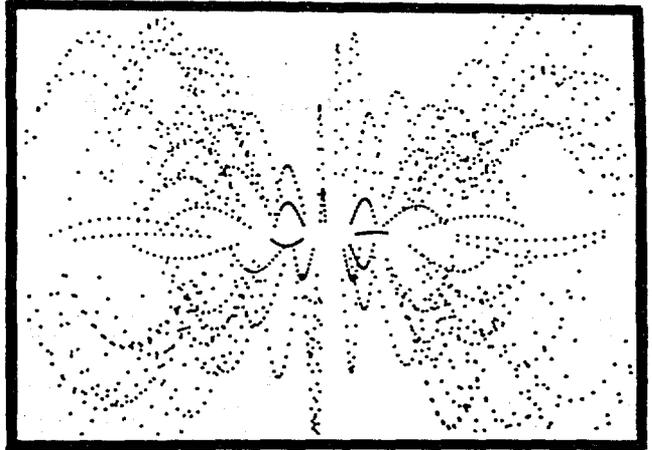
DESCRIPTION:

Sixteen 'objects', each consisting of one hundred points of light,
perform a series of precisely choreographed rhythmic transformations.
Accompanied by the sound of a Shakuhachi (the Japanese bamboo flute),
the film is an exercise in the visual perception of motion and
mathematical structure.

Two Space
by Larry Cuba

(1979)
8 minutes
16mm, B/W
optical sound

Distributed by:

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1229 West Belmont Ave
Chicago, IL 60657

(312) 281 8788
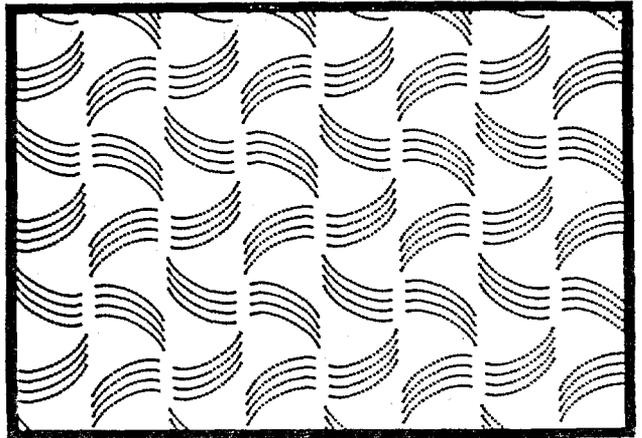
DESCRIPTION:

Two dimensional patterns, like the tile patterns of Islamic temples,
are generated by performing a set of symmetry operations
(translations, rotations, and reflections) upon a basic figure or
tile. Two Space consists of twelve such patterns produced using each
of nine different animating figures (12 x 9 = 108 total). Rendered
in stark black and white, the patterns produce optical illusions of
figure-ground reversal and afterimages of color. Gamelan music from
the classical tradition of Java adds to the mesmerizing effect.