

Press release

The jury's statement

We are delighted to award the artist Vera Molnar, whose work in the area of digital art investigates the computer as an avenue towards, not as a precondition of, creative production the first d.velop digital art award. Her work constitutes a consistent development of a form of constructivism that is not determined by purely technical, mathematical, or scientific paradigms, but rather engages with the aesthetic aspects of formal structures and their anomalies.

While Vera Molnar only began to develop computer programs of her own for her artistic projects at the end of the 1960s, she was amongst the first to lay the foundations for a specifically artistic engagement with the computer when she conceptualised her "Machine Imaginaire" in 1958.

She thus became an important pioneer of digital art, which up to current software art has ever again posed questions regarding the uncertainty of programmed systems, the transparency of computer code, and the aesthetic borders of the formal. Within the context of current software art, which has developed since 2000 and has become increasingly more differentiated, Vera Molnar's oeuvre is testimony to the artist's vision of negotiating things ahead of time. While during the 1960s computers only existed in the laboratories of a few specialists, they have today become omnipresent.

In retrospect one can say that the increased rate at which our entire surroundings can be programmed was anticipated in Molnar's early works of the 1960s – and was destabilised in a humorous manner via the introduction of a coincidence factor ("1% disorder").

In its enduring continuity Vera Molnar's oeuvre constitutes an apex in the area of art with digital media and demands the greatest respect. It is this that we would like to articulate with the bestowal of the first d.velop digital art award.