

Electronic Literature

a field of study and practice

Electronic Literature

why **electronic**?

"of, relating to, or being a medium...by which information is transmitted electronically"

"electronic literature, generally considered to exclude print literature that has been digitized, is by contrast 'digital born', and (usually) meant to be read on a computer".

-Katherine Hayles

"refers to works with an important literary aspect that takes advantage of the capabilities and contexts provided by the stand-alone or networked computer"

-ELO

why **electronic**?

Multimedia Fiction

E-lit

Digital Writing

Digital Literature

E-Poetry

Hypermedia

Cybertexts

Computational Fiction

Computational Poetry

Digital Games

Hypertext

Digital Poetry

Digital Language Art

Recombinant Fiction

Electronic Literature Organization

- created in 1999 by Scott Rettberg, Robert Coover, Jeff Ballowe (Chicago)
- hypertext fiction, interactive fiction, net poetry, and others.
- dot.com supported, then moved to UCLA under Katherine Hayles
- 2005, Electronic Literature Collection, Volume 1
- 2006, Consortium on Electronic Literature (CELL), "centralized access to literary databases, archives, and institutional programs in the literary arts and scholarship, with a focus on electronic literature."
- 2010- Electronic Literature Collection, Volumes 2 and 3, Pathfinders Project, ELO at WSUV

Electronic Literature Organization

(e-lit forms)

- E-books, hypertext and poetry, on and off of the Web
- Animated poetry presented in graphical forms, for example [Flash](#) and other platforms
- Computer art installations, which ask viewers to read them or otherwise have literary aspects
- Conversational characters, also known as chatterbots
- Interactive
- Novels that take the form of emails, SMS messages, or blogs
- Poems and stories that are generated by computers, either interactively or based on parameters given at the beginning
- Collaborative writing projects that allow readers to contribute to the text of a work
- Literary performances online that develop new ways of writing

Incomplete!

Electronic Literature

what is literature?

(expressive arts using language)

“writing considered to be an art form or any single writing deemed to have artistic or intellectual value, often due to deploying language in ways that differ from ordinary usage.”

-wikipedia

“...any writing formed with letters”.

-Arthur Krystal

"a record of one human being's sojourn on earth, proffered in verse or prose that artfully weaves together knowledge of the past with a heightened awareness of the present in ever new verbal configurations”

-Arthur Krystal

“literariness”

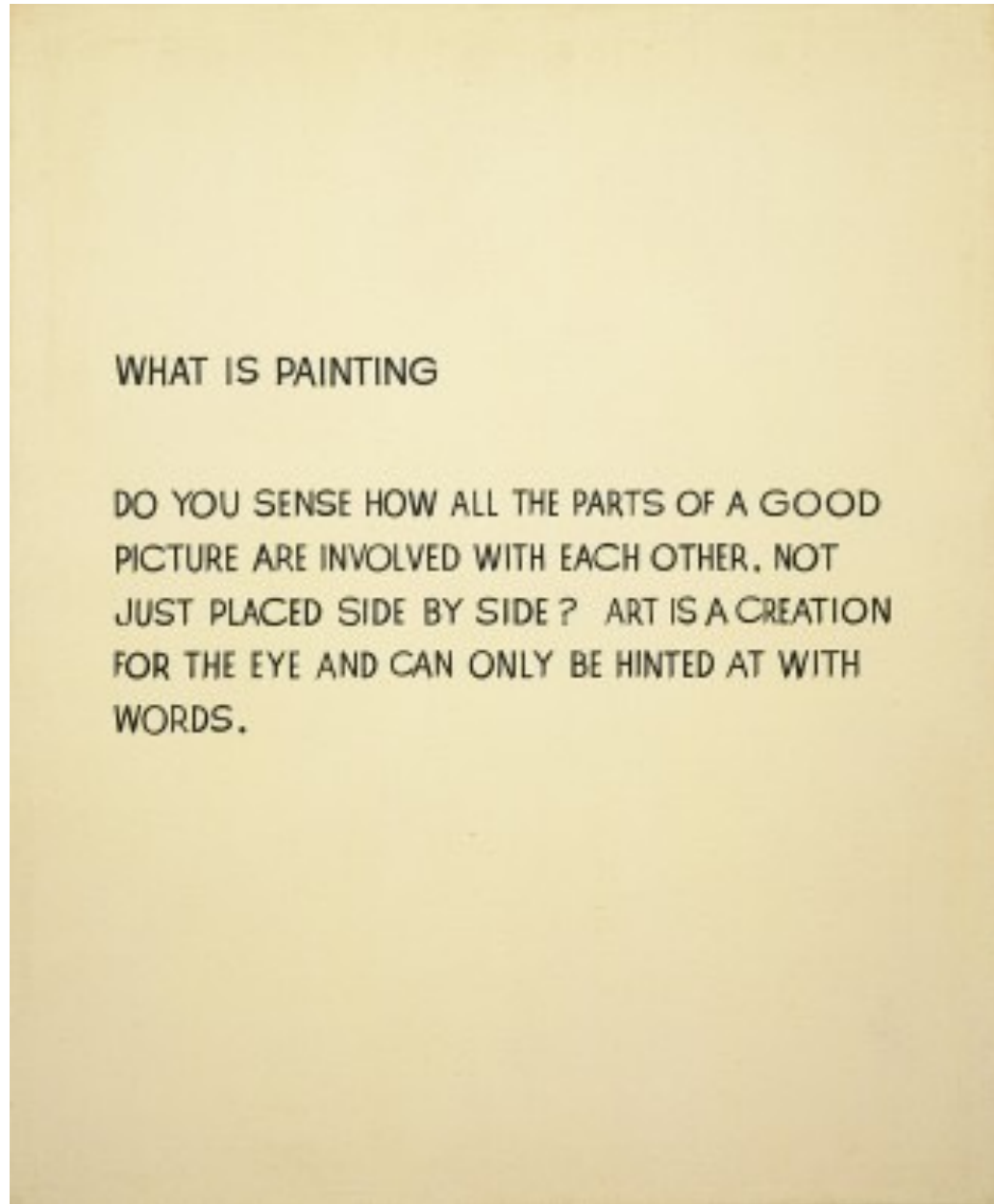
‘the object of literary science is not literature but literariness, i.e. what makes a given work a literary work’

-Roman Jakobson (Russian Formalist)

literariness, or the distinction between literary and non-literary texts, is accomplished through ‘defamiliarization’...disruption of the automatic response to things and give it a new and unforeseen perception

-Victor Shklovsky

language and art



What Is Painting, by John Baldessari (1968)



One and Three Chairs, by Joseph Kosuth (1965)

computational arts and creativity

to model, simulate or replicate creativity using a computer, to achieve one of several ends:

- To construct a program or computer capable of human-level creativity.
- To better understand human creativity and to formulate an algorithmic perspective on creative behavior in humans.
- To design programs that can enhance human creativity without necessarily being creative themselves.
- To collaborate with computer on creative expression (me)

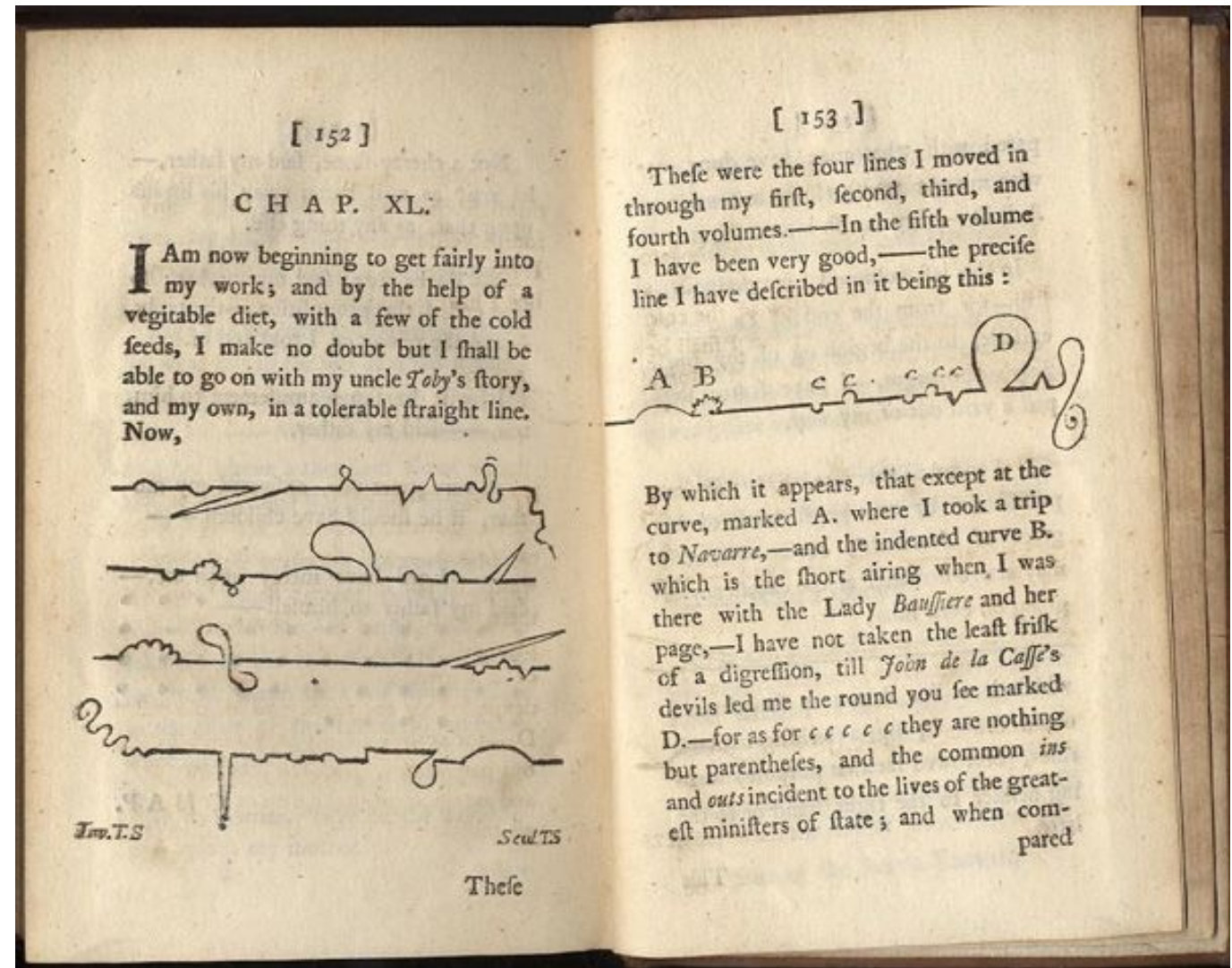
-wikipedia

If a machine can do only what it was programmed to do, how can its behavior ever be called creative?

experimental literature

(more than looking weird)

- innovation in technique
- play with syntax and form
- use of constraints
- use of chance procedures
- combinatorial processes
- metafictional
- image and text
- collaborations



The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman
by Laurence Sterne, 1759-1767