

RANDOMNESS  
ATLANTA



**ASMR:** The Art of Scripting Media w/ Randomness

Presentation By: Monica Powell 🧑

# Hello, RenderATL! 🖐️

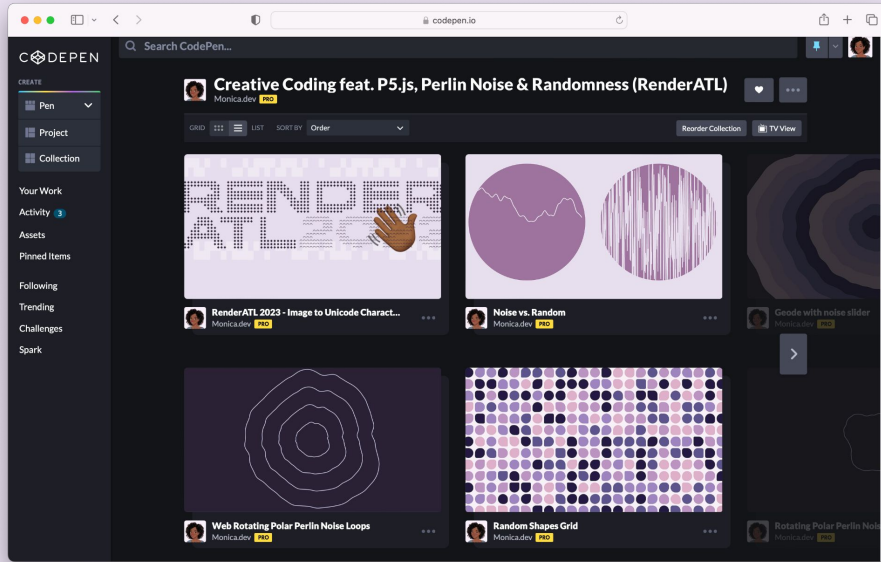
## I'm Monica Powell

- Senior Software Engineer in EdTech at Newsela 🧑🏫
- Let's chat about: Open Source and Creative Coding 🧑🏫💡
- React Robins Organizer (FKA React Ladies)
- GitHub Star 🌟

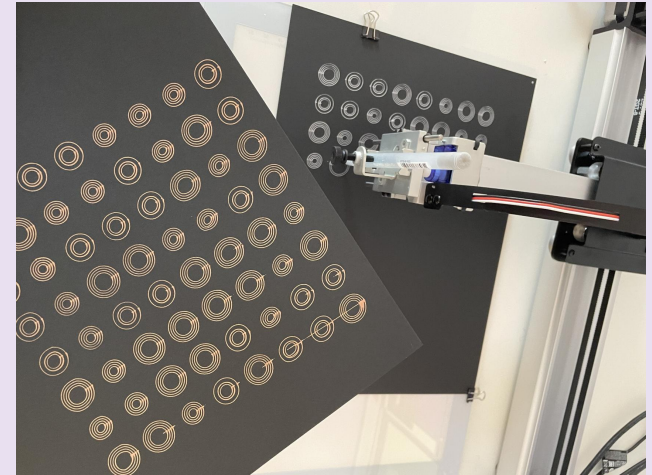
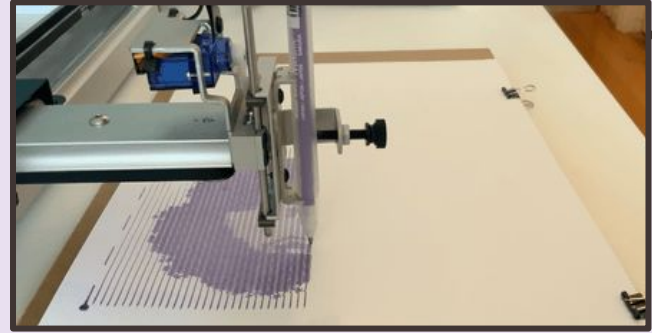
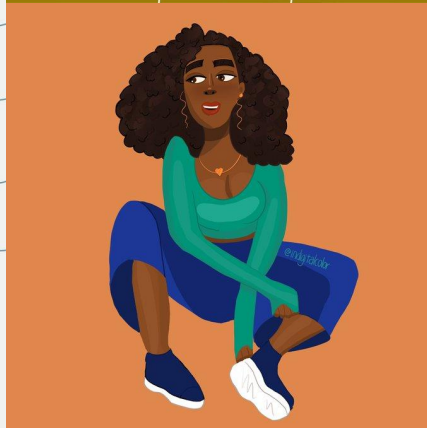
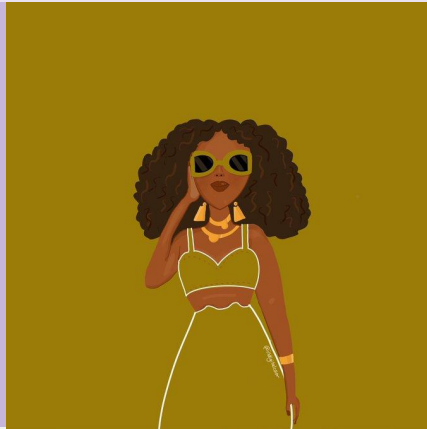




[links.monica.dev](https://links.monica.dev)



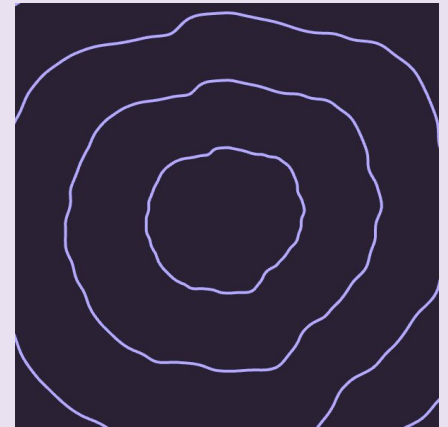
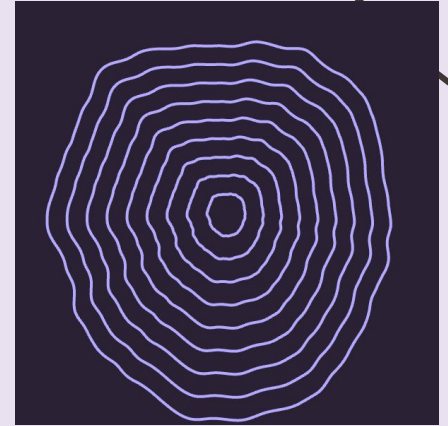
[Codepen Collection](#)





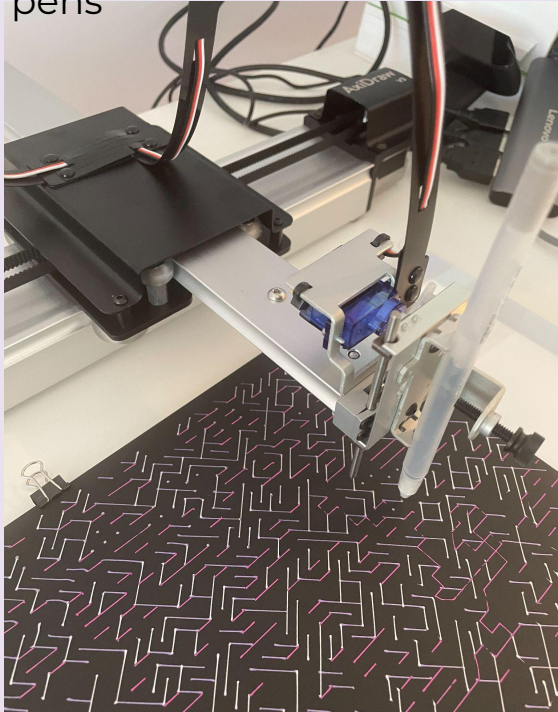
# Creative Coding

Using JavaScript (or other programming languages) to produce a variety of visual imagery that follows a predetermined set of rules or algorithms.



# Plotter Art

me (👉) plotting maze variation of 10print in multicolored gel pens



## Sohan Murthy, Generative Art Postcards

Generative Art Postcards Postcards For Good The Robot










### Generative Art Postcards

A humble pandemic project involving a pen plotter robot, some code, and lots of love

👤 Sohan Murthy

In September 2020, I acquired a pen plotter robot and started making generative art with it. In an effort to reduce waste and create outside of a vacuum, I decided to mail my work as postcards to friends and family. Eventually, my mailing list expanded to coworkers, friends-of-friends, and beyond!

To get on my list, send me proof of donation to a charitable organization of your choice by filling out [this form](#). Looking for help on where to donate? Check out [Postcards For Good](#) for more info. 🔍 Search

 Hydrozoan Multi	 Hydrozoan Blue	 Hydrozoan Green
 Sag A*	 Pruniform Multi	 Pruniform Blue/Orange
		

## Gallery of plotter art by Adam Fuhrer

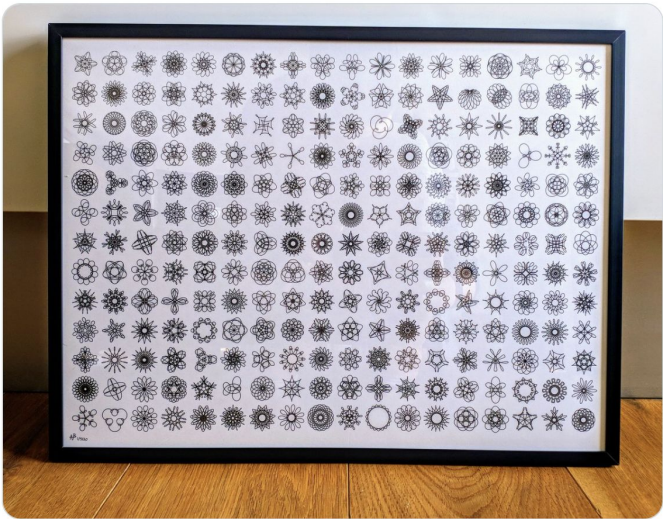


# Generative Grids

 **Nadieh Bremer**  
@NadiehBremer

Framed my first pen plotter piece to hang on a wall in our house 😊😊  
(the A3 tiny spirograph grid)

Having always worked in the digital realm it's a really cool feeling to see something I created come alive in the real world (on fancy paper) ^\_^  
[#axidraw](#) [#plottertwitter](#)



 **Adam genlight**  
@generativelight

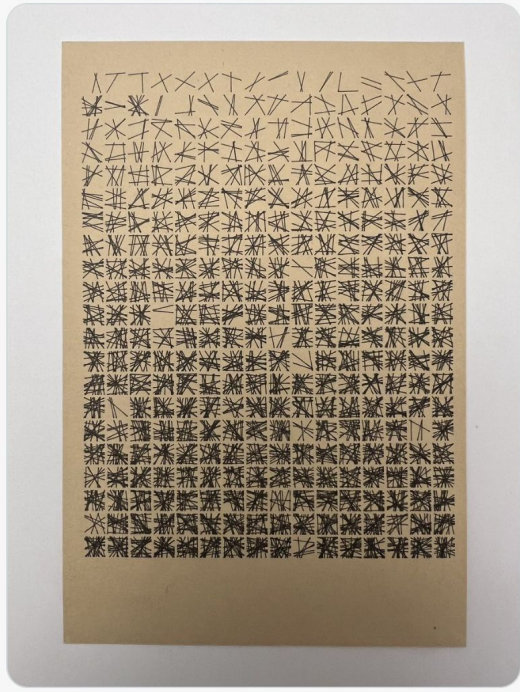
5 years ago i spent 6 months drawing a cowboy hat every single day.

today i used p5js to make a generative art system that can instantly render 600 unique cowboy hats with every refresh.

nothing handdrawn, just plain bezier curves and lines.

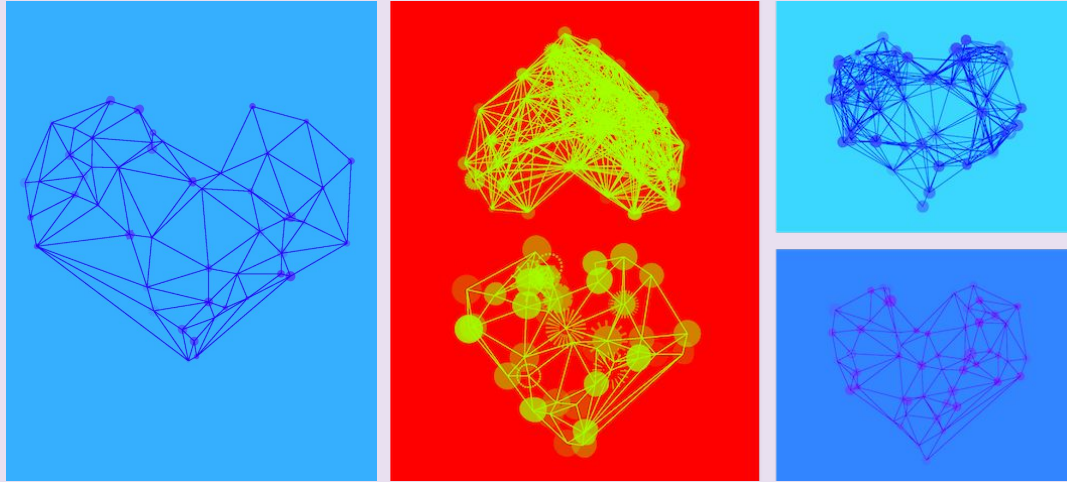


 **Adam Fuhrer**  @adamfuhrer · Apr 3  
lines in a grid [#plottertwitter](#)

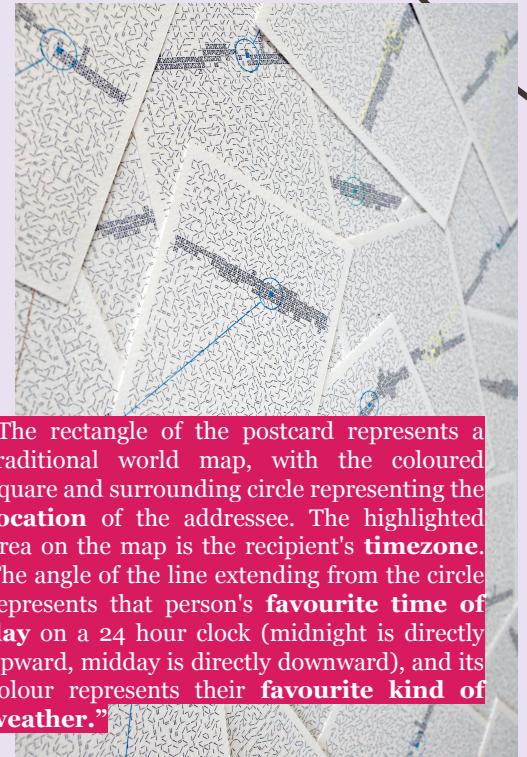




# Date-Driven Generative Art



“I know how to write code. So that year I made cards utilizing data from each recipient. If they were a couple they got two hearts, if they were close to me (using zip code), etc. I made about 100 cards—each completely unique. My local digital printer hooked me up with his new HP Indigo and off they went.” - Derrick Schultz



“The rectangle of the postcard represents a traditional world map, with the coloured square and surrounding circle representing the **location** of the addressee. The highlighted area on the map is the recipient's **timezone**. The angle of the line extending from the circle represents that person's **favourite time of day** on a 24 hour clock (midnight is directly upward, midday is directly downward), and its colour represents their **favourite kind of weather**.”

Duncan Green,  
Generative Art Postcards

# p5.js

p5.js is a JavaScript library for **creative coding**, with a focus on making coding **accessible** and **inclusive** for artists, designers, educators, beginners, and **anyone** else!

# P5.js Essential Functions

1x

```
/* called 1x per sketch to set up, set defaults  
(bg color, size)*/
```

```
setup();
```

---

∞

```
/* where we add new elements to sketch  
continuously runs */
```

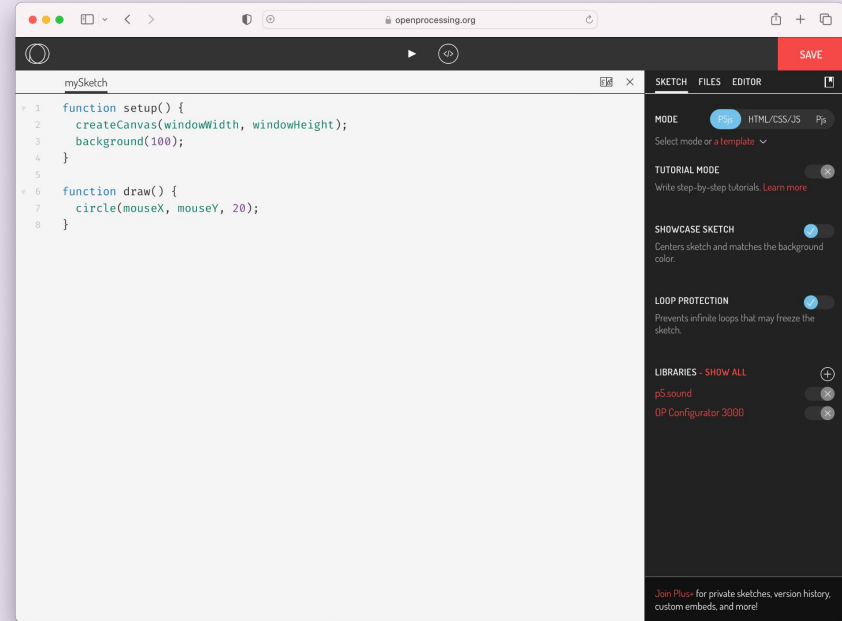
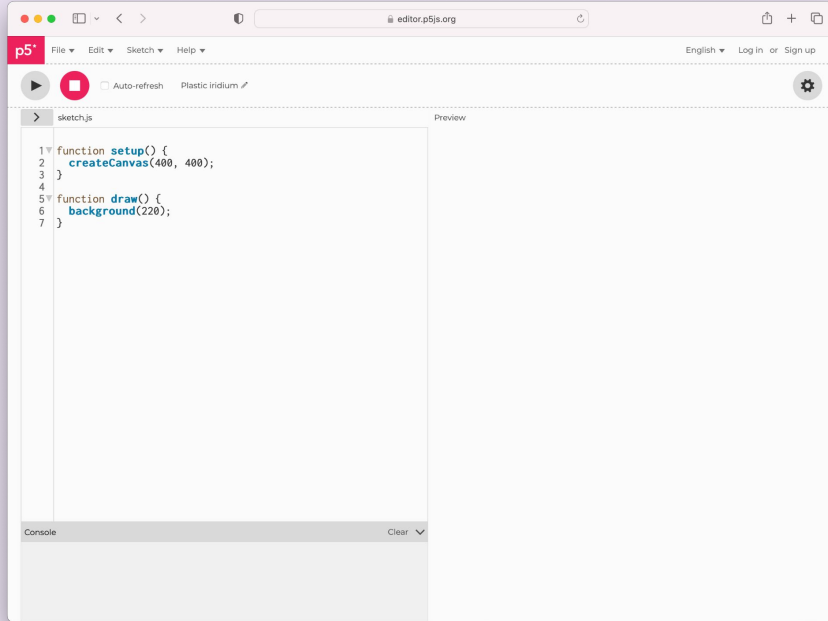
```
draw();
```

Note: Beware of ∞ loops;

Default: called 60x per second

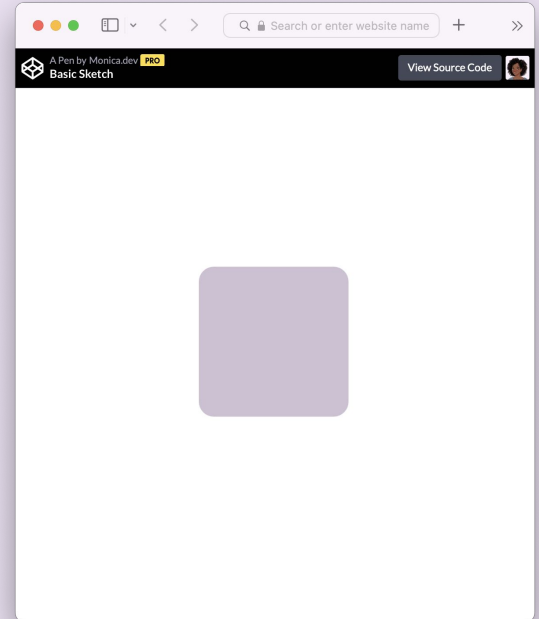


# P5.js Online Editors

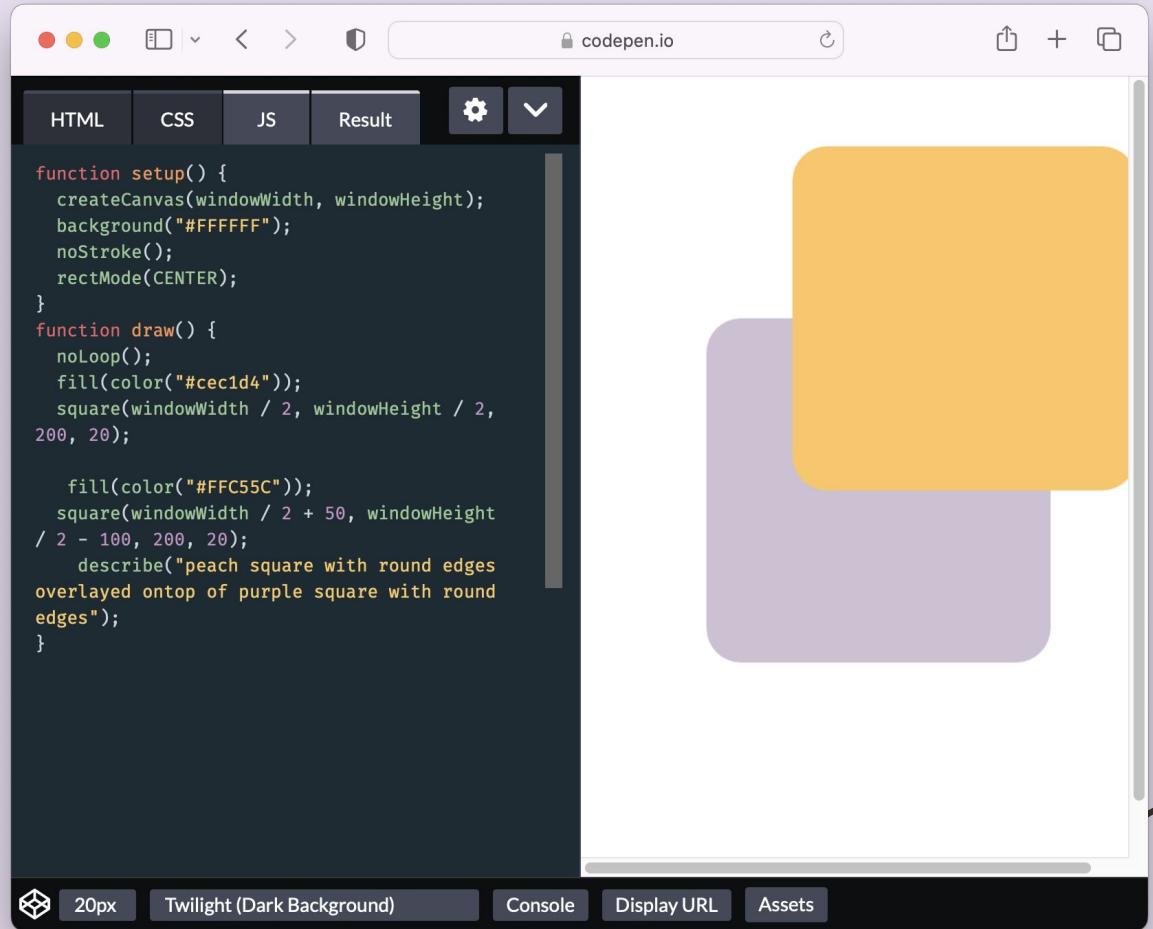


# Basic Sketch

```
function setup() {
  createCanvas(windowWidth, windowHeight);
  background("#FFFFFF");
  noStroke();
  rectMode(CENTER);
}
function draw() {
  noLoop();
  fill(color("#cec1d4"));
  square(windowWidth / 2, windowHeight / 2,
200, 20);
  describe("purple square with round edges
in middle of canvas.");
}
```



# Order matters when drawing in P5.js.



The screenshot shows a CodePen editor with the following code in the JS tab:

```
function setup() {  
  createCanvas(windowWidth, windowHeight);  
  background("#FFFFFF");  
  noStroke();  
  rectMode(CENTER);  
}  
  
function draw() {  
  noLoop();  
  fill(color("#cec1d4"));  
  square(windowWidth / 2, windowHeight / 2,  
    200, 20);  
  
  fill(color("#FFC55C"));  
  square(windowWidth / 2 + 50, windowHeight  
    / 2 - 100, 200, 20);  
  describe("peach square with round edges  
    overlayed ontop of purple square with round  
    edges");  
}
```

The output on the right shows a white canvas with two rounded squares. A light purple square is positioned at the center, and a peach-colored square is positioned to its right and slightly above it, overlapping the purple square. The peach square is drawn on top of the purple square.

At the bottom of the editor, there are several controls: a 20px font size, a 'Twilight (Dark Background)' theme, a 'Console' button, a 'Display URL' button, and an 'Assets' button.



## Unpredictable

### True Random Number Generator (TRNG)

- Influenced by randomness in physical world (unknown seed value)
- Nondeterministic. Same known inputs will result in a different random sequences of numbers

## Predictable

### Pseudorandom Number Generator (PRNG)

- Typically computers use a PRNG algorithm to generate a series of random values
- Deterministic. Same same known inputs (including seed value) will result in the same random sequence of numbers



random.org

[Home](#) [Games](#) [Numbers](#) [Lists & More](#) [Drawings](#) [Web Tools](#) [Statistics](#) [Testimonials](#) [Learn More](#) [Login](#)

# RANDOM.ORG

Search RANDOM.ORG

**True Random Number Service**

**Advisory:** We only operate services from the RANDOM.ORG domain. Other sites that claim to be operated by us are impostors. If in doubt, [contact us](#).

## What's this fuss about *true* randomness?

Perhaps you have wondered how predictable machines like computers can generate randomness. In reality, most random numbers used in computer programs are *pseudo-random*, which means they are generated in a predictable fashion using a mathematical formula. This is fine for many purposes, but it may not be random in the way you expect if you're used to dice rolls and lottery drawings.

RANDOM.ORG offers *true* random numbers to anyone on the Internet. The randomness comes from atmospheric noise, which for many purposes is better than the pseudo-random number algorithms typically used in computer programs. People use RANDOM.ORG for holding drawings, lotteries and sweepstakes, to drive online games, for scientific applications and for art and music. The service has existed since 1998 and was built by [Dr Mads Haahr](#) of the [School of Computer Science and Statistics at Trinity College, Dublin](#) in Ireland. Today, RANDOM.ORG is operated by [Randomness and Integrity Services Ltd.](#)

**True Random Number Generator**

Min:

Max:

Result:

Powered by [RANDOM.ORG](#)

**FREE services** [Games and Lotteries](#)

[Lottery Quick Pick](#) is perhaps the Internet's most popular with over 280 lotteries

[Keno Quick Pick](#) for the popular game played in many countries

[Coin Flipper](#) will give you heads or tails in many currencies

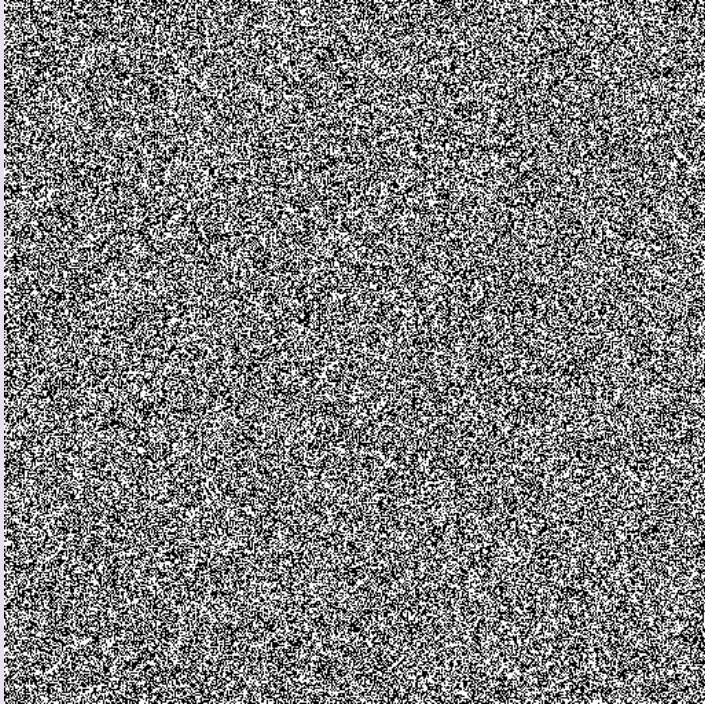
[Dice Roller](#) does exactly what it says on the tin

[Playing Card Shuffler](#) will draw cards from multiple shuffled decks

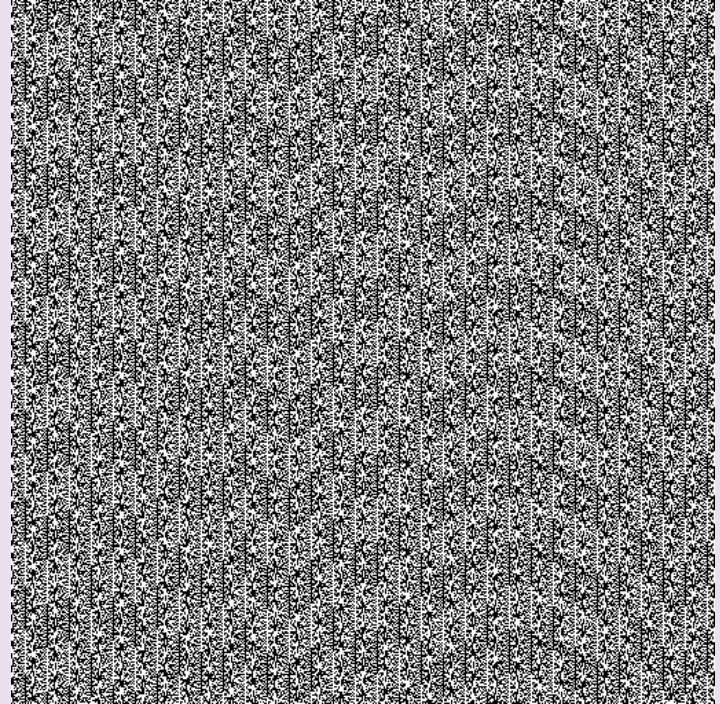
[Birdie Fund Generator](#) will create birdie holes for golf courses



**Random.org Bitmap Random bitmap  
based on atmospheric noise**



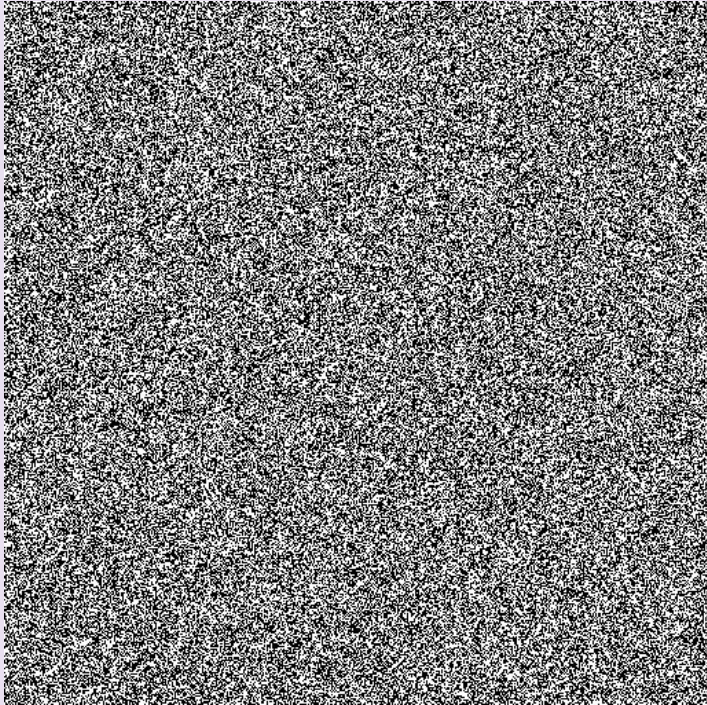
**PHP rand() on Windows Bitmap**



Source: <https://boallen.com/random-numbers.html>

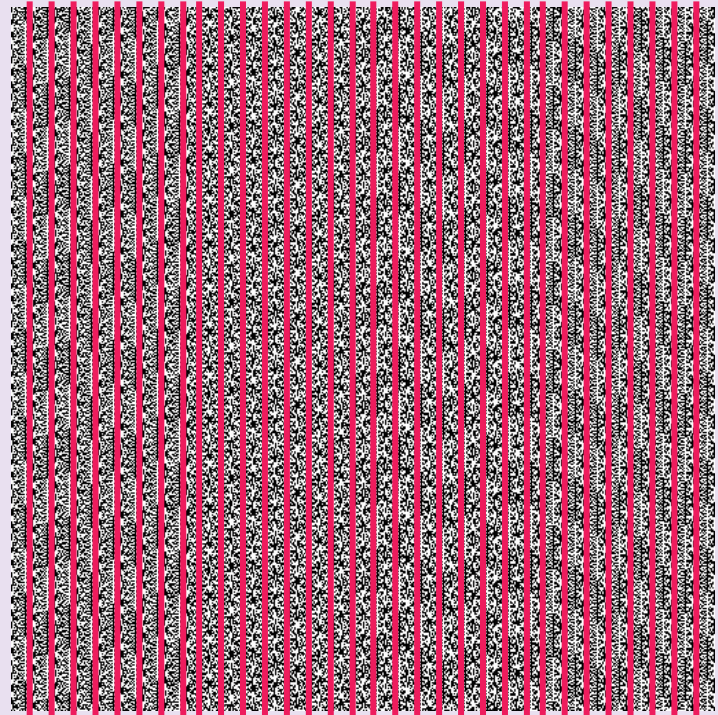


## Random.org Bitmap Random bitmap based on atmospheric noise



## PHP rand() on Windows Bitmap

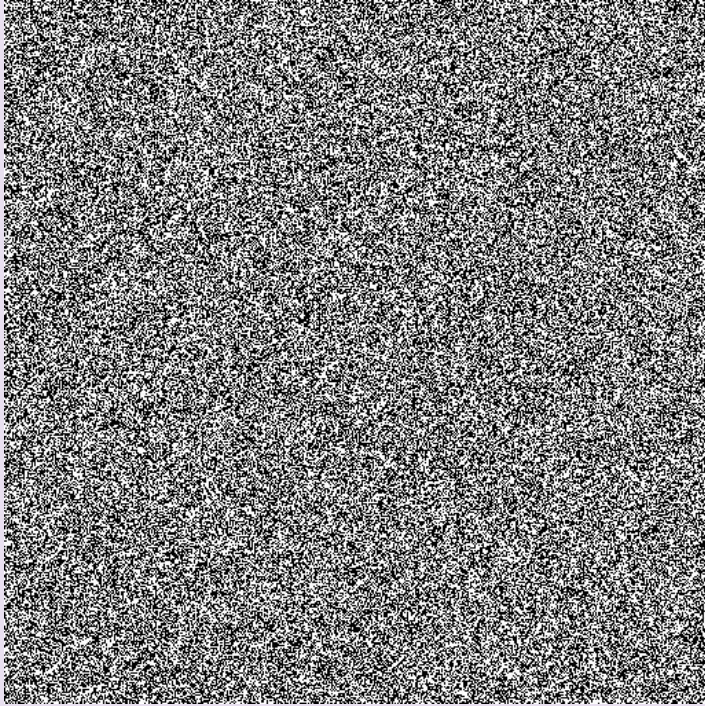
emerging pattern



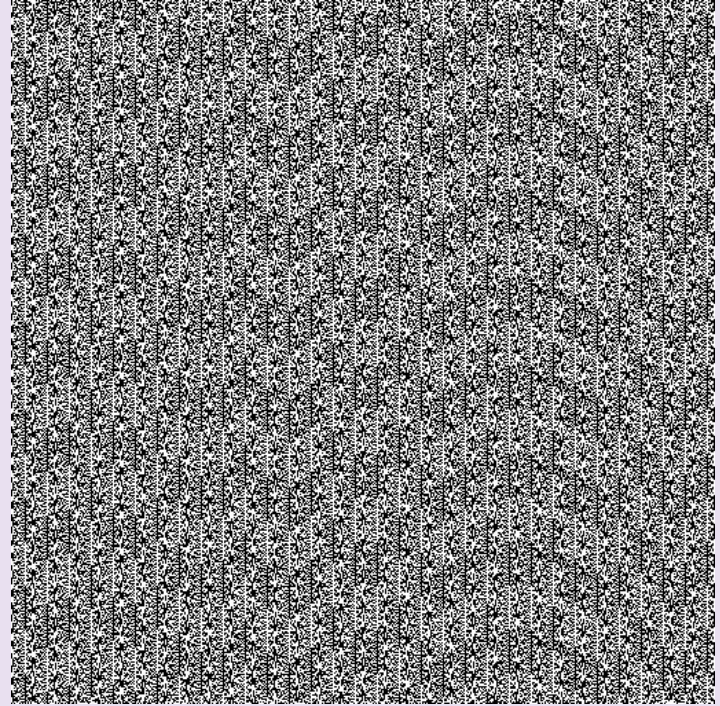
Source: <https://boallen.com/random-numbers.html>



## Random.org Bitmap Random bitmap based on atmospheric noise



## PHP rand() on Windows Bitmap



Source: <https://boallen.com/random-numbers.html>



JS

`Math.random()`

- pseudo-random
- number  $\geq 0$  && number  $< 1$
- Initial seed *cannot* be set by user

p5.js

`random(max)`

- Pseudo-random
- number  $\geq 0$  && number  $< \text{max}$
- Initial seed *can* be set by user

# Choosing Random Colors

**THIS**

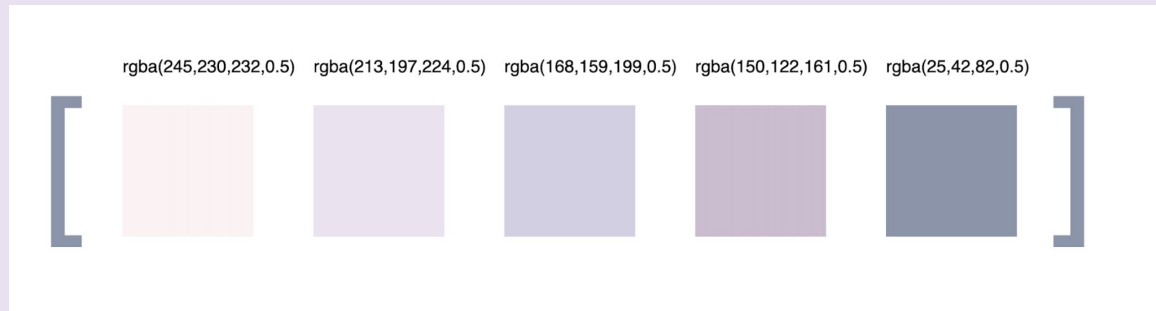
OR

**THAT**

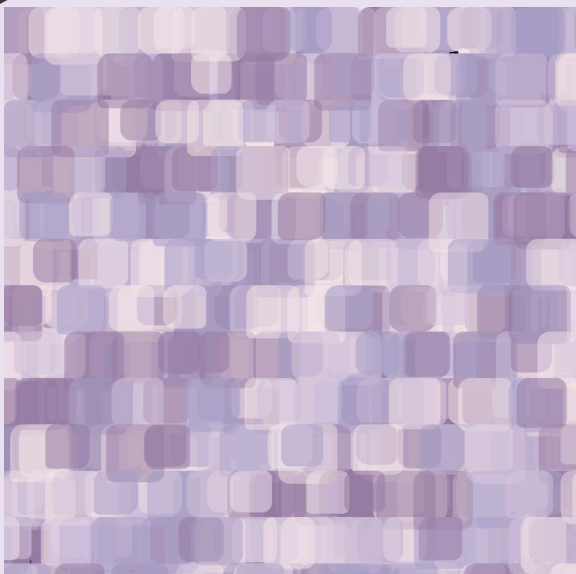


# Array of Colors

```
const colors = [  
  color(352, 6, 96, opacity),  
  color(275, 12, 88, opacity),  
  color(254, 20, 78, opacity),  
  color(283, 24, 63, opacity),  
  color(222, 69, 32, opacity)  
]
```



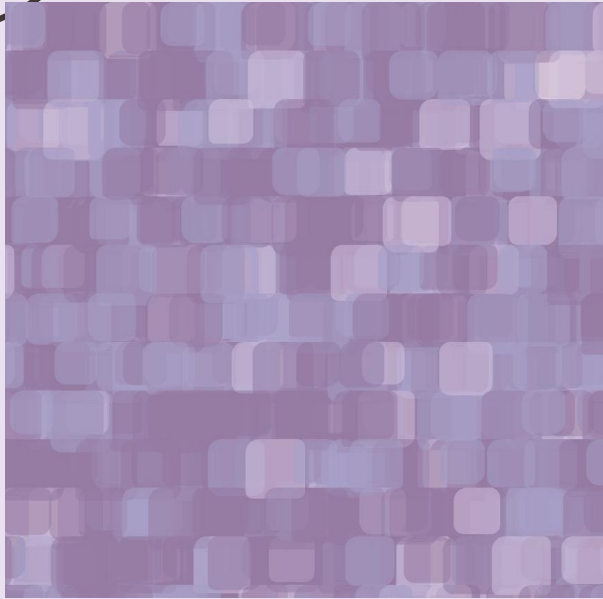
# Choosing Random Color for Each Square



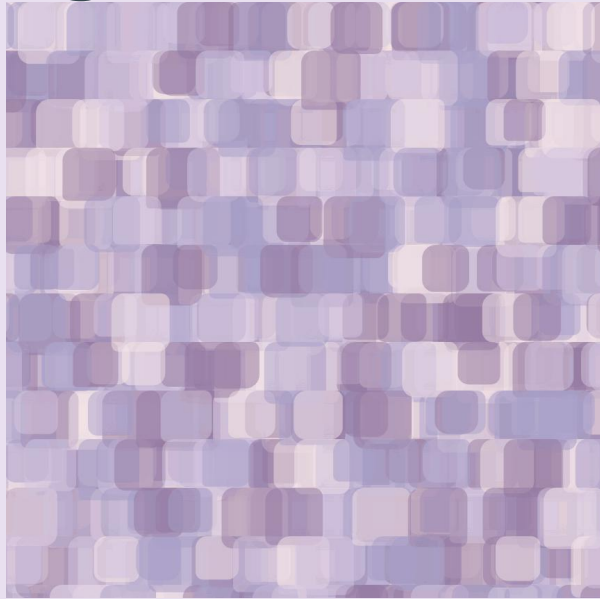
```
function draw() {  
  let height = 60;  
  let width = height;  
  
  for (let row = 0; row < windowWidth / width; row++) {  
    let x = row * 70;  
    for (let column = 0; column < windowHeight / height;  
column++) {  
      let y = column * 70;  
      fill(random(colors));  
      square(x,y);  
    }  
  }  
}
```



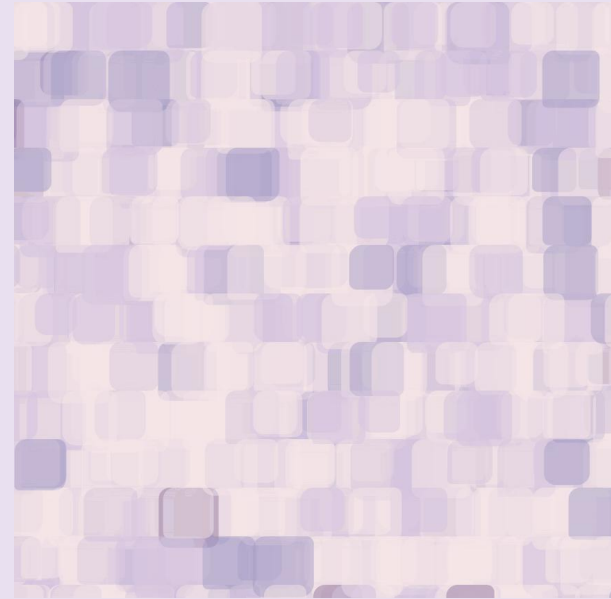
# Weighted Random



→ Random values skewed darker



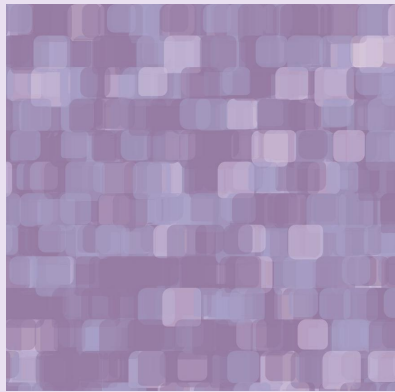
→ Default random values



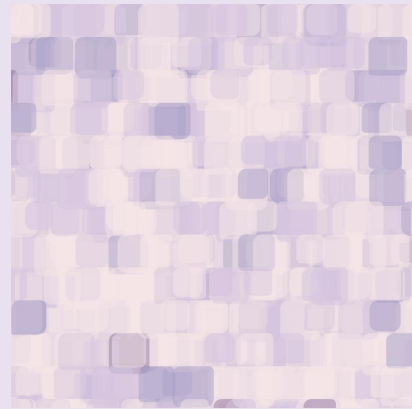
→ Random values skewed lighter



# Weighted Random



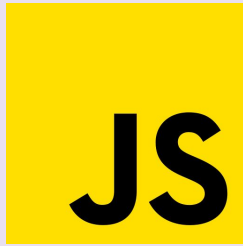
```
Math.floor(Math.max(  
  random(0, colors.length - 1),  
  random(0, colors.length - 1),  
  random(0, colors.length - 1)))
```



```
Math.floor(Math.min(  
  random(0, colors.length - 1),  
  random(0, colors.length - 1),  
  random(0, colors.length - 1)))
```

# Re-Generate Random Output





`Math.random()`

Seed Value



**5 3 4 9 3**



**7 1 8 6 2**



**5 4 1 0 3**



`random(max)`

Seed Value

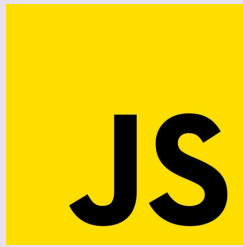


**8 5 9 3 1**



**2 3 1 2 5**

**8 5 9 3 1**



`Math.random()`

Seed Value



**5 3 4 9 3**



**7 1 8 6 2**



**5 4 1 0 3**



`random(max)`

Seed Value



**8 5 9 3 1**



**2 3 1 2 5**



**8 5 9 3 1**



# p5.js random()

Set seed value so that we always receive the same random number ↴

- always returns same sequence of pseudo-random numbers when randomSeed(value) is set
- seed can be: string, number, emoji, etc
- returns different sequence of pseudo-random numbers when there is no randomSeed()

```
randomSeed("RenderATL2023🍎");  
  
const randomNumber =  
Math.floor(random(10000, 99999))
```



Generate random number between 10000 and 99999

# Re-Generate Random Output

```
random value one:1.588475485634552  
random value two:0.14513899863630897
```

```
// randomSeed(actRandomSeed);
```

```
random value one:0.9473723107948899  
random value two:1.8398977555334568
```

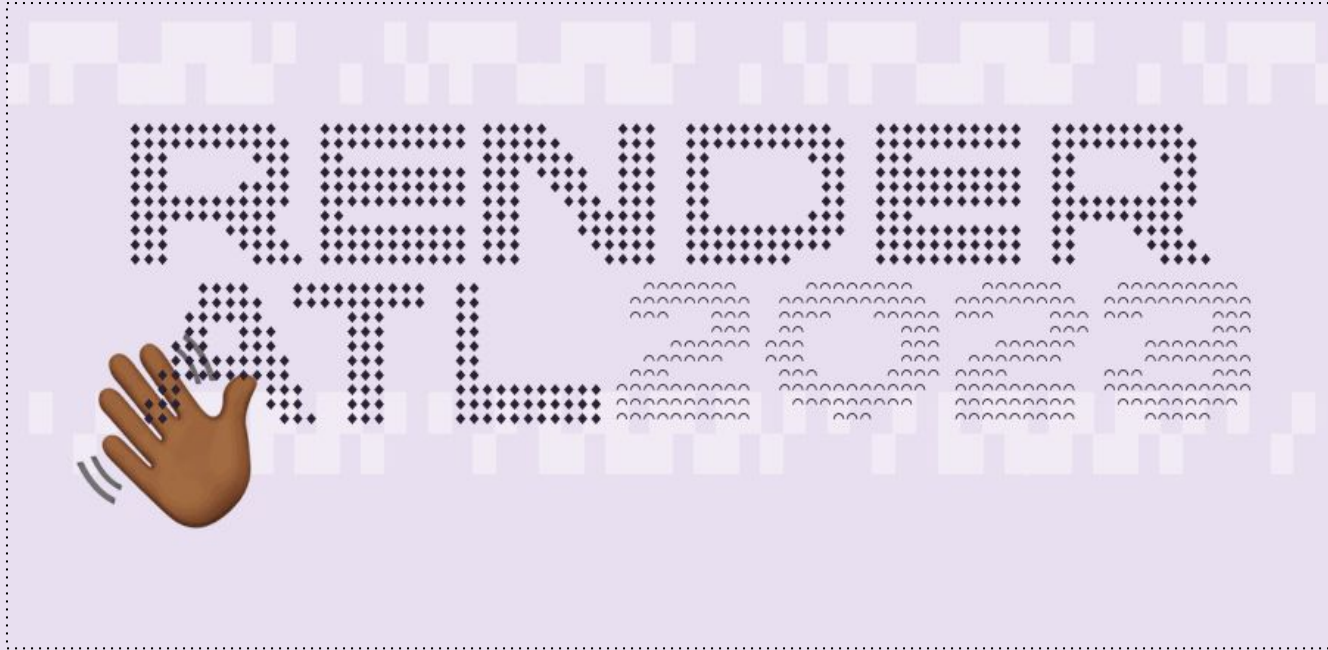
```
randomSeed(actRandomSeed);
```

```
let actRandomSeed;
```

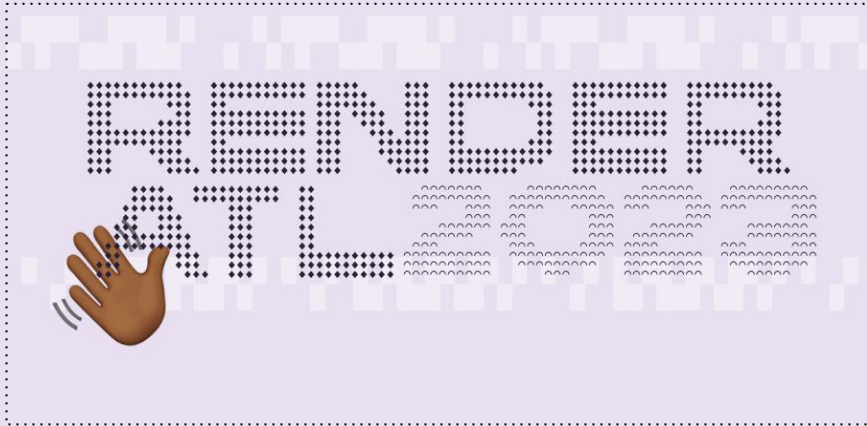
```
function setup() {  
  createCanvas(500, 500);  
  actRandomSeed = int(random(0,4))  
}
```

```
function draw() {  
  clear();  
  randomSeed(actRandomSeed);  
  textSize(40);  
  text(int(random(0,4)), width/2, height/2);  
}
```

# Anatomy of a Sketch



# Anatomy of a Sketch



```
/* preload image */
```

```
...
```

```
function setup() {  
  createCanvas(900, 400);  
  background('#e9e0f0');  
  fill(43, 33, 53);}
```

```
function draw() {  
  background('#e9e0f0');  
  drawBorders();  
  drawHandWave();  
  drawSymbols();  
}
```



# Anatomy of a Sketch

Order matters. What happens if we do not  
refill with background color in draw()?



```
/* preload image */
```

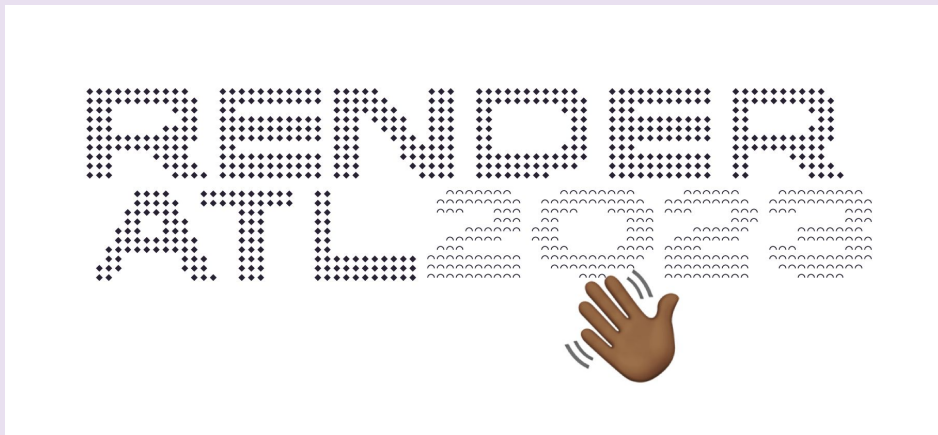
```
...
```

```
function setup() {  
  createCanvas(900, 400);  
  background('#e9e0f0');  
  fill(43, 33, 53);}
```

```
function draw() {  
  // background('#e9e0f0');  
  drawBorders();  
  drawHandWave();  
  drawSymbols();  
}
```

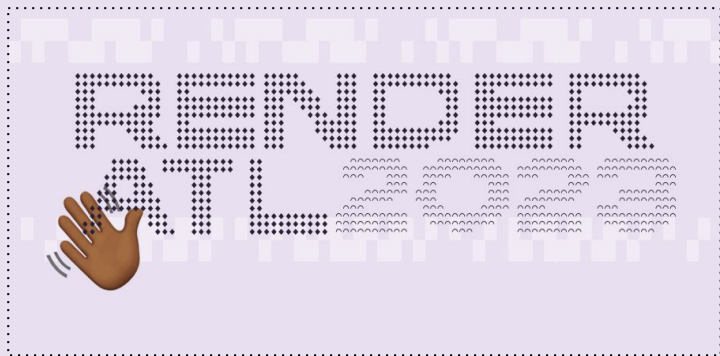
# Anatomy of a Sketch

Order matters. What happens if we do not refill with background color in draw()?



```
/* preload image */  
...  
function setup() {  
  createCanvas(900, 400);  
  background('#e9e0f0');  
  fill(43, 33, 53);  
}  
  
function draw() {  
  clear();  
  drawBorders();  
  drawHandWave();  
  drawSymbols();  
}
```

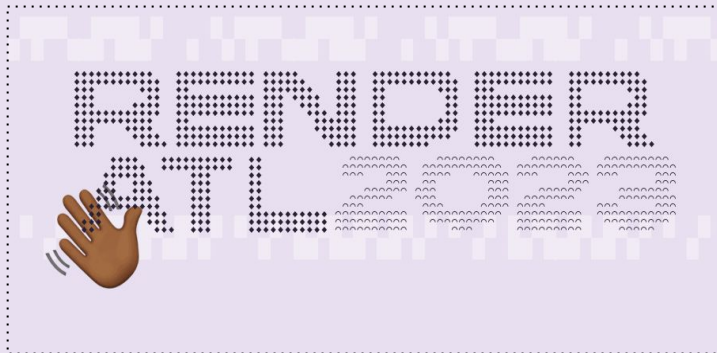
# Anatomy of a Sketch



Creates a screen reader accessible description for the canvas:

```
describe('A message that says Render ATL 2023 with Render ATL written with diamond unicode characters and 2023 written with the eyebrow shaped unicode character. There is a floating emoji that is easing its way across the background behind the text, growing and shrinking.');
```

# Anatomy of a Sketch



```
function preload() {
  img = loadImage("imageUrl");
}

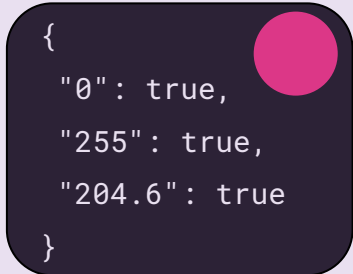
function drawSymbols()
  for (let y = 0; y < img.height; y += 12) {
    for (let x = 0; x < img.width; x += 12) {
      const c = color(img.get(x, y));
      const bright = (red(c) + green(c) +
blue(c)) / 3;
      let mx = map(x, 0, img.height, 0, height)
      let my = map(y, 0, img.width, 0, width)

      if (bright >= 255) {
        text('◆', mx, my)
      } else if (bright >= 143) {
        text('^', mx, my)
      } else {
        // do nothing
      }
    }
  }
}
```

# Anatomy of a Sketch



```
function drawSymbols()  
for (let y = 0; y < img.height; y += 12) {  
  for (let x = 0; x < img.width; x += 12) {  
    const c = color(img.get(x, y));  
    const bright = (red(c) + green(c) + blue(c))  
  
    ...  
  
    if (!seen[bright]) {  
      seen[bright] = true;  
      console.log(seen)  
    }  
  }  
}
```



# Noise - More Organic Movement

`noise()` to compute size  
and x,y position of 🖐️

`random()` to compute size  
and x,y position of 🖐️





# Perlin Noise

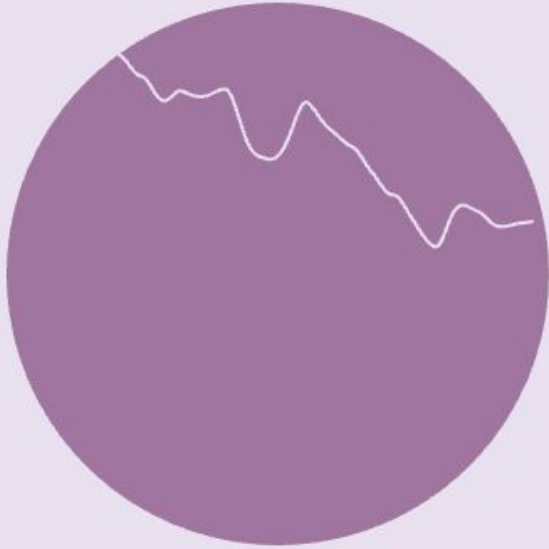
## An Academy Award Winning Algorithm

In 1997, Perlin was awarded an **Academy Award for Technical Achievement** for creating the (Perlin Noise) algorithm, the citation for which read:

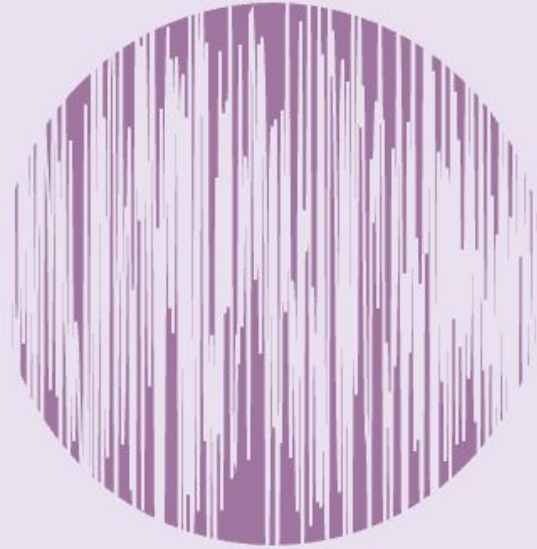
To Ken Perlin for the development of Perlin Noise, a technique used to produce natural appearing textures on computer generated surfaces for motion picture visual effects. The development of Perlin Noise has allowed computer graphics artists to better represent the complexity of natural phenomena in visual effects for the motion picture industry

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perlin\\_noise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perlin_noise)

# Noise vs. Random Distribution

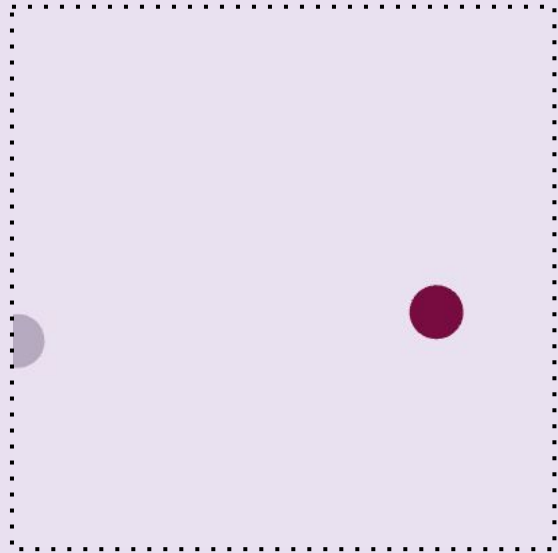


→ Line drawn with noise()



→ Line drawn with random()

# Noise - More Organic Movement



Uses `random()` to  
determine x,y position



Uses `noise()` to  
determine x,y position

# Anatomy of a Sketch

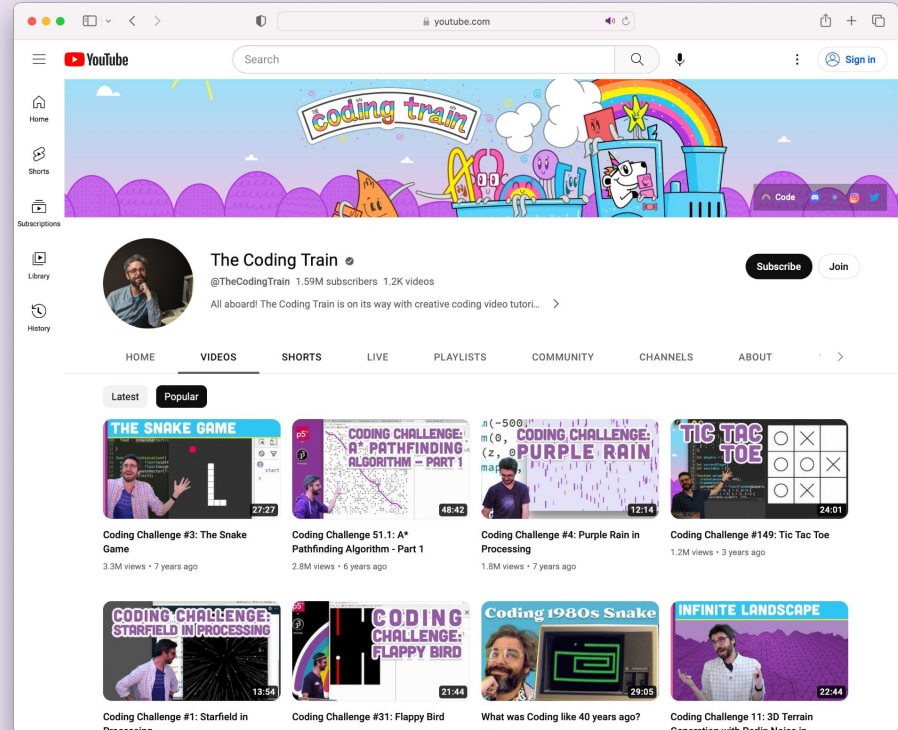


```
let xoff1 = 0;
let xoff2 = 10000;
let sizeoff = 2;
...
function drawHandWave() {
  const x = map(noise(xoff1), 0, 1, 0, width);
  const y = map(noise(xoff2), 0, 1, 200, 400);
  const size = map(noise(sizeoff), 0, 1, 75, 200)

  xoff1 += 0.01;
  xoff2 += 0.02;
  sizeoff += 0.01

  textSize(size)
  text("👋", x, y)
}
```

# The Coding Train





# THANK YOU!

**SLIDES + EXAMPLES:  
[LINKS.MONICA.DEV](https://links.monica.dev)**

