

The Art of Creating Code-Based Artworks

Our work reports on an in-depth interview with 5 code artists with diverse backgrounds, levels of experience, and working on different code-based artistic expressions.

Through their experience, we identified characteristics and commonalities in their development process, the tools they use, their sources of inspiration, and their expectations.

Five in-depth
semi-structured
interviews

Qualitative
thematic
analysis, using
an inductive
approach

«**Creative Coding** has a different development process that emphasizes the expressivity of computer programming beyond something pragmatic and functional»

John Maeda

Destination
unknown

Creative
versioning

Creative
Coding

Tool
agnostic

Diverse
backgrounds

Embracing uncertainty:
the Creative Coding
exploratory and
iterative nature

“ it is a creative dialog like a painter on a canvas but with code (...) and it is, first of all, **completely free of a predefined motive** ”



in traditional software writing you have very specific requirements (...); sometimes with **Creative Coding** you don't even know what it's going to do ”

Could Data Science
methodologies and
tools be adopted to
improve Creative
Coding?



Current **version control systems** do not suit the artists' needs and present a steep learning curve

Sometimes it is a **very small piece of code**. It is like: why do I care about Git controlling this piece of code in a scheme of big things, right? ”

Creative Coding
tooling

Tool choice is influenced by the **simplicity** of the interface and the **intuitiveness** of their features. Code artists care more about the **usability** and **user-friendliness** of the tools

Explore whether offering alternative notations like **hybrid editors** could enrich the experience of Creative Coding users, not by hiding the code but by providing alternative visualizations

