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*Reft & E R TL
RS 11/70/74*

WORLD PREMIERE EXHIBITION

The Sioux City Art Center presents - - -

BEN LAPOSKY

demonstrating

ELECTRONIC ABSTRACTIONS

an exciting 20th Century Art Form

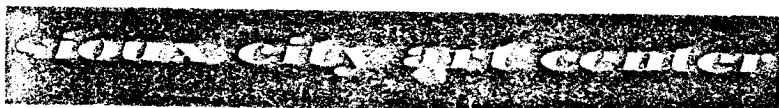
3:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 5, 1960

Reception follows

COMPANION EXHIBITION:

THIRD ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF
ADVERTISING AND EDITORIAL ART



COMMERCE BUILDING

SIOUX CITY 1, IOWA

COLOR EXHIBIT

From the gallery notes on the Electronic Abstractions Exhibit circulated by Sanford Museum, Cherokee, Iowa:

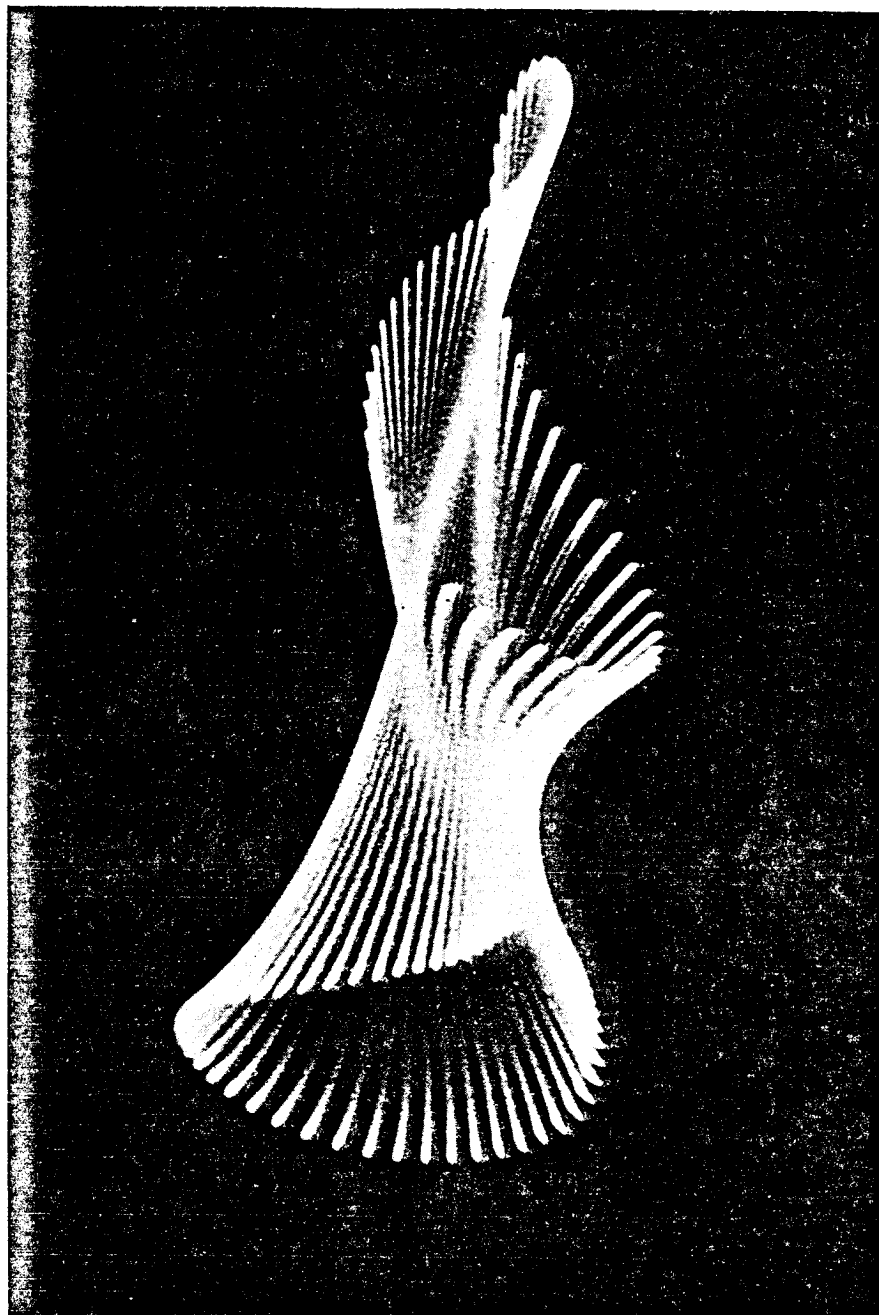
"Electronic Abstractions are a new kind of abstract art. They are beautiful design compositions formed by the combination of electrical wave forms as displayed on a cathode-ray oscilloscope. The exhibit consists of 50 photographs of these patterns. A wide variety of shapes and textures is included. The patterns all have an abstract quality, yet retain a geometrical precision. They are related to various mathematical curves, the intricate tracings of the geometric lathes and pendulum patterns, but show possibilities far beyond these sources of design.

"While not originating the idea of using the oscilloscope and electronic circuits in this way to create art forms, the artist has developed it further than any other source has yet revealed for publication or display.

"Electronic Abstractions will be of interest primarily for its new and striking approach to design forms, and is offered as an art exhibit. However, it will have appeal as a scientific display since the method of creating these patterns uses electronic instruments and principles. Because the presentation of the illustrative material is entirely photographic, it may also be considered as a salon exhibit."

ELECTRONIC ABSTRACTIONS

By Ben F. Laposky



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KS 11/20/74

SCRIPTA MATHEMATICA, V. 18, 1952,

OSCILLON 35



BEN F. LAPOSKY

Oscillons: Electronic Abstractions

301 S. 6th St., Cherokee, Iowa 51012

Phone 712-225-3837

January 20, 1975

Woody Vasulka
257 Franklin Street
Buffalo, N. Y. 14202

Dear Woody:

Eric Somers recently called me and said that you were working on your Archives of Video Art. He thought you might be interested in having some of my work as a historical background to video art, as the oscillon project was a forerunner of the video-synthesizer type of art, also of some analogue computer art.

I recently purchased a copy of Stewart Kranz! book, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN THE ARTS, and saw the article on your work. I found the book quite interesting, but incomplete on the historical background of some phases, especially on oscillographic art.

I presume you saw the material I sent Bill Ktra at New York University last fall. I also called him before making a trip to Colorado in October, and saw the setup at Colorado Video as he recommended (at Boulder). I can send you the same material for your files and in addition color photos, other printed material, etc. I have only a few duplicate slides at present.

I have not done any new work with the oscilloscope for some time, but recently have been experimenting with some Lumia setups, possibly to work them into the Oscillon project.

(Incidentally, my color Oscillon exhibit was shown at the Buffalo Museum of Science in August, 1965.)

Hoping to hear from you sometime,

Sincerely,

Ben Laposky
Ben Laposky

Book Carries Laposky Story

Ben Laposky, Cherokee, is the author of an article on his "Oscillons: Electronic Abstractions" appearing in a new book, "Kinetic Art: Theory and Practice."

The 10-page article shows several illustrations of Laposky's abstract electronic art work and refers to exhibits and other publications of it, including the exhibits circulated by Sanford Museum.

The book is edited by Frank J. Malina of France and is published by Dover publishers, New York, with other editions in Canada and England. It contains articles by 44 artists, scientists, engineers and others in the fields of kinetic art, computer and TV art, light art and related art forms from several countries. The book is described as containing the best work from the best workers in these fields. Copies of the book are in the Cherokee Public Library and the Sanford Museum library.

Another new book, "Art and the Future" by Douglas Davis on recent developments in art including computer and television art, refers to Laposky's initial work in the fields from 1950 on. This book is published by Praeger, New York. Davis is also the art critic for Newsweek magazine.

Miami-Demarc

"Oscillon 7" by Cherokee Artist Ben Laposky

Laposky Cited for Tracing History in Computer Art

By RANDI MARTIN

Ben Laposky of Cherokee has been cited as a pioneer in computer art in a book tracing the history and current state of computer art by Herbert W. Franke of Germany, recognized as a leading authority in the field.

The book, "Computer Graphics, Computer Art," was published in 1971.

Laposky first exhibited his oscillons or electronic abstractions at the Sanford Museum in 1952. It was the "first exhibit of this type of art anywhere in the world," Laposky said. While Laposky does not use computers, his work is considered part of the genre, he explained. Laposky's oscillons are created by photographing the superimposition of electrical oscillations of varying time functions which are led to the deflector plates of a cathode ray oscilloscope.

His most recent Sanford exhibition was in August and September of 1971.

The book, in a chapter devoted to the beginnings of computer graphics, states: "Ben F. Laposky provided the first major initiative, and thus the origin of graphics generated by means of elec-

tronic machines and computer installations. His work commenced in 1950 ... even today, the images generated by Laposky, which he termed oscillons or electronic abstractions, remain consummate achievements, and even with contemporary instruments, a substantial improvement is hardly conceivable. Laposky exhibited his works for the first time in the Sanford Museum in Cherokee and subsequently in more than one hundred other cities in the USA. Since 1956 Laposky has turned to what would now be termed colored analogue graphics. He adds rotating color filters before the display screen. Laposky has also done pioneering work with film."

Laposky said that he has not done a great deal of new work recently, but that a number of his prints are currently being shown as part of the international computer art show.

The computer art exhibit is a traveling show, originating in Germany. Laposky said the show has been exhibited in Germany, Norway, Belgium, Italy, Greece and England and is scheduled to be shown in Japan this year.