Project name: Wind from Nowhere

Category: Installation

Artist: Haein Kang

Abstract

Data-driven installation, Wind from Nowhere is inspired by Samuel Butler's novel, Erewhon. The title, Erewhon, is the word ‘nowhere’ spelled backward and paradoxically symbolizes Utopia. In the fictional land, people destroy machines for fear that they might become conscious and threaten humankind. Unlike the novel, Wind from Nowhere adopt machine civilization positively. It utilizes the pre-collected weather data from a weather site. A set of wind speed data controls motor speed. The numbers that inform wind speed become breeze or gusty wind. The wind speed data creates wind phenomena!

Detailed Description

The wind speed data creates wind phenomena!

Wind is rising.
The tree trunk is swaying in the wind.
Trembling twigs make the leaves rub each other.
The soft rustling of leaves goes around here,
and they are following the wind.

Wind from Nowhere is a data-driven installation that mechanically represents a beautiful moment of wind. The title comes from Samuel Butler's novel, Erewhon, which is the word ‘nowhere’ spelled backward and paradoxically symbolizes Utopia. In the fictional land, people destroy machines for fear that they might become conscious and threaten humankind. Contrary to the novel, Wind from Nowhere embraces machine civilization and uses it as an aesthetic means.

Wind from Nowhere employs the pre-collected weather data from the weather site, www.wunderground.com. I applied hourly wind speed data at the Seattle-Tacoma airport on the day when I arrived at Seattle for the prototype. A set of wind speed data controls motor speed. The numbers that inform wind speed become breeze or gusty wind.
A set of handmade machinery flutters vellum papers instead generating wind directly. Mechanical parts of soft materials like elastic linkages make organic movement of the papers. Papers wave, rub, and rustle leaves. It poetically reminds us of the wind by appealing to the vision, auditory, and haptic senses. I aim to broaden our perception of the wind by employing machines rather than to reproduce wind realistically.

https://vimeo.com/236468918
https://www.haeinkang.org/wind-from-nowhere

Bio

Haein Kang is a multidisciplinary artist employing advanced technology to explore the infinite possibilities of artistic expression. She intends to surprise you with novelty and beauty of her artwork. Recently, she has been studying physiological responses of the brain to the mind and body for artwork at the University of Washington.

Kang began in earnest her career as an artist by winning the grand prize at an installation art competition, Construct, held by the San Francisco Arts Commission in 2002. Her artworks have exhibited in various venues in Korea and the U.S. including SOMA Museum, Seoul Museum of Art, Southern Exposure Gallery, Richard Levy Gallery, and Gallery 4Culture.