

"these are the days"

a video by John Tonkin

Biography

John Tonkin was born in Adelaide, Australia in 1963. He is a visual artist with a background in film and video making. He began working with computer animation in 1986 after studying science and visual art. His work has been exhibited internationally, most recently at Siggraph 93 and FISEA.

Artist's Statement

"these are the days" is about the passing of time. It is an animation of falling paper that grew out of a project titled **"air, water"**; a series of motion studies investigating the elements air and water.

I am interested in creating animation that is both engaging yet also creates a contemplative space in which the viewer's mind can wander.

By combining mathematical models of different physical phenomena such as gravity, elasticity and aerodynamics I create simulations of real world systems in virtual space. Although these simulations are relatively simplistic, the motion they exhibit is both complex and naturalistic.

As well as the formal qualities that are explored in this work, I am interested in other readings suggested by ***"these are the days"***;

Our lives are documented by a continual stream of paper, every major and minor transaction / transition is marked on a piece of paper, from birth and death certificates to supermarket receipts. The action of gravity has often been used as a metaphor for the passing of time; the falling of leaves, sands through the hour glass, pages blown from a calendar. The endless stream of falling paper suggests the meditative space of a waterfall, yet also speaks of consumption and waste.

In order to subvert the techno-fetishism that seems to dominate this field I like to work with domestic computers and to create deliberately simple looking animations.

"these are the days" was produced in association with the Australian Film Commission.