

entropy and digital installation

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Abstract: This paper examines entropy as a process which introduces ideas of distributed materiality to digital installation. Beginning from an analysis of entropy as both force and probability measure within information theory and its extension in Rudolf Arnheim's text *Entropy and Art* it develops an argument for the positive rather than negative forces of entropy. The paper centres on a discussion of two recent works by New Zealand artists Ronnie van Hout (*On the Run*, Wellington City Gallery, NZ, 2004) and Alex Monteith (*Invisible Cities*, Physics Room Contemporary Art Space, Christchurch, NZ, 2004). Ballard suggests that entropy, rather than being a hindrance to understanding or a random chaotic force, discloses a necessary and material politics of noise present in digital installation.

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