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Editor

Mathematics and Culture II

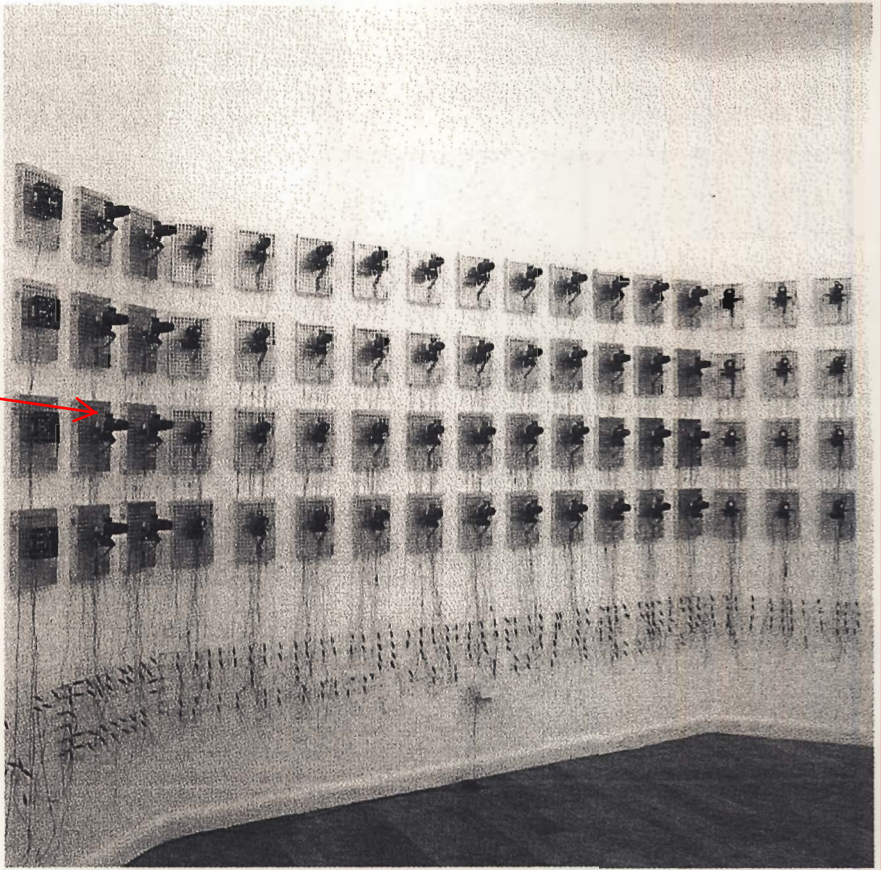Visual Perfection:
Mathematics
and Creativity

Springer

Fig. 12. Ciervo

Costantino Ciervo is an Italian artist whose works were shown in the year 2001 for the first time in the USA (New York). He shows us that in his opinion there are lots of possibilities for the "truth": March 2000 during the annual meeting of the German Society of Didactics of Mathematics he installed a twelve meter long piece on a wall of the Altes Rathaus Potsdam. Sixty-four boxes were connected each of them by six wires to a symbolic truth-giving machine. Each wire could bear electricity or not – therefore 2(exp. 6) = 64 different "truths" were possible. But in addition to these 64 possibilities which were realised by combination of the different inputs he introduced a very special effect: Directed by photo-cells each box could change its worth of "truth" or not in the moment when a spectator passed. By this the artist demonstrated that in his opinion there does never exist only one objective "truth". Truth is always an individual coloured one. Reflecting the number of living individuals on earth we come to a very big but again not infinite number of "truths", too.

Summarisation

With only a few of examples we demonstrated how useful mathematics and arts are cooperating today. But links do not only exist between arts and mathematics. We find them between mathematics and music, mathematics and poetry and others, too. To study and use these links may give us tools to understand future connections between our science and the culture of tomorrow.

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