

animal.spirit.algorithm

Abraham George

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"Humans are tellers of tales, we have come to think, who cannot be happy unless they can see the world as a story. Over the past two centuries the dominant story line has been one of human progress, but it has also included a tale of a world besieged by dark forces and destined for destruction." – John Gray, political philosopher

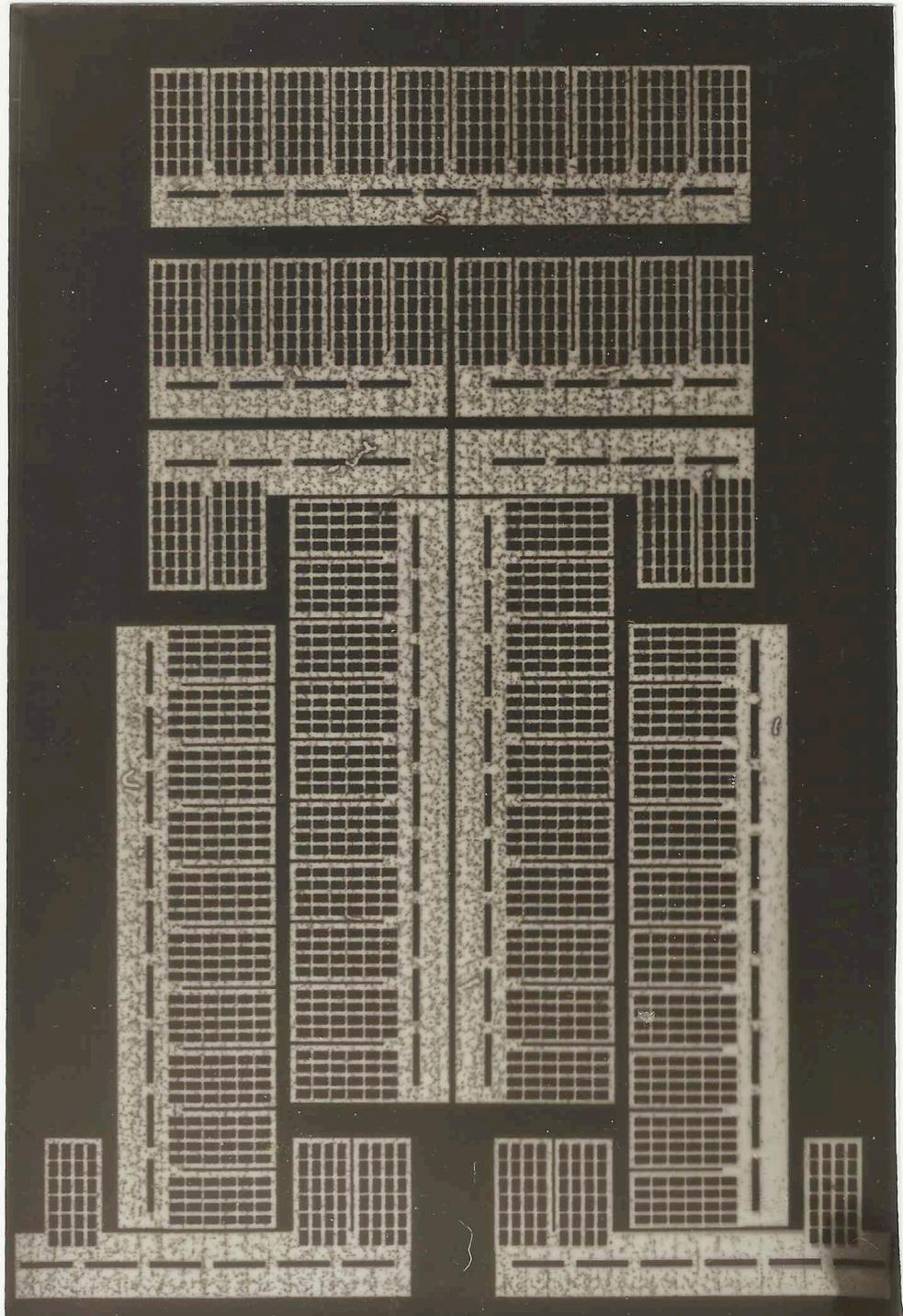
My work looks at how narratives and technologies configure our image of poetry and authority and are affected by them in turn. In the case of this show the main instrument used in 'looking' is the pattern. The central motif began as a naïve drawing of buildings along a street. This was digitally arranged in grid-like patterns and developed into a series of unique photochemical prints: *Plans*. The *Plans* are suggestive of everything from architectural layouts to punch cards and circuit boards but also evoke older ordering systems like maps, tables, icons and totems. The digital video *Shop Window* follows the breakdown of perceptually continuous images into discrete blocks of information and the hand-drawn work *The Sea* seeks a grand harmony of the whole. Together, they point to a history of interventions aimed at managing uncertainty and making the world a more predictable place.

But, while marveling at the rhythms of modernity and the acuity of human vision, the works also embody more ominous expressions of this ordering drive. The construction of *Plans* is curiously monolithic. Their autistic repetition is enacted on a field of unyielding black. If *The Sea* finds its harmony, it is in the violence of the mark. And the algorithm that resolves the pixels of *Shop Window* is opaque. Surveying the windfall that flows from the tragic human ability to recognize pattern, *animal.spirit.algorithm* references themes of information, environments, action and authority. It is a meditation on design in its broadest sense.

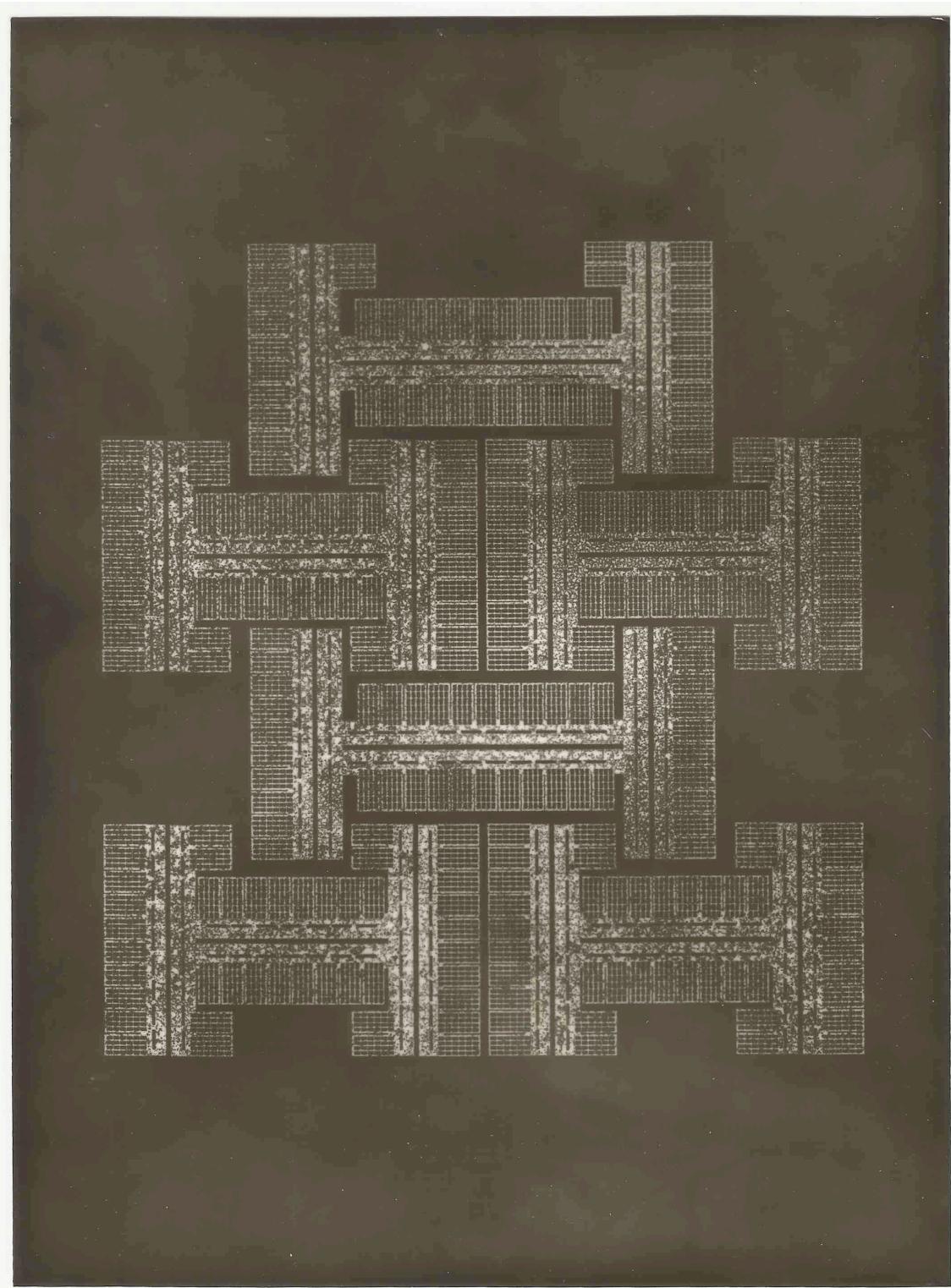
- Abraham George

About the artist

Abraham George was born in 1984 in Calicut, India. In 2005 he graduated in Visual Communication at Loyola College, Chennai. He holds a diploma in Fine Art from The Julius Macwan Institute of Fine Art and Design, Chennai. Abraham participated in a group show *NEW8* at The Julius Macwan Institute, Chennai in 2003. In 2011 he was part of the group show *Madras Contemporary* at the Art Summit Chennai. In 2012-13 he participated at a group show titled *The Intimate Divine*, Ashvita Gallery, Chennai. In 2015 his first solo show *The Smile on the Mask* was held at Gallery Maskara, Mumbai, India. The artist lives and works in Mumbai, India.



Plan I, 2014
Photogram
17.8 x 12 cms



Plan II, 2014
Photogram
24 x 17.6 cms