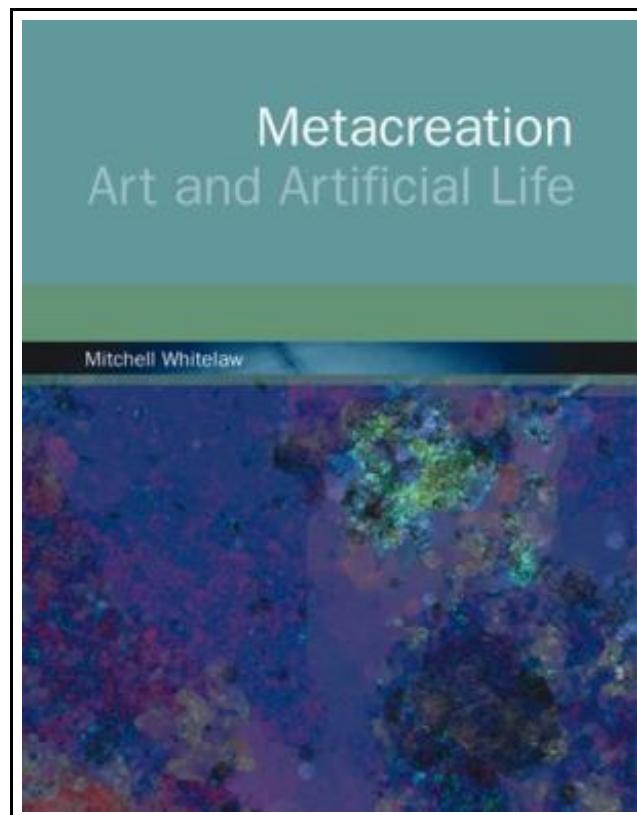


Metacreation: Art and Artificial Life



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MIT Press Ltd, United States, 2006. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 216 x 142 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Artificial life, or a-life, is an interdisciplinary science focused on artificial systems that mimic the properties of living systems. In the 1990s, new media artists began appropriating and adapting the techniques of a-life science to create a-life art; Mitchell Whitelaw s Metacreation is the first detailed critical account of this new field of creative practice.A-life art responds to the increasing technologization of living matter by creating works that seem to mutate, evolve, and respond with a life of their own. Pursuing a-life s promise of emergence, these artists produce not only artworks, but generative and creative processes: here creation becomes metacreation.Whitelaw presents a-life art practice through four of its characteristic techniques and tendencies. Breeders use artificial evolution to generate images and forms, in the process altering the artist s creative agency. Cybernatures form complex, interactive systems, drawing the audience into artificial ecosystems. Other artists work in Hardware, adapting Rodney Brooks s bottom-up robotics to create embodied autonomous agencies. The Abstract Machines of a-life art de-emphasize the biological analogy, using techniques such as cellular automata to investigate pattern, form and morphogenesis.In the book s concluding chapters, Whitelaw surveys the theoretical discourses around a-life art, before finally examining emergence, a concept central to a-life, and key, it is argued, to a-life art.

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