

# **BIOTICA: ART, EMERGENCE AND ARTIFICIAL LIFE**

by **RICHARD BROWN** WITH ESSAYS BY  
**IGOR ALEKSANDER, JONATHAN MACKENZIE & JOE FAITH**  
AND A PREFACE BY **MIKE KING**



BIOTICA describes a two-year research project that explored the relationships between artistic practice, programming and theories of artificial life and emergence. The project, conceived by Richard Brown, was developed in conjunction with Jonathan Mackenzie and Gavin Baily with consultancy from Professor Igor Aleksander of Imperial College London. The research culminated in an art installation exhibited in Manchester, London and New Orleans.

The BIOTICA installation was conceived as an artwork questioning what is it for something to be understood as 'alive'? More than just a scientific demonstration, BIOTICA amalgamates neural net technology, the simulation of three dimensional physical space and gestural interaction with artistic practice to produce a visceral, immersive experience of artificial life.

This book investigates the many ideas and issues informing the project, acknowledging the achievements and problems in seeking to develop an artwork that would harness the properties of emergence. The preface by Mike King and essays by Igor Aleksander, Jonathan Mackenzie and Joe Faith provide a critical contextualisation of BIOTICA in relation to scientific research and other art projects in this field.

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Richard Brown is a Research Fellow at the Royal College of Art and initiated the 'Art and as a Mode of Enquiry' territory in the Computer Related Design Research Studio. His work has recently been recognised by a Fellowship award from the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA).

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