

ANARCHY IN THE ORGANISM (Cancer as a Complex System)

April 1 2012 - March 31 2013 Commissioned by UCLH Arts, Supported by the Wellcome Trust

Code: Nick Rothwell;

Music: Rob Godman;

Consulting scientist: Simon Walker-Samuel, CABI

Curated by Guy Noble

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeMmatUO9Bk>

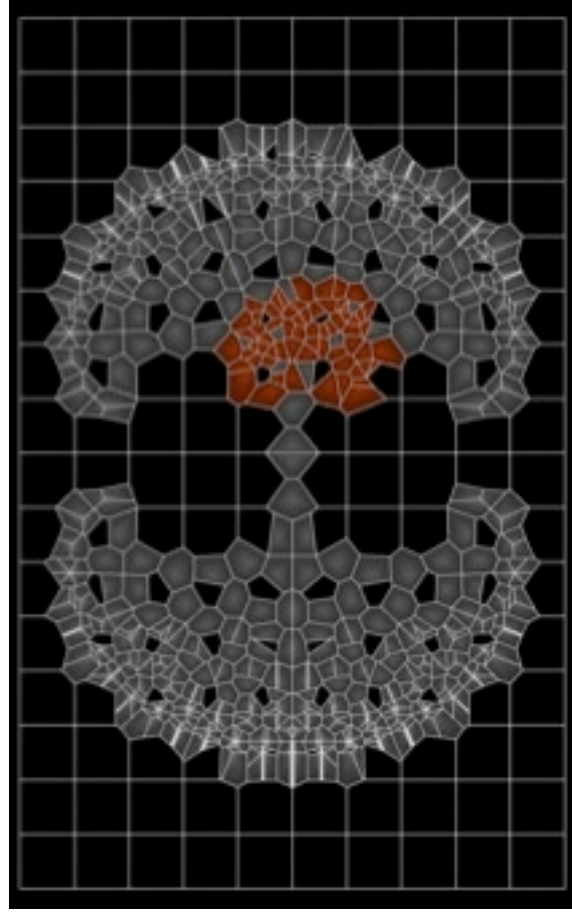
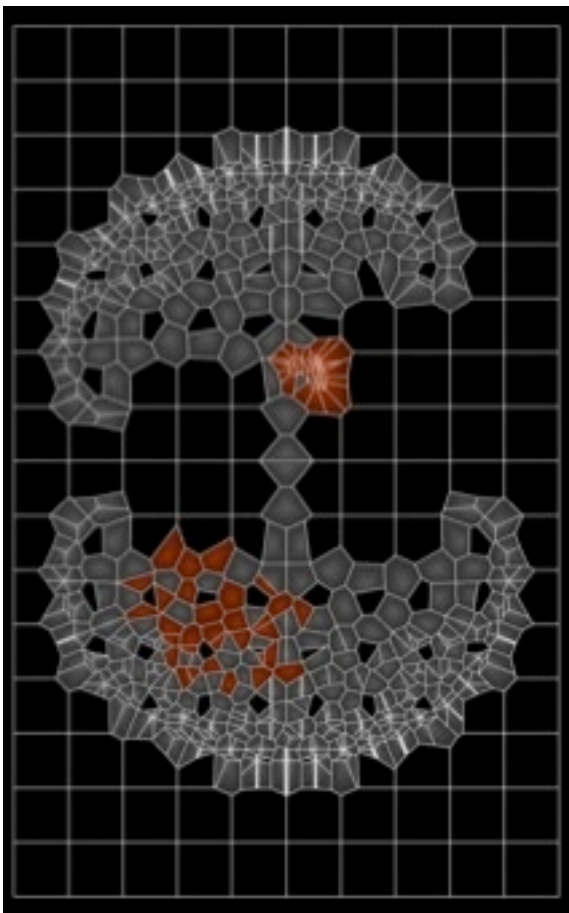
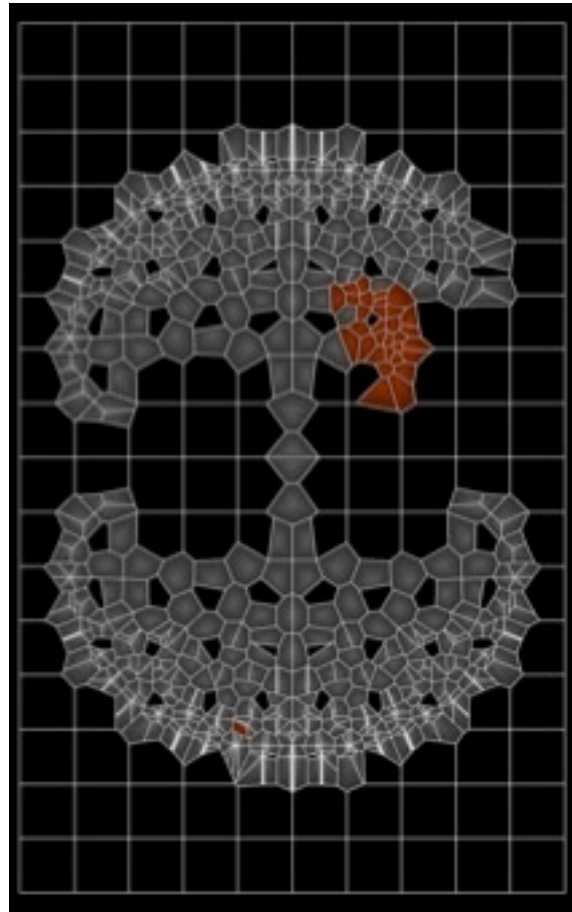
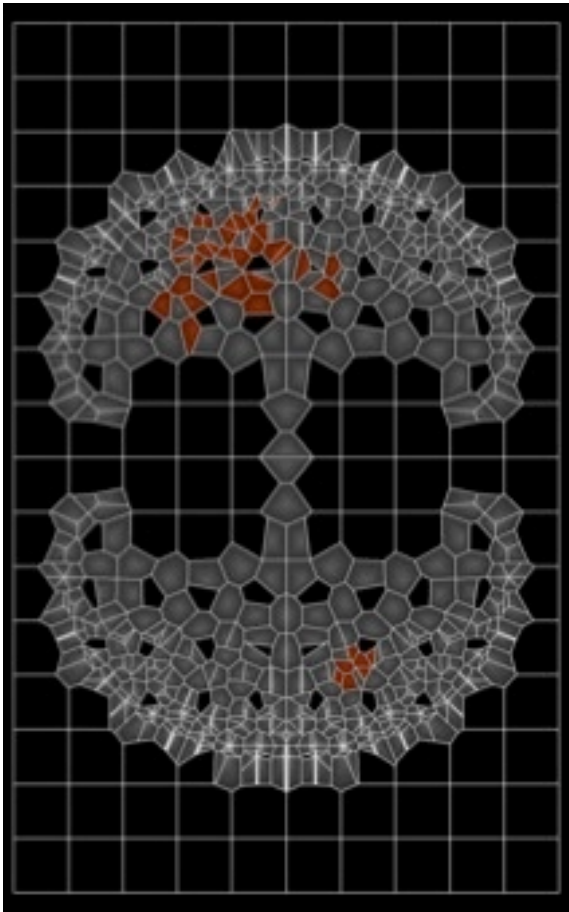
<http://vimeo.com/39542682>

<http://vimeo.com/42289252>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=YW-0MU7U3JY

The organisms on the screens demonstrate growth, mutation and decay as normal aspects of being alive. Is cancer an aberration or is it an embedded aspect of being a complex organism? By situating cancer within a wider context of complex evolving systems from cities to trees to landscapes, this work attempts a reconciliation of cancer as a normative part of being in the world. The computer generated organisms develop cancer to varying degrees. Coded within the parameters of complexity theory, their survival rate is similar to that of the general population.

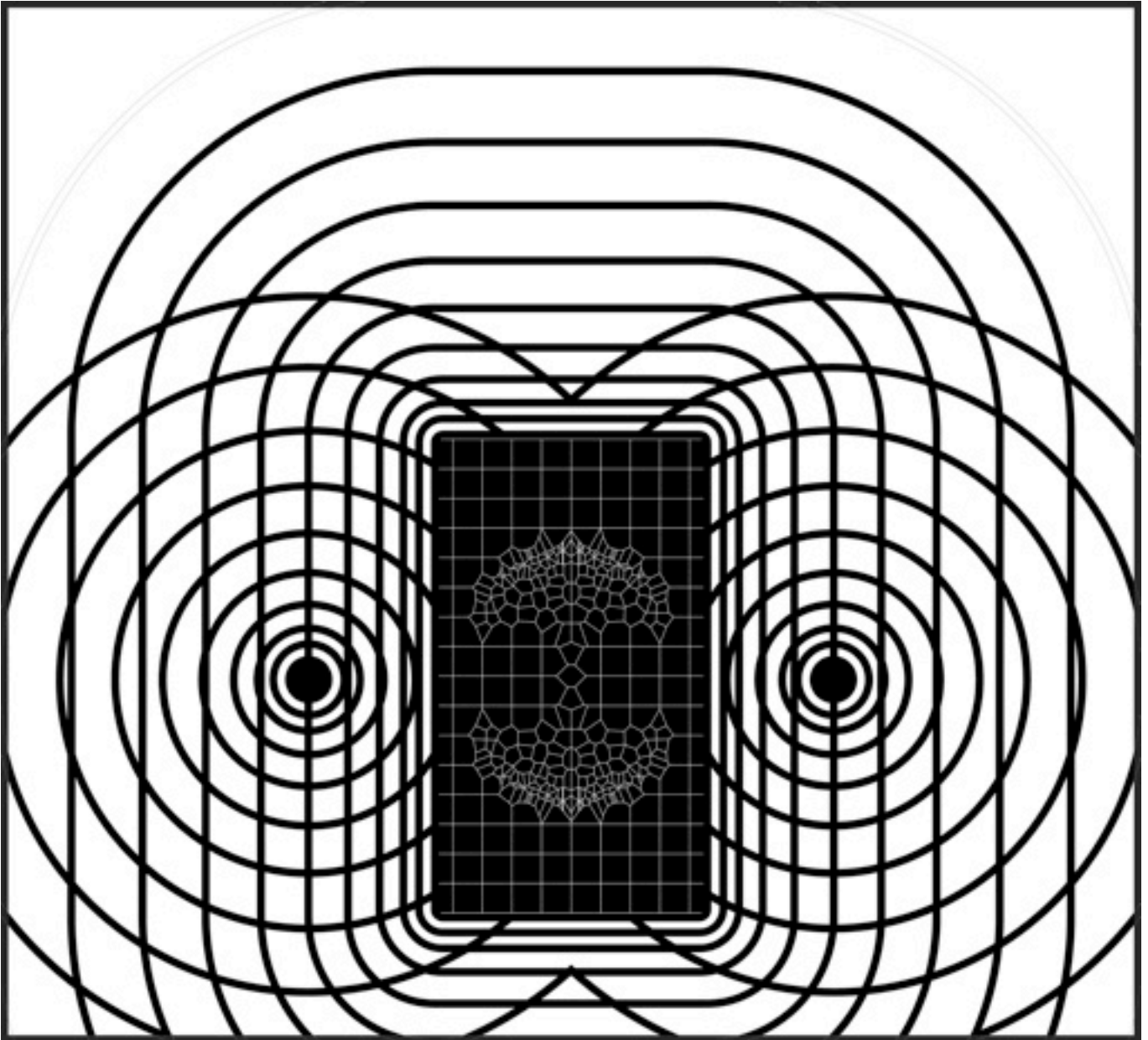
They are ambiguous, they could be street-scapes of evolving cities disrupted by the successive impositions of changing social imaginaries. Music generated from the same code and played through window-mounted transducers haunts the streetscape.



The four screens showing organisms with different rates of tumor growth and survival likelihood.



Top: Installation view, the Copper Street Windows, the Macmillan Cancer Centre, London - April 2012 - April 2013
Above: Early cancer trees developed by Simon Walker Samuel, Centre for Advanced Biomedical Imaging, UCL



The cut vinyl pattern for the Capper Steet Windows