Linear Compositions

An hour-long audiovisual installation by Matej Moravec, inspired by the *Lines* series of the Czech painter Zdeněk Sýkora

***Linear Compositions* is a live audiovisual installation by Matej Moravec, inspired by the work of Zdeněk Sýkora (1920–2011), a pioneer of computer-aided art. It reinterprets Sýkora's method of rules and chance in real time, with original compositions generated live and shaped by sound. Created in November 2026, it is part of an audiovisual performance with live music by Moravec himself, performing as Nathan Solo.**

Sýkora was one of the first painters anywhere to bring the computer into his work. In the early 1960s he began his *Structures* series: compositions built from square elements carrying circles and semicircles, arranged according to rules. From 1964 he developed these with the mathematician Jaroslav Blažek, who wrote programs to work out their combinations. In 1973 he began the *Lines* series, the paintings he is best known for. Their tangled, colourful lines look spontaneous, but each one follows a rule: the course of every line, its width, its colour and where it turns were set by chance, through random numbers and computer programs. Sýkora then painted them by hand, often over many months. The result is art that is strictly planned and still surprising, even to its author.

Linear Compositions takes this way of working as its starting point and asks how such lines might move. Lines draw themselves across the screen, curve, cross and erase themselves. They weave into grids, circle a centre, run through tunnels and bounce off the edges of the frame, across sixteen chapters that flow into one another over the course of an hour.

Sýkora's canvases have always reminded Moravec of musical writing: lines rising and falling like a score waiting to be played. In this installation, that idea of a silent notation is given a voice. Live audio is analysed in real time, and its low, middle and high frequencies shape the thickness of every line. Deep sounds swell the heavy strokes, mid-range tones move the medium ones, and hi-hats and other bright sounds pulse through the finest lines. The compositions keep Sýkora's principle of chance, and the sound in the room makes them breathe.



Stills from *Linear Compositions*. © Matej Moravec, 2026. Original generative compositions; no works by Zdeněk Sýkora are reproduced. High-resolution images and video on request.

ABOUT THE WORK

Created November 2026

Part of an audiovisual performance with live music

Live audiovisual installation, 60 min, looped

16 chapters with continuous transitions

Real-time generative graphics (TouchDesigner) reacting to live audio

ARTISTS

Matej Moravec, visuals
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