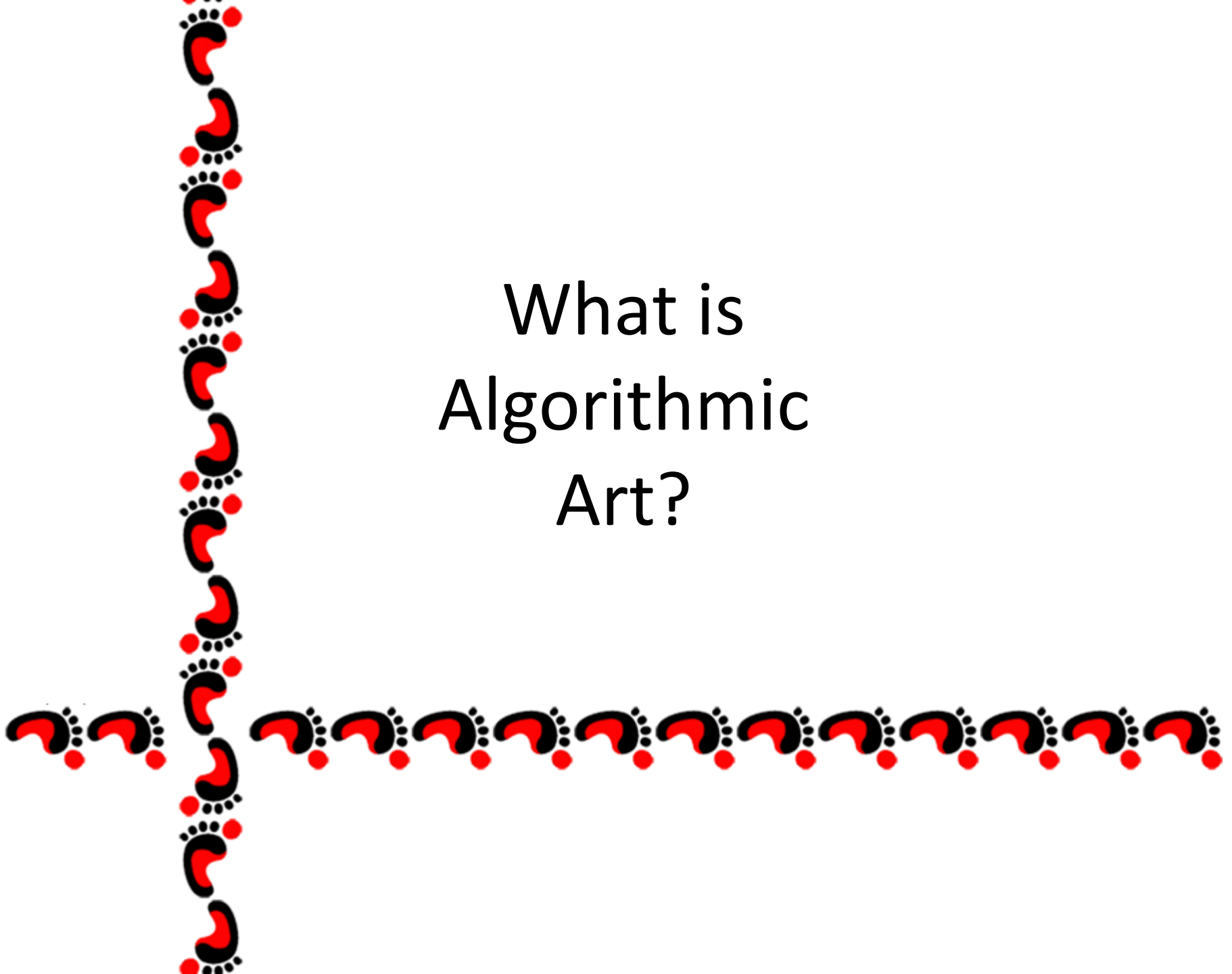


# What is Algorithmic Art?



# What is an Algorithm?

In the logician's voice:

*An algorithm is  
a finite procedure,  
written in a fixed symbolic vocabulary,  
governed by precise instructions,  
moving in discrete steps, 1, 2, 3,...,  
whose execution requires no insight, cleverness,  
intuition, intelligence, or perspicuity,  
and that sooner or later comes to an end.*

From *The Advent of the Algorithm*, by David Berlinski

# What is Algorithmic (Generative) Art?

*“Generative art refers to any art practice where the artist uses a system, such as a set of natural language rules, a computer program, a machine, or other procedural invention, which is set into motion with some degree of autonomy contributing to or resulting in a completed work of art.”*

Philip Galanter, 2003

[http://www.philipgalanter.com/downloads/ga2003\\_paper.pdf](http://www.philipgalanter.com/downloads/ga2003_paper.pdf)



# Taxonomy of Computer Art\*

*≠ Algorithmic Art*

- Ele-art – uses electronic devices
- C-art - uses computers
- CA-art - uses the computer as an aid
- D-art - uses digital electronic technology
- R-art: construction of robots for artistic purposes
- I-art: form/content affected by the audience.
- CI-art: form/content of some CG-artwork is affected audience.
- VR-art: observer immersed in virtual world

\* Taken from *What is Generative Art*, Boden&Edmonds, 2009

# Taxonomy of Computer Art\*

- **G-art**  
works are generated, at least in part, by some process that is not under the artist's direct control.
- **CG-art**  
is produced by leaving a computer program to run by itself, with minimal or zero interference from a human being.
- **Evo-art**  
is evolved by processes of random variation and selective reproduction that affect the art-generating program itself.



\* Taken from *What is Generative Art*, Boden&Edmonds, 2009