

And Yet It Moves!

The Magic of Kinegrams by Gianni A. Sarcone

Art in motion

Everything moves and everything changes. The Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said: “There is nothing permanent except change.” Motion is ingrained in life, though some objects move very quickly (such as electrons) and others so slowly (a growing tree, for example) that they seem static. For centuries, visual artists have investigated the meaning and influence of motion in our real life, experimenting with new motion picture media.

Based on my own personal visual experiences and research, the Kinegram patterns I have create magically come to life as soon the reader/viewer overlays them with the special acetate screen provided with the image.

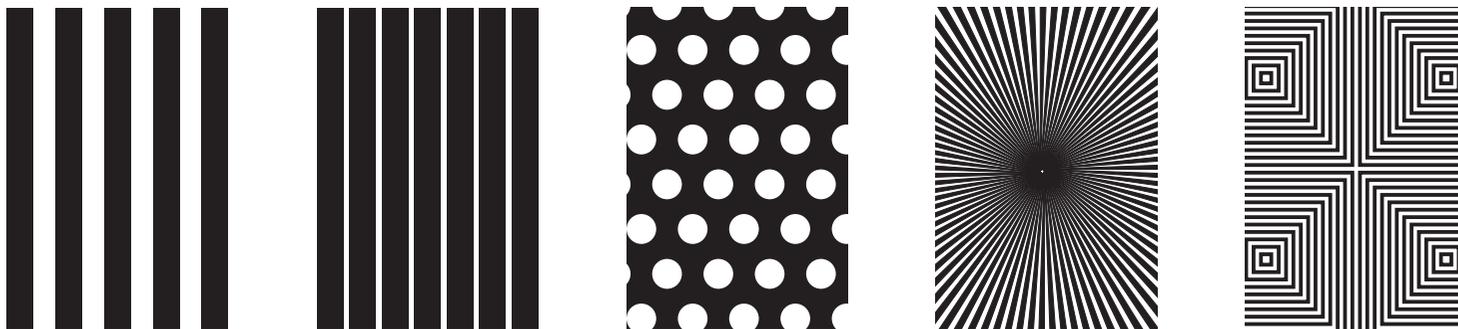
Kinegrams can be used as publishing or decoration material: for illustrated books, animated cards, works of art, interior decoration, and on many other products or electronic applications. They can be in full color or in black and white.

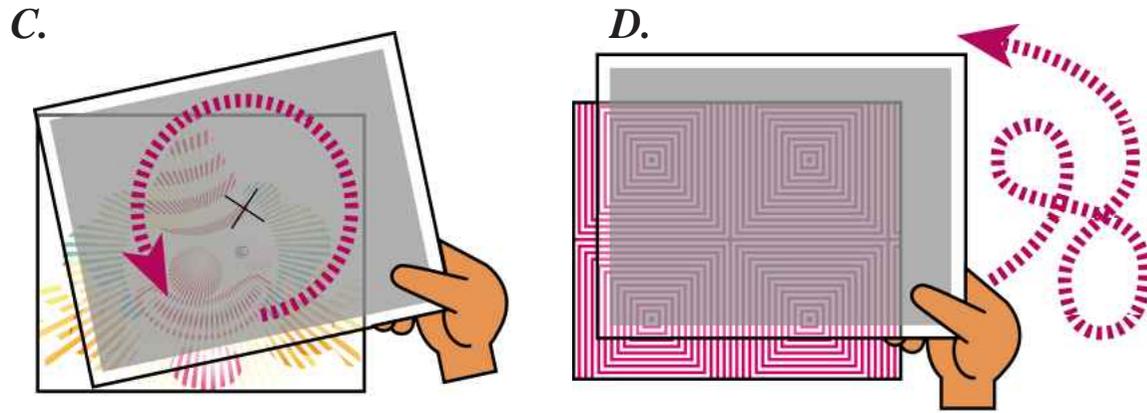
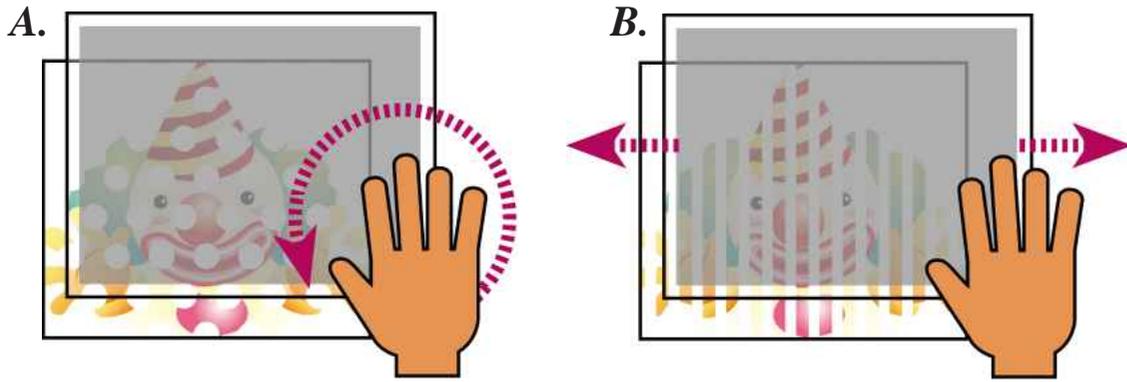
How do they work

The Kinegrams artfully combine the visual effects of moiré patterns with the zoetrope animation technique. The earliest attempts of this technique date back to the French pre-cinema technique of “Ombro-Cinéma” in the XIX century.

The animated sequence is created when the complex static image - the Kinegram - is viewed through the acetate that has a fine and solid black pattern printed on it. The blank spaces of the pattern being transparent, as the overlay is slid across the Kinegram, different selections of the image become visible... Your brain links this succession of lines or dots together, creating the illusion of fluid, seamless motion. In fact, the illusion works because of a simple visual phenomenon known as “persistence of vision”.

The acetate present 5 main kinds of patterns: wide-spaced stripes, tight-spaced stripes, radial, round holes and geometric

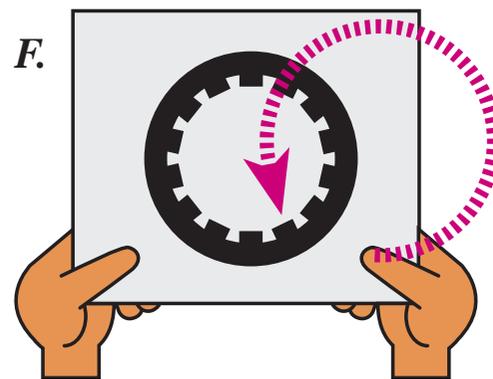
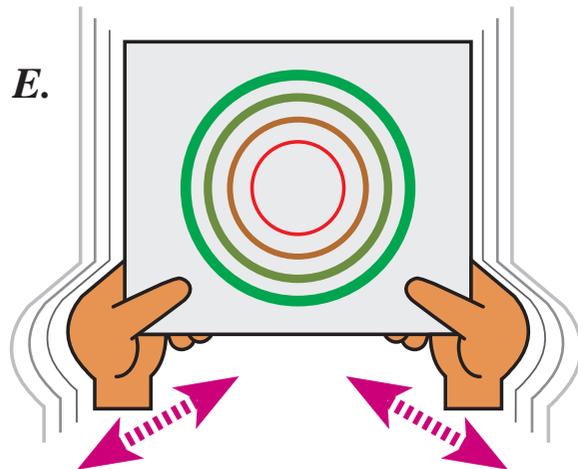




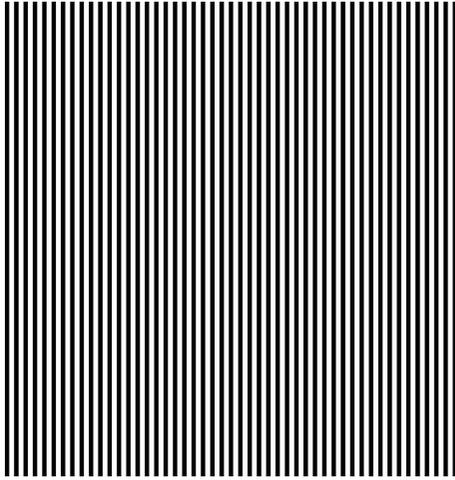
Interactivity

Kinegrams are highly interactive and can be a smart way to teach and promote the pleasure of reading to children. They also represent a dynamical and amazing way to investigate and explore the many aspects of shapes and colors. The young as well as the grown-up reader will love using the special acetate screens to see clowns juggling, airplanes fly, tops spin, fireworks glow, a bug crawl, and so on. With this technique, abstract shapes and patterns too appear to move in a hypnotic and seamless loop-like fashion.

There are 4 main gestures to slide the acetate films in order to animate the still images: A. Continuous short clockwise and/or counterclockwise circular movements; B. side-to-side movements; C. Circular movements around a central point, and D. random movements. Some designs don't even need acetates to start to move! Some images have just to be moved manually back and forth relative to the eyes (See fig. E), some others in a short circular fashion (fig. F) or side to side (fig. G).



Wide-spaced vertical stripes

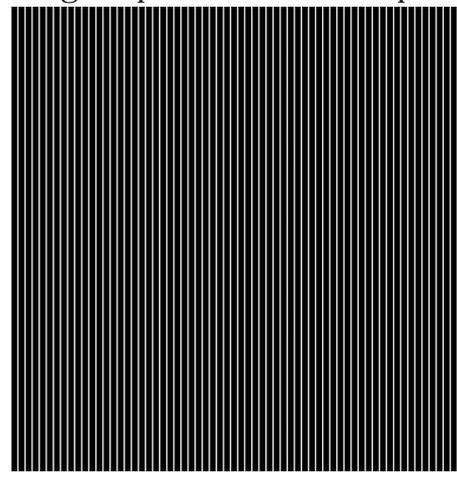


Kinegram 1

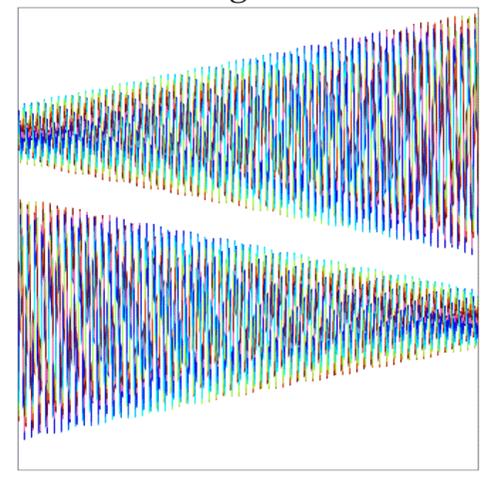


When the acetate overlay is slid from side to side over the Kinegram the windmill blades will start to rotate.

Tight-spaced vertical stripes

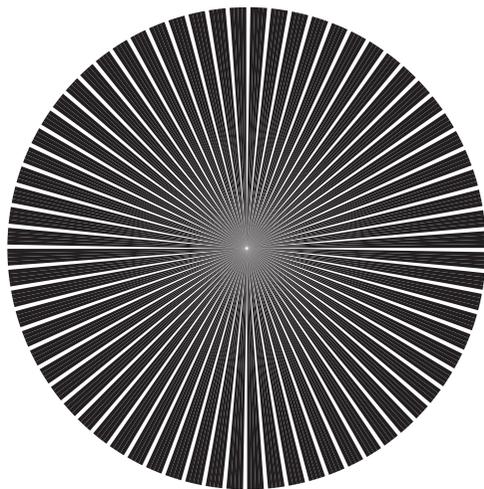


Kinegram 2

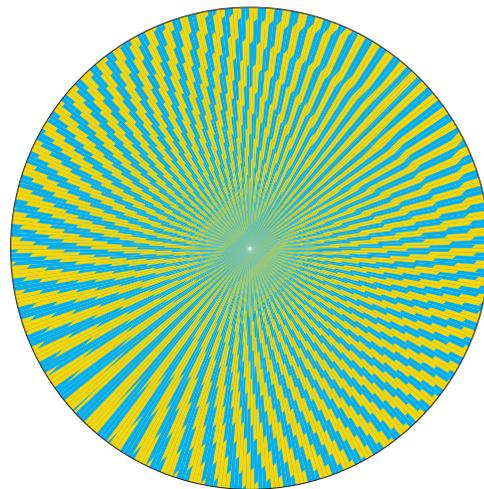


When the acetate overlay is slid from side to side over the Kinegram it creates a hypnotic twisting motion effect.

Radial stripes

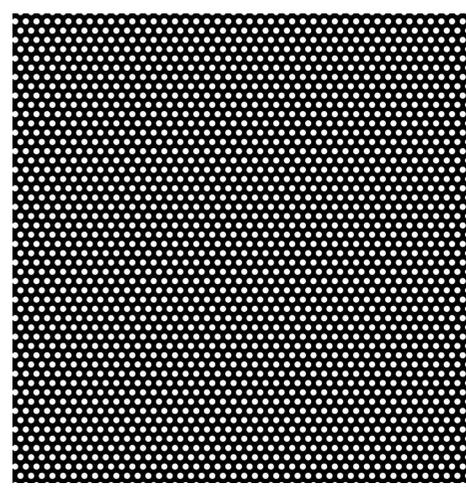


Kinegram 3

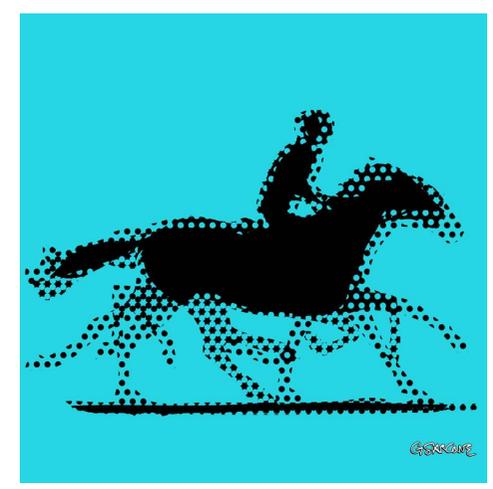


When the acetate overlay is rotated over the Kinegram it creates a linear motion of large blue and yellow stripes.

Round holes



Kinegram 4



Rotate clockwise and/or counterclockwise the acetate overlay over the Kinegram and the horse will start to gallop.

More animated Kinegrams from my professional websites:

Linear Kinegrams: <http://giannisarcone.com/Kinegrams.html>

Rotating Kinegrams: <https://www.behance.net/gallery/17609995/Rotating-Kinegrams>