CYBERNETIC SERENDIPITY
IL CARM-O-MATIC

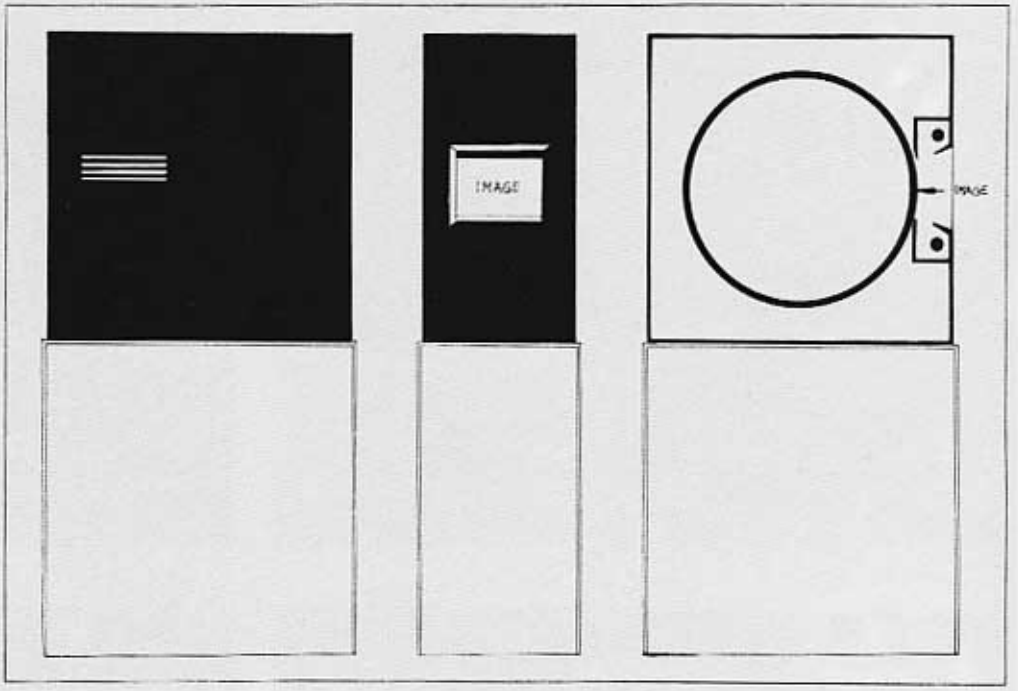
Eugenio Carmi

The Carm-O-Matic is a picture generator, with visual effects obtained by the overlapping of simple images, which build up on the retina of the spectator with the aid of stroboscopic flash. Starting with a set of elementary images, it is possible to obtain numerous combinations of considerable complexity.

The system incorporates an interchangeable set of images which appear on a cylinder at a speed of 1500 revolutions per minute.

What we see is the result of a combination of two chance elements, the moving images on the cylinder and the frequency of the stroboscope flash. The possible combinations run into millions. The apparatus is sensitive to sound in the environment, which effects its random function.

This work has been realized with the collaboration of Ing. Gianni Colombo of Borgoticino, Italy, and the patronage of Olivetti Company, Ivrea, Italy.



Il Carm-O-Matic, dal catalogo Cybernetic Serendipity, Londra, 1968