

CRYSTALS

A crystal is an atomic tessellation, a tridimensional jigsaw puzzle in which every piece is the same shape.

A crystal assembles itself out of its own constituent disarray: the puzzle puts itself together, each piece falling as though by chance into its correct location.

A crystal is nothing more
than a breeze blowing sand
into the form of a castle
or a film played backwards
of a window being smashed.

A compound (word) dissolved in a liquid supercooled under microgravitational conditions precipitates out of solution in (alphabetical) order to form crystals whose structuralistic perfection rivals the beauty of machine-tooled objects.

An archæologist without any mineralogical experience might easily mistake a crystal for the artificial product of a precision technology.

A word is a bit of crystal in formation.

c r y s t a l s

a
s
t
r
a
l

s
a
l
t

c
a
s
t

a
s
t
r
a
y

AMETHYST

S I L I C O N
X
Y
O X Y G E N
E
N

sibylline orchid

oblivious

EXPERIMENT #1

1

Amethyst sugar
stains tapwater,

like the inkjet
spray of toner

on wet paper,
words but dust

dissolved away
so faint liquid

can transmute
at the chiming

of the teaspoon
into grape paint.

Supersaturation.

2

Surgical thread
dipped in slowly

cooling glasses
of warm seltzer

with its solute
at a high degree

of concentration
attracts stray

atoms in the way
a magnetic wire

grows a cluster
of iron filings.

Coprecipitation.

3

Textbooks teach
you that to lock

solutions in your
icebox overnight

can precipitate
from water, candy

on a cord, words
accreting meaning

so that the line
can end at last

in the sweetest
of stalactites.

Crystallization.

l c
 crystal r
 c r t y l
 r y t crystal
 y l crystal i r t t
 crystal r t c y a t
 r t t y lattice s l i
 y a t crystal t c
 s l i r t t lattice
 t c y a t crystal r
 lattice s l i r t y l
 l r t c y l t crystal
 y lattice s a i r t t
 crystal r t t c y a t
 r t t y lattice s l i
 y a t crystal i t c
 s l i r t t c lattice
 t c y lattice l
 lattice s l i
 l t c
 lattice
 l

CRYSTAL LATTICE

FRACTAL GEOMETRY

1

Fractals are haphazard maps
that entrap entropy in tropes.

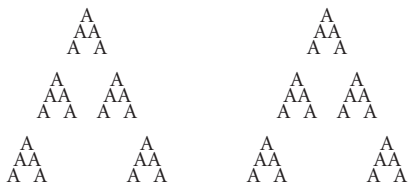
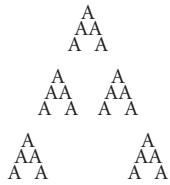
Fractals tell their raconteurs
to counteract at every point
the contours of what thought
recounts (a line, a plot): recant
the chronicle that cannot coil
into itself – let the story stray
off course, its countless details,
pointless detours, all en route
toward a tour de force, where
the here & now of nowhere is.

Don't ramble – lest you dream
about a random belt of words
brought to you by Mandelbrot.

2

Fractals are a pretty knotty
way to say: the length of any
coastline depends upon the
lengths to which a ruler goes.

A lost vacationer who strolls
along a beach patrols a spatial
breach between dimensions.



A-FRACTAL

3

A fractal is the ideal of redundancy:

the obsessive restatement (re(in)statement)
of itself, by itself, in itself – a never-ending
message that digresses from its digressions
yet nevertheless repeats (repeats) the same
message over and over and over ad infinitum.

A fractal is the ideal of redundancy:

imagine a series
of Chinese boxes
in which each box
contains a series
of Chinese boxes.

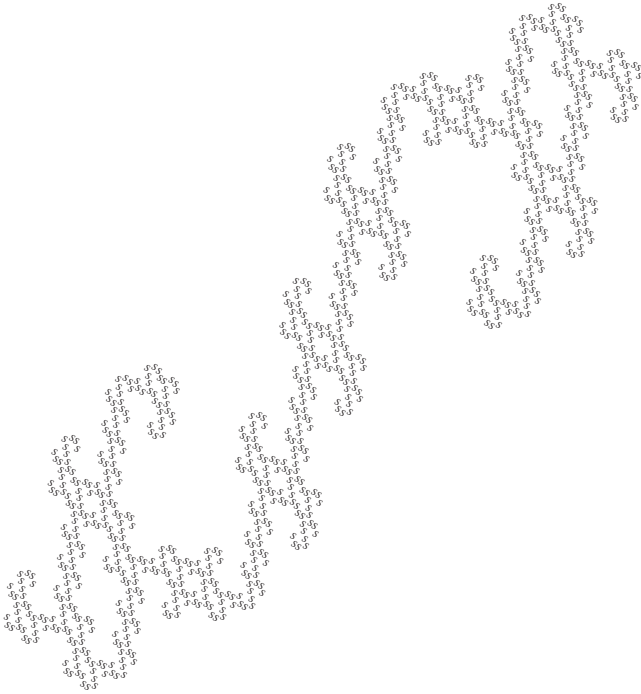
An acoustic fractal would be its own echo chamber.

4

Never forget that fractal
music sounds the same
when played at any speed.

Navigate the futile maze
this sentence plans to be.

Newfangle its simplicity.



S-FRACTAL

5

When two identical mirrors face each other
their cycle of self-reflection recedes forever
into an infinite exchange of self-absorption.

Each mirror
infects itself
at every scale
with the virus of its own image.

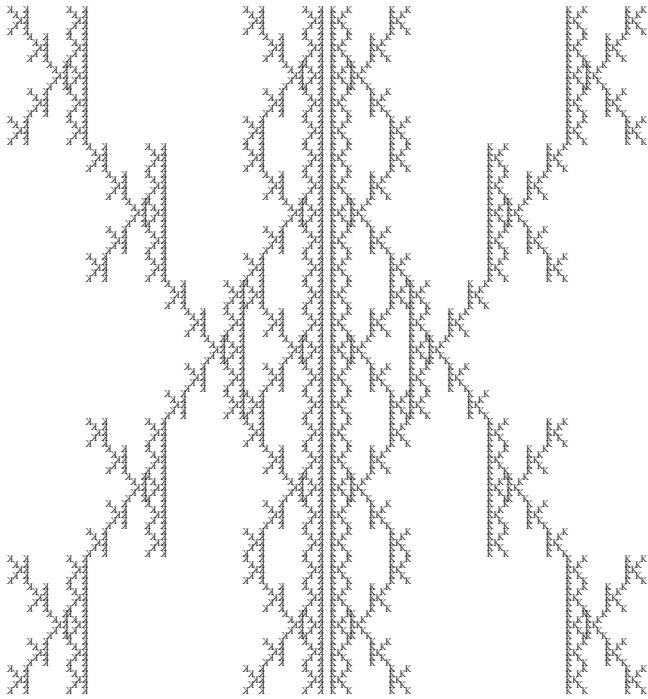
Each mirror
devours itself
at every point
with the abyss of its own dream.

When we gaze upon a fractal, we must peer
at a one-way mirror, unaware of the other
mirror, standing somewhere far behind us.

6

Mirror rim (all its
sides reversed) is
still a mirror rim.

A fractal is a fatal
arc (an act as artful
as a fall): a snow-
flake knows a leaf.



K-FRACTAL