This is a chapter in piero scaruffi’s “A Visual History of the Visual Arts”: http://www.scaruffi.com/art/history
The Computer Age

• Computer Art
  – The cultural debate
    • Roy Ascott: "Behaviourist Art and the Cybernetic Vision“ (1964)
    • Benoît Mandelbrot: “How Long Is the Coast of Britain? Statistical Self-Similarity and Fractional Dimension” (1967)
    • Douglas Engelbart: The mother of all demos (1968)
    • Licklider & Robert Taylor: “The Computer as a Communication Device” (1968)
    • Dennis Ritchie and Keith Thompson: UNIX (1968)
    • DARPA: The Arpanet (1969)
The Computer Age

• Computer Art
  – Two main centers of computer art activities: Bell Labs and Technische Universität Stuttgart
  – 1960: Desmond Paul Henry’s Drawing Machine
  – 1963: First public showing of computer art: San Jose State University
  – 1965: Generative Computergrafik exhibition at the Technische Hochschule in Stuttgart
  – 1966: Billy Kluver’s interdisciplinary program Experiments in Art & Technology
The Space Age

• Computer art
  – Vera Molnar's Groupe de Recherche d'Art Visuel (1960)
  – Joan Shogren: first exhibition of computer art (San Jose, 1963)
  – Max Bense's Stuttgart Group – first exhibition of computer art in Europe (1965)
  – Billy Kluver’s Experiments in Art and Technology in New York (1966)
  – Gyorgy Kepes’ Center for Advanced Visual Studies at MIT (1967)
The Space Age

- Computer art – five computer art exhibitions in late 1968!
  - Jasia Reichardt: “Cybernetic Serendipity” (August, London)
  - “Tendencies 4. Computer and Visual Research” (one day later, Zagreb)
  - Pontus Hulten: “The Machine as seen at the end of the Mechanical Age” (New York)
  - “Some More Beginnings” (New York)
  - Computer Arts Society: “Event One” (September, London)
The Space Age

• Computer art
  – Ben Laposky (1914, USA)
  – Herbert Franke (1927, Germany)

Franke: “Lichtformen” (1955)

Laposky: “Oscillons” (1956)

Franke: “Oszillogram” (1956)
The Computer Age

• Computer Art
  – Roy Ascott (1934, Britain)
    • "The Construction of Change" (1964) on the relationship between art, systems theory, cybernetics, and behavior
    • “Art and Telematics” (1984)
      “Terminal Art“ (1980), a telematic platform for computer-networked artists
      “Change Painting“ (1959), interactive artwork that the viewer can reconfigure
    “The Pleating of the Text “ (1983), writers in 11 cities participate for 24 hours a day for 12 days on writing a story
The Space Age

- Computer art
  - John Whitney (1917)
  - Vera Molnar (1924)
  - Michael Noll (1939)
  - Ken Knowlton (1931)


Whitney (1966)

Molnar (1968)

Noll (1964)
The Space Age

- Computer art
  - Vera Molnar (1924, France)

“Searching for Paul Klee” (1971)
The Space Age

• Computer art
  – Vera Molnar (1924)

  “Letters from my Mother” (1987), plotter drawing simulating the handwriting of the artist’s elderly mother

  “Letters from my Mother” (1988)

  “Letters from my Mother” (1990)
The Space Age

• Computer art
  – Alison Knowles (1933, USA) & James Tenney

"The House of Dust" (1967), the first computer-generated poem
The Space Age

- Computer art
  - Charles Csuri (1922)

“Scribbles” (2005)
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