Samuel McCabe – Work of Art Mimicry – Theo van Doesburg's *Arithmetic Composition*

Theo van Doesburg was born in the year 1883 in Utrecht as Christian Emil Marie Küpper; when he began painting, he took the name of his stepfather, Theodorus Doesburg, only later adding the 'van'. Though fond of impressionism and van Gogh, he encountered the works of Piet Mondrian during World War I and later founded the magazine *De Stijl*. The magazine encapsulated the eponymous artistic movement – sometime also called neoplasticism – which involved Mondrian and other painters such as Vilmos Huszár, Bart van der Leck, and architects J.J.P. Oud and Gerrit Rietveld. He later became involved somewhat with the Dada movement, and in 1925 began working exclusively as an architect, until he died that same year. (From <http://www.moma.org/collection/artist.php?artist_id=6076>)

My Gargoyle Beta image is based on Doesburg's *Arithmetic Composition*, which consists of a gray or beige square as the background with “ring” of darker squares emanating from the top-left corner. From this same point come a series of three increasingly large squares which are oriented towards to origin. This image is simple in its stark composition from only a few components, but seems to operate through their spatial relationships.

I generated my image in two main steps: first the background, and then the foreground squares. The background plate was generated first, and then two more increasingly small shapes were generated, moving towards the corner. After reorienting the painter to the center of the canvas-space, I generated the squares, beginning from the corner of the background plate, turning to face the origin, and then generating each square, moving, and increasing the size of the painter. This is repeated three times.