Public access description

In order to create the original version of this image, Leon Harmon and Ken Knowlton scanned a photograph of the choreographer Deborah Hay and converted the greyscale values into symbols. The resulting printout was 12 feet wide and was hung in a colleague's office at Bell Labs as a prank. The image found fame when it featured in a press conference in Robert Rauschenberg's loft and subsequently appeared in the New York Times on 11 October, 1967.

Another version was included in a major exhibition held at the Museum of Modern Art New York in 1968, entitled The machine as seen at the end of the mechanical age. This is smaller and more recent version of the image, produced in 1997 as a limited edition print.

Descriptive line

Physical description
Black and white laser print depicting a female nude made up of typographic symbols. Window mounted.

Dimensions
Height: 32.3 cm inc. mount, Width: 55.6 cm inc. mount

Museum number
E.963-2008

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O239963/studies-in-perception-i-print-harmon-leon/