

My name is Kat and I have been a self taught digital artist for over 8 years. Any kind of information can be put into an AI generator. This includes images such as artworks, photographs, selfies, films, and landscapes, and word phrases such as abstract concepts, single words, objects and even the names of artists. Most AI art generators also collect from publicly stored databases outside of the program.

People turn to AI art for a multitude of reasons, relating to business, marketing, contests, game development, and cover art for books and films. On November 14, 2022, Thomas H. Davenport, a Professor of Information Technology and Management at Babson College, and Nitin Mittal, co-leader of Deloitte Consulting's AI strategic growth, wrote in their HBR article, "How Generative AI Is Changing Creative Work," a man by the name Jason Allen won a Colorado 2022 art contest using his artwork created by Midjourney, and the companies Heinz and Nestles are already utilizing AI art to market themselves. AI art is even more popular with companies that heavily depend on art to sell their products such as game developers like Riot Games. Riot Games have been replacing their human artists with AI because it is cheaper and faster. In a video uploaded to YouTube by Palle Schmit on August 29, 2022, he interviewed Dave McKean, the professional comic book artist of The Sandman, Batman: Arkham Asylum and more, McKean argues "there's absolutely no reason why any art director or company would bother to ask an illustrator to make an image when they can just type a few words into AI..." As you can see, AI art is a threat not just for small and independent artists, but even well known artists.

Many normal users are unaware about what they legally can and cannot do using their AI generated art. The mishandling of AI art is a rising concern not only for the art community, but everyone.

The main concern involves copyright laws and possible infringement. A page written on The Center for Art Law by Atreya Mathur, on November 21, 2022, called, "Art-istic or Art-ificial? Ownership and copyright concerns in AI-generated artwork," says according to the US Copyright Office, copyright protection does not extend to works not made by a human, and therefore fails to recognize AI art as human-made because, as Mathur quotes the Office, it is a 'mere mechanical process that operates randomly or automatically without any creative input or intervention from a human author.' However, depending on the program's Terms of Service, the generated image's "copyright" may be given to the "owner" of the image, which is the user who types in the prompt and generates the image.

That is just the copyright concerns, AI art also severely crosses the lines of intellectual property infringement, and some sites like Deviantart, MidJourney, Stable Diffusion, and Dreamup, are already being sued for it by artists that have found their names associated with artworks not created by them, but in their art styles (Chayka, 2023). While it is a general rule that an art style is not unique to one artist--because artists take inspiration from others constantly--you can tell AI is blatant plagiarism. It is like buying a knockoff version of a brand product, such as fake airpods; looks nearly exactly the same, but not the real deal. These issues may make the creator of the AI generator liable for damages, but since AI generated

images do not receive copyright protection, it is possible that the artist whose artworks were fed into the generator may not receive infringement compensation (Mathur, 2022).

Unfortunately, with AI art improving the more people use it, there is a growing concern over how the art is being mishandled. One concern is privacy. All AIs store information given to them by users or databases without the consent of artists and even non-artists. According to the Washington Post article, “AI selfies — and their critics — are taking the internet by storm,” by Tatum Hunter, a consumer technology reporter, on December 8, 2022, one artist found her private medical records on one of the databases. Even more alarmingly, the article sheds light on the issue of people uploading images of young girls, along with inappropriate prompts that generate images of these girl’s faces in nude and sexual poses, creating hyper realistic deep fakes within seconds.

AI is dangerously exploitative to everyone, not just artists.

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