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Future Illustration media

September 17, 2023

The AI Debate

As an artist, I've heard a spectrum of opinions on the future of artificial intelligence. My peer's ideas range from AI being an evil thing that will take all our jobs to it being a tool that will improve the work we produce. While I understand where both are coming from, I cannot dedicate myself to just one side as the discussion is not that simple. AI, while it does run the risk of replacing artists in our industry if used in a limited amount, could prove to be as useful as the reactive machine AI we use in our modern-day lives. Reactive machine AI according to Forbes's article "7 Types of Artificial Intelligence" states that "These machines could only be used for automatically responding to a limited set or combination of inputs" and that "They cannot be used to rely on memory to improve their operations based on the same." Examples we use in our day-to-day lives can be found in our phones or on Photoshop where we can use apps like a calculator or a patch tool.

Currently, in my artwork, I don't use any image-generating AI, nor do I desire or need to use it. If, for some reason, I had to use it, I would use it as a tool in the ideation and reference/ inspiration and photo-gathering phase of my artwork development process. I would never use AI-derived photos in/ as my final artwork because I would no longer consider it solely my piece.

In the future, when it comes to my or my fellow students' artwork, I would like lawmakers to act with more urgency and quicker response. In the article "What Is AI Art and

How Is It Created" by TechTarget it stated, "AI-generated art began its recent ascent in 2014." That means that even though it was in the public eye back in 2014, it wasn't until 2023 that artists all over the industry worried about their artwork being stolen and jobs taken over that Judges and the US Senate Committee started setting boundaries. Additionally, lawmakers could protect our work by making an Opt-in system rather than an Opt-out as many programs and devices are required to agree with terms and conditions in order to use said product or application. Finally, the artist should be compensated. Just as engineers have pattened inventions, artists should have the copyright to their work and therefore should be paid whenever their piece is used in a generated image. When an artist owns a song, if that song is performed or played elsewhere, the artist gets royalties. Why should visual artists be any different?

In conclusion, I urge you to act with haste. The only way these imaginative AI programs will prove themselves to be truly useful and beneficial to humankind is if we leave the artist in the art. If we continue to slowly try to debate perfect laws, technology will outrun us, and art may die, or worse, be completely devoid of human touch. Art at its core is a form of expression– It gives a voice to the powerless. As a lawmaker/ person in politics, I hope you see the importance of continually pursuing the AI debate.

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