

Ryan Bujold 40250368
CART 498
Assignment 1 - Surrealist Collage and Short Essay
22 January 2026

AI technologies are extremely disruptive to the creative sphere and are making people ask tough questions. They give anyone the ability to make competent artwork in text, image and video.

AI is currently being heavily experimented with by curious artists who wish to see what it can make or how it can enhance the creative process. They are creating their own AI models and training them on their own artwork and data. The models can then make something that can either be iterated on or displayed as is. This method of using AI puts a lot of control into the user with AI acting more as a springboard. Although, in the case the art is entirely AI, it is usually an exploration into AI technologies and their capabilities.

While artists are exploring the creative uses of AI, there is a darker underbelly to the more conventional usage of AI by the average user. Large AI models like ChatGPT are often used to create extremely high fidelity artwork. The biggest questions this raises is surrounding copyright and payment. With all the data having been taken without consent from artists, it means no one really knows who the art produced really belongs to. With regulation and legislation still mostly unwritten, figuring out how to use AI and protect artist's work is being debated.

Amid all the chaos, it is still interesting to see creative explorations using it. One example is the "Fragments of artificial consciousness"(Elektra 2025) exhibit I visited last year. The videos on display were completely AI generated using various models in an attempt to examine the potential consciousness AI. It's made clear that most of it is nonsensical and that AI is far from sentient. Yet it makes me think about how AI is often presented through the lens of an artificial person. The humanization of these tools almost act as a protector to the mythos of art, that it can only be made by sentient beings.

Sources:

Boris Eldagsen. 2025. "Fragments of an Artificial Consciousness." January 17, 2025.
<https://www.elektramountreal.ca/fragments-of-an-artificial-consciousness-boris-eldagsen>