

Aashray Rajagopalan

Dr. Hall

Honors Humanities 1

1 September 2023

Definition of Art Essay

Artificial Intelligence has taken the world by storm for its many uses, assistance for general work, and recently for art. AI art is a new idea where one would input instructions, and a robot would give an output. Recently, arguments have emerged about whether AI art can be considered art. These arguments say that art needs a human touch and expression to make it count as art. AI Art can not be considered art as there is no real skill and it is devoid of human emotion. Art is a form of expression that allows a person to show an emotional perspective on society and imitate reality.

Art is based on human emotions and portrays a person's feelings through different mediums. People attempt to understand the emotions the artist is trying to convey with this art piece. Art contains the emotions and thoughts of a person's feelings. Tolstoy explains this in his book *What is Art?* by stating, "Every work of art causes the receiver to enter into a certain kind of relationship both with him who produced or is producing, the art, and with all those who, simultaneously, previously, or subsequently, receive the same artistic impression" (Tolstoy Chapter 5 Paragraph 4). The art that an artist makes can have many different functions: to show the emotions that the artist is feeling or to portray an understanding of what society is like at this time. It allows people of all backgrounds to understand what the artist means. Art can be used to preserve the emotions of an era so that the people of the future can learn and understand what

they were going through. Artists can replicate the reality that they live in and present it to the viewer. Tolstoy uses art to form a bond between the artist and the viewer. Art is a portal that connects the viewer and artist and allows them to convey feelings and emotions. Art can be understood as a close imitation of reality and how the artist views reality. Art is a representation of different people's views of reality and humanity. This is explained by Hagel, in his book *Aesthetics*, when he says, "Polygnotus depicted men as nobler than they are, Pauson as less noble, Dionysius drew them true to life" (Hagel Paragraph 9). Hagel describes how different artists view humanity and how they see their actions. Artists' views may contradict each other based on their circumstances and lifestyle. Their emotions and feelings toward people influence their view of people. Artists show their view of humanity through art, but the feelings may vary as their life experiences affect their perspective. Art is an interpretation and imitation of reality, portrayed by their views of society and their emotions toward society.

AI art can not be considered art, as there is no ability to show the artist's ideas, which renders the job useless as an artist does not produce it. Art generated by AI lacks the actual human aspect of time, perspective, and thought, as AI compiles many different pre-existing art pieces together and makes them fit the description a person provides. A person may take days, months, or years for a handmade art piece, but AI produces this in seconds. In Chris Vallance's article "Art is Dead Dude," he interviews Mr. Palmer, an artist with poor feelings about AI art. Mr Palmer says, "That's one person spending a week to create one thing. With this machine, you can produce hundreds of them a week" (Vallance 3). Palmer describes how AI art may remove art's emotional and thinking quotient rather than spending time translating thoughts into visual masterpieces. The computer will immediately generate it for a person, thus eliminating the need

for thinking or a deep understanding of what forms and emotions are intended to be portrayed.

Although the actual drawing may look good, it may lack depth and possibly be distant from what was initially visualized. During the long durations spent in making an art piece, many things may be happening - different possible ways to portray emotions and ways to describe opinions. This can not occur with AI, as the results are immediate and based on preexisting or pre-learned data. It is questionable whether AI art has any novelty, as the system has been trained to generate such pieces. This is explained by RJ Palmer in Kevin Roose's article, "An A.I.-Generated Picture Won an Art Prize. Artists Are not Happy," where he talks about how AI art goes against the idea of being an artist. Palmer explains, "'What makes AI different is that it's explicitly trained on current working artists,' RJ Palmer, a digital artist, tweeted last month. 'This thing wants our jobs, it's actively anti-artist' (Roose 2). Palmer exclaims that AI aims to take artists' jobs, as it is essentially through modern artists that allow them to mimic older artists. This means that the skill needed for art is unnecessary, as AI art will grab art from others and make its own. It is based on writing skills rather than pure artistic skills. AI can not be considered true art as an artist is not genuinely making it and cannot portray their true feelings.

AI is a developing concept, and the essential aspects of art will be lost if we use Artificial Intelligence to make our art. The central element of art is to imitate reality and to express human emotions. Humanity will eventually lose original artists as AI uses previously existing art to make its own. AI does not fit under the definition of art as there is minimal to no human interaction between the art and the artist.

Works Cited:

Tolstoy, Leo. *What is Art*. Leo Tolstoy, 1897.

Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich. *Aesthetics*. 1818.

Vallance, Chris. “*Art is dead Dude*” *BBC*, 13 September 2022.

Roose, Kevin “*An A.I.-Generated Picture Won an Art Prize. Artists Aren’t Happy.*” 2
September 2022