# Literature Review

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14.06.2023

## Art Authentication and Classification Using Machine Learning

This literature review explores the recent advancements in employing machine learning techniques for art authentication and classification, with a focus on image processing. The objective is to develop a system that can differentiate between original artworks and forgeries, particularly concentrating on specific artists and styles.

### Traditional Methods in Art Authentication

Traditionally, art historians have authenticated artwork by observing the technique and surface details to compare the style of the artist to other known works. This is often combined with provenance research to establish a trail of records for the painting. Additionally, scientific examination with various conservation tools such as microscopy, x-ray, and infrared reflectography are used to gain more insights into the materials and conditions of the artwork. However, while these scientific tests can estimate the age of a painting and uncover signs of forgery, they cannot definitively identify the artist behind the work.

### Emergence of Machine Learning in Art Authentication

Recently, high-profile forgery cases have raised concerns regarding the reliability of traditional methods. This has led art conservators and researchers to explore scientific techniques and machine learning for art authentication.

1. **3D Imaging and Machine Learning**: A team of researchers at Case Western Reserve University developed a technique that utilizes AI algorithms with data collected from the surface of paintings to examine details as small as the width of a brush bristle. They were able to attribute each painting to the artist with over 95% accuracy, according to a study published in the Journal of Heritage Science [2]. This technique presents an exciting development in using machine learning for authentication purposes. [3]

2. **Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)**: CNNs have been proven effective in image classification and recognition tasks and are increasingly being used for art authentication. These networks are capable of capturing intricate patterns, textures, and features in art which can be used to distinguish between original artworks and forgeries.

3. **Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)**: GANs have also been explored in the context of art authentication. A GAN is composed of two neural networks, one that generates new data instances and another that evaluates them. This can be particularly useful in understanding the characteristics of original artworks and generating data that is similar, which can then be used for training machine learning models.

## Art Classification

1. **Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) for Brushstrokes Analysis**: Researchers from Rutgers University utilized RNNs to analyze brushstrokes in art [1]. They used this network to decompose drawings into brushstrokes and train the model to identify distinctive patterns in these brushstrokes. This technique achieved high accuracy in attributing drawings to the corresponding artists.

## Enhancements and Future Directions

1. **Combination of Methods**: Combining traditional methods with machine learning techniques can enhance the accuracy and reliability of art authentication. By utilizing CNNs or GANs alongside 3D imaging, one could create a more holistic view of the artwork.

2. **Expanding Data Sources**: Collecting a diverse and extensive dataset is crucial for the performance of machine learning models. Sources like WikiArt, Art Institute of Chicago, and Metropolitan Museum of Art could be beneficial in this regard.

3. **Interpretability**: Understanding why the model made a particular prediction can be valuable, especially in legal contexts.

## Conclusion

Machine learning offers promising tools for art authentication and classification. By integrating these tools with traditional methods, and continually developing more advanced techniques, it is possible to create more robust systems for art authentication.

# References


[1] Ahmed Elgammal, Yan Kang, and Milko Den Leeuw. Picasso, matisse, or a fake? automated analysis of drawings at the stroke level for attribution and authentication. *arXiv preprint*, arXiv:1711.03536, 2017. Subjects: Image and Video Processing (eess.IV); Artificial Intelligence (cs.AI); Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (cs.CV).

[2] F. Ji, M.S. McMaster, S. Schwab, and B. Singer. Discerning the painter's hand: machine learning on surface topography. *Heritage Science*, 9:152, 2021.

[3] Sara Robinson. Could ai technology change how fake art is detected?, 2019. Accessed: 11.06.2023.