

Dreaming Big with Generative Artificial Intelligence

We have been talking about artificial intelligence the way we have – by this I mean everyday, everywhere – because of its ability to generate new content by identifying patterns within large datasets it was trained on, and that is what we call generative AI. We can see this content take shape in many forms: text generation, image generation, music composition, voice synthesis, video creation, code writing. AI is the simulation of human intelligence, so naturally, AI has its own process to do everything we can do.

Generative AI excels at taking abstract, vague, or fantastical concepts and turning them into tangible representations, whether they are images, videos, or written narratives. It has this sort of combinatorial creativity that we might not be fully able to understand. It paves the way for dreaming big, and that is what makes it such a powerful creative tool. Take a surreal collage I generated in just a few seconds for instance, where the prompt was *"A surreal beach with a bold checkered floor, surrounded by colorful tropical plants and shimmering waves, flower-shaped fireworks light up the sky, star-shaped figures dance joyously, in the style of Joan Miro, hyperrealistic textures, expressive lighting."* That is a lot of concepts to take in, an amount that would use a lot of the human's brain's bandwidth, but AI always finds a way to keep pedalling.



A project utilizing generative AI that I have seen floating around and that has resonated with me is “The Auntieverse” by Singaporean AI artist Niceaunties. The project is a compilation of 1000 AI-generated images, seemingly with stable diffusion, divided into 10 chapters to explore the different facets of “auntie culture” across Southeast and East Asia. For starters, this introduced me to the concept of “auntie culture”, a collection of stereotypical traits often linked to older women. I found it compelling how AI takes these stereotypes, reimagines them, and transforms them into something to be celebrated and embraced. “The Auntieverse” then becomes this place where older women can feel safe, showcasing that generative AI can in fact be a tool for dreaming big.



Niceaunties. “Auntieverse : Chapter 3 Factory” <https://niceaunties.com/auntieverse>