

AI Art is Hampering Our Society

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The release of OpenAI's ChatGPT in 2022 has sparked an AI boom, with other tech giants such as Microsoft and Google following suit, with their respective AI models Copilot and Gemini. OpenAI's LLM, or large language model, was a major leap compared to previous advances in AI; it allows the user to input a prompt, such as asking it a question, and the model outputs a human-like response, in the form of text.

Artificial intelligence has existed for as long as computers have existed, but advances like these have been popping off lately. LLMs such as ChatGPT and Gemini are becoming a tool for the average daily user. Recently, OpenAI has made their ChatGPT 3.5 model easily accessible to all users, even without an account. LLMs can also generate images and videos, such as in OpenAI's Dall-E and Sora, and even Meta AI also allows you to generate images, based on the prompt you input.

There's been controversy surrounding LLMs that generate text, but it goes even further once these companies released their image and video generating AI. Some users are abusing these models, by generating fake images, then posting it on social media platforms such as Facebook or Instagram, then claiming it as real, in order to farm engagement. AI has its benefits, but at the same time, when it comes to visual media, AI is detrimental, and shows a lack of originality.

One of the problems is that it's stealing from other people's work. These AI models are trained on people's creative works, in order to generate images and art, and this is upsetting artists. AI is a good tool for society, if used properly, but image and video generators are taking it too far. According to a CNN Business article "These artists found out their work was used to train AI. Now they're furious" by Rachel Metz, artists have expressed concern over their art being used to train AI models. In this article, artist Erin Hanson, noticed that her work was trained on Stability AI's model, when she prompted the model to create artwork in her style. These AI models are not clear about which art they are being trained on, and according to Metz, this is technically legal because it falls under U.S. "fair use" law.

Another problem with AI is that it is being used to spread disinformation to others. Since these AI models are trained on real images, it allows people to generate fake images based on their prompt. These images are increasingly getting realistic over time, but it's not always perfect. Some AI models, such as Meta AI, even place a watermark over their generated images. But these fake images are being posted on social media, and some people, especially the older generations, are falling for the images, even if these images look fake. These images can also be used to help spread fake news, especially for political purposes.

These problems with AI are hampering our society, because someone can easily generate an AI photo or video, and another person can fall for it, which contributes to the spread of

disinformation. AI-generated artwork, on the other hand, shows a lack of originality, as the AI model that generates these art, is based off of other people's work.

Others may argue that these tools can be used to help artists. In fact, photo editing software such as Photoshop and Microsoft Paint now include tools to generate images. But, again, artists should rely on their own creativity to make their art, and should only rely on AI models for ideas, not to actually draw their art. AI-generated realistic photos, on the other hand, have no benefit to it. People may say that it reduces costs, as they don't need to actually take their own photos, but the problem with this, is again, it steals from other people's work, and it can be used as a way to spread disinformation.