

Fire — the symbol of enlightenment and progress.

The story of Prometheus reminds us to keep our human progression in check. We need to move forward with thoughtful, ethical intention; because artificial intelligence does not speak for us. It is simply a tool humans can now use to accelerate innovation.

Similar to the tool that Prometheus stole from the gods to help humans with their mortal plights.

THE INTELLIGENCE AGE

In his latest blog post, *The Intelligence Age*, Sam Altman discusses how AI, especially deep learning, will significantly enhance human abilities and solve complex problems — sooner than we think:

This phenomenon is not new, but it will be newly accelerated.

— Sam Altman, *The Intelligence Age*

In this new “intelligence age”, society is going to change. It’s already happening within the labour market, and with this wave of AI adoption in business we’re maxing out the computational resources (power) needed to scale these exciting new AI products. GenAI is already driving innovation, and Altman urges for responsible navigation as we enter this new age of technology; an age directly aligned with transhumanism.

TRANSHUMANISM

Alan Turing’s work laid the foundation for understanding computation and artificial intelligence, both of which are central to transhumanist discussions: the balance between augmenting human capabilities and ensuring ethical considerations. Transhumanism encourages a vision of a future where AI and advanced technologies play a crucial role in enhancing human life. However, it also necessitates a careful examination of the potential risks and ethical dilemmas involved, paralleling the challenges that are yet to come as we explore the possibilities and limitations of artificial intelligence:

Art is something you do with your hands...and because the creator is human, and hands are not the perfect tool, the end result is bound to be imperfect.

— Bassil-Morozow, *Tim Burton: The Monster and the Crowd*

PROMETHEAN MYTH

It’s difficult to think about artificial intelligence without being reminded of all the science fiction stories we have absorbed over the years. The reason why we tell horror stories is to remind us that the monsters are actually the creators, not the creations. In 2014, I decided to explore my love of horror from an academic angle and pursued my Masters in Comparative Literature from Dublin City University. In my dissertation I explored what I termed the ‘postmodern Frankenstein complex’:

(The) Promethean myth absorbs the social qualities of the time, presenting the creator and creation in a consistently unaccepting community.

— Elise Marion, *It’s Alive!*

The creators, when their intentions are misaligned with human values, end up piecing together horrific versions of their own twisted ambitions. From Dorian Gray’s portrait, to Doctor Frankenstein’s monster — all modern and postmodern tellings of human ambition vs ethical intention stem from these monstrous roots. Victor Frankenstein abandoned his creation in horror of its otherness, turning it into a monster. Frankenstein, and all future adaptations, stresses an important message: the ethical responsibility of creation.

