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[Dancing with the machine] What does it mean to be an artist in the age of AI? □

For me, this means, and meant, using AI to express what it means to be human and non-inhuman, to create sense and meaning, because the human is this unique biological species

that is capable of defining itself, the life being a conquest of autonomy. But this living autonomy is subtle: it is not a question of a separation, of an alienation with the environment, but of an endless interpretative circulation and an active dialogue with it.

Today, this environment, which is also a techno-cultural cognitive niche, is almost entirely man-made and transformed through our scientific understanding and technological power (the Anthropocene), and is slowly dying of its mechanical excess,

itself induced by a social excess of materialistic and henceforth cognitive action to the detriment of living understanding. AI is the latest technique to emerge from this ambiguous enterprise.

The technique is basically a *pharmakon* (Stiegler): something that can cure or poison, depending on how it is administered. For me, the mission of AI artists today is to vitally transmute the poisonous dimension of these cognitive technologies into an enlivening elixir.

Art is an alchemy, the expression of a living mystery.

AI machines are just that: machines, fascinating and useful tools, but only machines, doxa machines in the case of genAI.

Interacting with these new technologies is like engaging in a dialogue with the collective common memory of the past. Fascinating, but just repeating the same old design from the past if you use them passively.

You then don't really create, you simply "innovate", by doing the same thing but differently. And that's exactly what the conservative system demands: fading away to change on the surface without really changing.

So be the leaders, and not the other way around. We must move from the illusory, heuristic and very rhetorical "machine that thinks", to the "machine that makes you think and also FEEL".

How could we use them to express the marvelous biocognitive creative dimension, and free ourselves from this stifling mechanical entrapment;

express the lifeforms of this unique experience of being a conscious and interactive living becoming, and share it with others, in our time-between-worlds, while dancing with the machine? For me, this is the current vital aesthetic question.

Fin.

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