

Can the elephant which paints considered to be creative?

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Creativity can be termed as creating something new which has some kind of subjective value. It is generally associated with intelligence and cognition. I think the elephant could be said to be creative. As far as I am concerned, no one can create something very new for the first time; it should be only improvement of the previously existing things or combination of the previously existing things in a way which is somewhat different.

Thus creativity requires a lot of observation and expertise in the subject. But we have also heard many great people saying that their innovations were mere accidents. So according to me no one can be called creative in its truest sense. Also I believe that there could be different kinds of intelligence as well as creativity.

For example, the methodologies involved in composing a tune will be different from those involved in writing a computer program.

Even humans require practice for any art or application of knowledge. In the similar way perhaps the elephant too was trained in painting. But we find a lot of variation in the paintings of Picasso than we find in the paintings of the elephant. This could be because painting is more of a human related art. If a person who is not much trained in painting is asked to paint, we might as well not find considerable variations in his art. But can we claim the person is not creative? Perhaps the person's mind is suited for painting though it can be improved by practice.

The elephant might as well paint something new if it is made to practice but the pace with which it picks up will be very slow. But usually creativity is not associated with speed and processing of the brain.

Similarly the elephant might have some skills, which humans will find very difficult to do and it might improvise that each time it does. So can we call the elephant more creative than humans? This is why I believe that creativity is very dependent on the activity being done. One cannot simply define what creativity is or call something uncreative based on only some activities. For a complete understanding of the thinking going on while painting, we should examine the minds of humans and elephants, observe the neural activity and only then make the claims of creativity.

Conclusion: Both the animals and the humans are creative. Creativity can be improved with training, as humans have more training it may seem that humans have more creativity, but one cannot say one is not creative as every being has a creative feature in it.