Name: Sri Varsha Naharajan
Semester: Fall 2024

Comparing the Artistic Value of AI-Generated and Human-Created Art on Reddit (480 words)

Research Question:
How do Reddit users in traditional art communities compare the artistic value of AI-generated art with human-created art?

Background:
AI's growing presence in creative industries has sparked discussions about how it compares to traditional, human-made art. Previous studies have examined public perceptions of AI art, but findings have been mixed. Tools like DALL·E and MidJourney have made it easier to produce artwork, challenging the way we think about creativity. Research by Złotowski et al. (2023) shows that people often prefer human-created art because they feel it carries more emotional depth and authenticity. Epstein et al. (2023) point out that bias against AI-generated art can actually make human creativity seem even more impressive. These studies highlight the complex attitudes towards AI-generated art, but there is limited research on how dedicated art communities, particularly on Reddit, compare the artistic value of AI-generated and human-created art. This study aims to fill that gap by exploring the attitudes of Reddit users across various creative fields.

Data:
For this study, I will manually collect Reddit comments on various posts from the subreddits r/ArtistLounge, and r/DigitalPainting where users compare AI-generated art to human-created art, capturing attitudes toward both forms of artistic creation. For my dataset, I will collect comments from posts dating within 2 years to keep the content relevant since the conversation around AI art is evolving constantly. Using Reddit's search function, I will identify posts that include keywords such as "AI art," "artificial intelligence," "human art," and "AI vs. human art" (case-insensitive). I will select comments from these posts, including both top-level comments and their first-level replies, while excluding any deleted or removed comments. The choice of these subreddits is intentional, as they focus on both traditional and digital art, serve as active spaces for amateur and professional artists, and provide a rich context for discussions about the implications of AI in art, offering diverse and informed perspectives. I will select 50 comments from a variety of high-engagement and lower-engagement posts as appropriate data for the current study.

Method:
I will conduct a content analysis on the comments by organizing them into categories. "Authenticity" will apply to comments that discuss the genuineness or originality of the art. Comments addressing the creative process, innovation, or skill involved in making AI or human-created art will be grouped under "Creativity". Any comment focusing on emotional connection or the emotional response to the art will be categorized as "Emotional Impact". Discussions about the visual or sensory quality of the art will be sorted under "Aesthetic Value". Lastly, comments that touch on the potential for AI to replace human artists will be classified as "Threat of Replacement." Following this, I will conduct a sentiment analysis to explore the tone of these discussions, labeling each comment as positive, negative, or neutral, based on

whether the user expresses support, criticism, or a neutral stance toward AI-generated or human-created art.

References:

Złotowski, J., Bellaiche, L., Shahi, R., Turpin, M. H., Haring, K. S., & Bartneck, C. (2023). Humans versus AI: Whether and why we prefer human-created compared to AI-created artwork. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications, 8*(1), 42. https://doi.org/10.1186/s41235-023-00499-6

Epstein, Z., Levine, S., Rand, D. G., & Rahwan, I. (2023). Bias against AI art can enhance perceptions of human creativity. *Scientific Reports, 13*(1), 18365. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-45202-3