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Authentic or Engineered? Redefining Artistic Creation with Generative AI

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Abstract: Integrating Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) into artistic processes has sparked a profound reevaluation of authenticity, originality, and creative authorship. This study focuses on the public and critical reactions to GenAI art, highlighted by Boris Eldagsen's rejection of an award for his AI-created image— a pivotal example that illustrates the tension between traditional artistic values and the disruptive nature of technology. The research analyzes online commentary and critiques using sentiment analysis to uncover a spectrum of perspectives, ranging from admiration to skepticism, about AI art's ethical and legitimacy issues. The study utilizes a multidimensional framework that assesses the AI design process, the depth of human-AI interaction, and the interpretive reactions of viewers, providing a comprehensive view of how authenticity is perceived and valued in digital artistry. This paper facilitates a structured exploration of whether true art's essence stems from its human origin, the creative process, or the observer's experience, challenging traditional artistic evaluation paradigms. The findings suggest that public acceptance of AI-generated art hinges on evolving narratives that balance technological innovation with traditional artistic values, indicating broader implications for other creative industries. By emphasizing the nuanced responses to AI art and advocating for a framework that recognizes AI's potential while addressing ethical and aesthetic concerns, this research contributes to discussions on AI's role in transforming cultural and creative landscapes. This approach aims to influence future policies and practices in AI's role in creative industries, enriching the understanding of digital creativity.
Keywords: Generative Artificial Intelligence, Authenticity, Digital Artistry, Culture, AI Ethics, Viewer Perception

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