

AI “Art”



by Miles Mathis

September 12, 2022

Some have thought I would have extensive comments on this phenomenon, since someone [allegedly just won top prize in an art contest with a CGI](#). Except for one thing: the whole event looks like another fake. As with Garry Kasparov's chess match with a computer, this looks staged by CIA or some other cloaked entity to promote the abilities of computers. Also as yet another stake in the heart of art and real artists. How can I tell? Here is a quote from the winner:

Art is dead, dude. It's over. A.I. won. Humans lost.

Does that really sound like something the winner of an art contest would say? Or does it sound scripted, for maximum effect?

The above is a sample of this amazing AI art, in which the computer scans the internet for images and then combines them to fit your input. That is what the computer came up for “a Raphael painting of a Madonna and Child eating pizza”. But do you notice any problems? Well, start by comparing it to a painting by a real human being, Raphael himself:



I don't think you have to be an artist to see the difference. Start with the hands. Notice the computer has put a thumb where the Madonna's forefinger should be. Her thumb has no nail and fades off into a pizza topping. Then study the gnarled monstrosity of the Child's hand! Three broken, pointed fingers and then two more tiny additions to make five. The head of our baby Jesus is another monstrosity, with a crooked mouth, a harelip, and horrific eyes that don't even match. His ear looks like it has been bitten off. His hair was cut with a cheese grater, and is curly on the near side and straight on the far side. The hideous Madonna has a mustache, a mis-drawn nose, and looks like she is about to fall asleep. They are in an arch that is curved on one side and straight on the other, making a strange sort of arch. The computer can't even create a piece of pizza: it looks like cardboard with some red paper glued to it. If this is what I am up against, I am not too worried.



Also not impressed with that, the alleged winning entry. We see again that the computer has a big problem with figures, and can only depict them as cloaks and turbans. Has no one noticed that the heads are all just black holes? The computer can't even do arms. The central figure appears to have a chicken drumstick as one arm. Where did the computer scrape that from, KFC? Are we supposed to believe that real judges chose this for a prize? In what contest? In my experience, all the art contests are either modern or realist, and this is neither. They tell us it won the digital art category at the Colorado State Fair. . .

So that explains it, in part. State Fairs are not known for their high-end art competitions. More for their hog calling competitions and bumper cars. The full name is the Colorado State Fair *and Rodeo*. Also, they admit he won the digital competition, so he was not competing against real art. He won his division, not the best of show. Painting and sculpture were in other categories.

Even so, I am still not buying it. This story has all the earmarks of a fake. For myself, I don't believe the State Fair even had an art competition. I think someone made up this story to help sell the new technology. It didn't just accidentally come up at the same time as the story about the Google engineer fired for claiming the AI he was working with was sentient. They want you scared and confused, but most of all they want to sell you the tech. The analog is PEDs, performance enhancing drugs. They manufacture controversies, but the controversies always have the same end product: more average people using PEDs, and spending billions. I assume this art-producing tech is just hitting the market in some new and improved form, and they want you running out to buy it, so that you can be an artist, too, tra-la.

But it won't work. For one thing, I don't believe that winning entry is really AI. I think it was painted by a real person before being fed into a computer. So although we are told other artists at the State Fair accused Jason Allen (Jewish name alert) of cheating, everyone is missing the deeper fake here. That painting has an oily quality I haven't seen computers match. It also has a medium-on-surface effect in the background that looks human-created to me. Just my professional opinion, as someone who has worked in oils for 35 years, and who can do as much as anyone alive with them. So the program won't actually allow you to paint like Raphael, or even Bob Ross. It will allow you to paint figures with six fingers and three eyes and no ears.

It wouldn't be a big seller even if it did allow you to paint like Raphael. Creating art, like everything else, is about the satisfaction of a job well done, the completion of a task, the result of real effort. You cannot fake that and no one really wants to. It is like buying degrees online or buying medals from Ebay. Pathetic. The novelty of such a thing wouldn't last a week before the poor person was looking for another way to justify his meaningless existence. Eventually you have to accept the fact that you can only claim work from your own hand, and get down to work. Or not.

I know that someone will email me and tell me they saw the art competition in Colorado with their own eyes! That is meaningless, since why should I believe them? But say they can prove it: they send me extensive video coverage, for example. It doesn't matter, because that just means the CIA took the time to insert a real art competition at this State Fair, for the express purpose of generating this story. They have done projects much larger and more expensive and more important than that, you know. The Intel agencies have millions of people working domestically, and, yes, they are involved in art and have been for many decades. They admit that at CIA.gov, [and you can read about an old project here](#). I have written a whole series on it. So faking contests at State Fairs is not beneath them. Nothing is. They have their grubby fingers in all pies.

It doesn't really matter if a computer painted that or not, or whether there was real art contest at that State Fair. Because although this story was invented to vex people like me, in my case it failed miserably. Even if the story is completely genuine, it is only good for me, since it makes what I do even more rare. No computer has gotten near to what I have done, and everyone with eyes knows that. In part that is because my works are dripping with emotion, and computers don't have emotion. Fewer and fewer people are bothering to learn to draw or paint, which means that with every decade I have less and less living competition. As society collapses around me, I stand ever taller. So the CIA failed again: they are just building me up further.

We see that in the title of [one the articles reporting this contest](#):

The Rise of A.I. 'Art' Signals the Fall of the Renaissance Man.



But does it really? Only generally, and that fall has been going on for a century. All of Modernism is about the fall of the Renaissance Man, or more precisely the purposeful *extermination* of the Renaissance man. Renaissance men tend to be willful and impossible to control, so the governors thought it best to wipe them out.

The thing is, I don't live my life to their generalization. My life is a specific thing, and they failed to exterminate me. I am still alive, which makes me sort of like a golden unicorn or the last passenger pigeon. I am like a Musketeer walking around whole and intact in the 21st century, which should make me a tourist attraction, if nothing else. But seriously, as with a diamond, value is supposed to be tied to beauty and rarity, so if the Renaissance Man is nearly extinct, his value should be incalculable. I have beaten the odds, dodging all bullets, and my strength is still waxing. The mainstream ignoring me has so far been meaningless and it will continue to be meaningless, except as it adds to my status as a martyr. So as I often say, keep talking and writing, agents. Keep doing that thing you do, since it has proved to be the surest of all surefire backfires.

