

Lauren Barton

Susan Wise Bauer
The One Who Started It All

One lazy Thursday afternoon, on a farm in Eastern Virginia, Susan Wise Bauer is spending the next hour on a Zoom call. Instead of tending to her livestock or reviewing the day’s agenda for one of her four companies, the self-described “accidental home-schooling guru” is sitting down to discuss her home education. “My mother had decided to homeschool us because we were misfits in the classroom,” she recalls. Quickly outpacing their classmates, Bauer and her two siblings stood out among their peers. Frustrated by her children’s experiences, their mother took them to the local mental health clinic to find out why they didn’t fit in. The psychiatrist assured her, “There’s nothing wrong with them; they’re just bored.”

When it came time to educate her own four children, Bauer called upon her mother for advice, and together, they decided to write formal guidelines for at-home classical education. First published in 1999, with over four editions and over half a million copies sold, *The Well-Trained Mind: A Guide to a Classical Education at Home* provides a framework for parents who want to pursue this lifestyle with their children.

Though her beginnings as a homeschool pioneer may have been accidental, Bauer has spent the last thirty years speaking about her own experience, her writings, and her ideas. She explains, “when I meet someone who has followed [our] pattern of education and enjoys following that and has found it productive, I am grateful for that. It makes me feel like I have done something worthwhile to provide the pattern.”

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Infographic – Bree Fowler

Letter from the Editor
Welcome!

Welcome to our fall 2022 issue of the Well-Trained Tribune! I am delighted to take on the role of Editor in Chief. Last year our staff was a wonderful group of people who worked diligently to bring you three editions in just one semester! I want to thank everyone who participated in the first year of the newspaper club, especially Marina and Miriam for creating the paper and acting as Co Editors in Chief. It would not be possible to continue this project without faculty support from Dr. Gentile and Dean Collier. Thank you for giving us this opportunity!

This semester our paper will be organized into sections, and I encourage you to use them to your advantage. Science & Technology may spark your interest in new fields, while the Arts & Culture section might make you think about art in a whole new way. The front page will profile teachers, staff, and students, and Current Events will explore a timely topic about the world.

The Off the Beat section provides a wider scope with articles about student life, recipes, travel, and studying tips. The Feature article invites you to explore a topic in greater detail.

We welcome student submissions from outside our staff wholeheartedly. It would be difficult to create this paper without your contributions! Our call for submissions will specify what topics we are looking for, but we also welcome your suggestions. You can always reach out to us via our email.

newspaper@wtmacademy.net

I hope you enjoy reading this paper as much as we enjoyed creating it!

Sophia Rabbideau
Editor in Chief

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Lilith Carlson

The Next Step in Space Travel

Artemis

Mars might seem like the big thing in space right now, but the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has plans to first return to the moon. Sure, we have already been there, but space travel has evolved immensely since then. To prepare for the Mars mission, NASA is going to the moon to collect new information about the moon itself, to establish a “base camp” for lunar work, and to learn more about space. All of this will accumulate in the overall preparation of getting humans on Mars. We are still a long way off from landing on the red planet, but we have begun the new era of space exploration.

There will be several future missions, but the current focus is on three main ones, aptly named Artemis I, Artemis II, and Artemis III. The first mission, Artemis I, will not carry a crew to ensure that the astronauts in Artemis II and III encounter no road bumps.

For Artemis I, both the Space Launch System (SLS) and the Orion will launch from the Kennedy Space Center, located in Florida. Ten small satellites will be sent out to collect different types of data.

This long-awaited event suffered multiple setbacks. Unfortunately, NASA made two failed attempts on August 29 and September 3. Hydrogen leaks prevented those launches, and they were rescheduled for a few weeks later. The seals on the hydrogen tanks needed replacing before NASA could perform a tanking test. Subsequently, further complications delayed the launch into November. Finally, Artemis I was launched on November 16.

Looking ahead to future Artemis missions, NASA announced that the new crew will be comprised of the soon-to-be first person of color and the first female on the moon.

NASA’s “Artemis Team” is as follows: Joseph Acaba, Kayla Barron, Raja Chari, Matthew Dominick, Victor Glover, Warren Hoburg, Johnny Kim, Christina Koch, Kjell Lindgren, Nicole Mann, Anne McClain, Jessica Meir, Jasmin Moghbeli, Kate Rubins, Frank Rubio, Scott Tingle, Jessica Watkins, and Stephanie Wilson. Videos on each of these astronauts can be found on NASA’s website.

This means that NASA is taking the next huge steps in both astronomy itself and the diversity of our space crews.

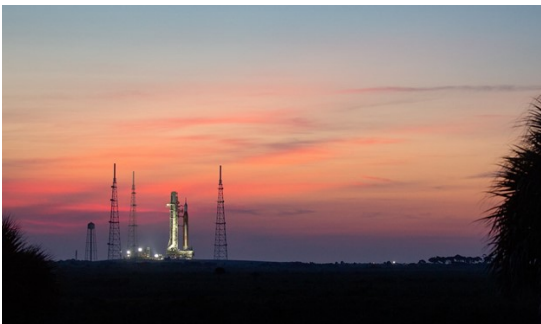


Photo - Anna King

Bauer Profile Continued - Lauren Barton

However, she is quick to clarify that her model is not the only worthwhile one and that this pattern does not produce the same result for each student. “Classical education is like a house. All houses have a foundation and walls and a roof. Otherwise, you don’t have a house, but within those specifications, houses can look so amazingly different, and ...the life within each house can be remarkably different. We just provided the blueprint.” Clearly, this blueprint has been successful and led to the founding of the Well-Trained Mind Academy in 2014.

Previously, Bauer taught literature and writing as a faculty member of the College of William & Mary. In addition to her role as an educator, consultant, and speaker, she is also a historian, prolific writer, business owner, and farmer.

At the Well-Trained Mind Press, she writes, develops, and publishes classical education curricula used widely in the homeschooling community. Since before the Covid-19 pandemic broke out, she has been working on her latest writing project examining the history of germ theory and epidemic illness. She lives at Peace Hill Farm where she runs a bed-and-breakfast with her family, and she can be found raising a menagerie of animals, birthing baby goats, or sheering her sheep for the production of wool.

Perhaps her most prominent achievement, though, has been to destigmatize and redefine home education for the masses and create a secular-education-based community for parents, educators, and students to grow and understand what a classical education truly entails.

“Sunrise on the Artemis”
Photo Credit: Kowsky, Joel and NASA (2022). Sunrise on the Artemis I Moon Rocket [Photograph]. Flickr.
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Infographic - Bree Fowler

SIX SCIENCE FACTS YOU DIDN'T KNOW

BANANAS ARE RADIOACTIVE

Bananas contain potassium, and because potassium decays, the yellow fruit becomes slightly radioactive.

Water can exist in three states at the same time

This is known as the triple boil—or triple point—and it is the temperature and pressure at which materials exist as a gas, a liquid, and a solid at the same time.

GRASSHOPPERS HAVE EARS IN THEIR BELLIES.

ONLY ONE LETTER DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE PERIODIC TABLE.

IT CAN RAIN DIAMONDS ON OTHER PLANETS.

Niccolo Gentile

Death, Debt, and Taxes
Literary Review



Photo - Lilith Carlson

Of all the realities we confront in everyday life, debt is surely one of the most pervasive. In *Debt: The First 5,000 Years*, David Graeber attempts to examine and rethink how this fundamental element of human existence is approached, along the way touching on varied concepts such as the philosophy of death, the origin of taxes, and diverse types of economic relations.

At times, the sheer density of ideas can obscure the point Graeber is trying to make, while at others, an overabundance of proof can detract from his argument.

However, these ideas also speak to the depth of thought on display, breaking through preconceived notions and striking at the heart of society’s seemingly inscrutable structure.

Much of the book is concerned with debunking widely disseminated economic theories, such as the “myth of barter”: the idea that barter preceded and led to the creation of currency. It reveals how historical and anthropological records do not support this theory. Instead, the evidence points towards debt as the progenitor of currency, the origin of economics, and the foundation of structured human interaction, calling into question centuries of economic dogma.

Often cited as a founder of the Occupy Wall Street movement, Graeber’s political and economic ideas are not for everyone, but his writing is enlightening and tackles tough issues. While sometimes weighed down by unnecessary musings and lacking focus, *Debt* is a fascinating and multifaceted reflection on a wide, interconnected range of topics. Gaining an understanding of these topics is well worth the effort it takes to parse them.

Rana Dusseldorp

Untitled

i took a life today
a tiny life
walking along the street
a crunch under my feet
i thought it was the pleasant sound
of a fallen leaf buried deep
but it was a cracked shell
i had killed a snail
this small moment broke
something deep within me,
and i felt the overwhelming urge to wail.



Photo Credit - Rana Dusseldorp



Infographic - Abigail Sayuk

Madelaine Wentzel - Guest Writer

Fast Fashion and Its Impact

Fast fashion has taken over the Western Hemisphere in recent decades. People are buying brand new clothing—in many cases made by exploitative third world labor out of cheap, synthetic materials, wearing it only a few times, and then discarding it.

According to a 2021 ABC article, we're buying 60% more clothing than 15 years ago and about 85% ends up in the landfill. One in three young British women said they considered clothing "old" if it had been worn twice, and a 2021 CBS article reported that many (middle class) Americans only wear a piece of clothing an estimated seven times before discarding it. Due to inferior quality, charities send much of what they receive to the landfill.

West African countries, especially Ghana, deal with vast amounts of leftover clothing from the U.S. and Europe. A market for resold garments has grown, providing millions of job opportunities, but with the continually diminished quality of clothing, people make smaller and smaller profits. An estimated 40% of clothing sold to resellers in Ghana ends up in their landfills.

The fashion industry's environmental impact, especially on countries in the Global South, has been devastating. So, what can you do about it? In short, buy used clothing. It's cheaper, often higher quality, and infinitely more sustainable than anything brand new.

Riley Fowler

Cinematic Doldrums: Summer 2022

Fowler on Film

At the risk of sounding overly critical, the summer of 2022 will likely be remembered as a poor one. This is partially due to most theaters largely being filled, for the majority of the season, with mediocre (and in one case, well below mediocre) blockbuster fare that generally failed to make much of an impression, but it also had to do with the general scarcity of films, presumably caused by the final reverberations of the 2020 COVID-19 production shutdowns.

The season began promisingly, with the long-delayed *Top Gun: Maverick* (**** out of *****) finally making its debut in theaters and blowing past both all reasonable financial expectations and the expectations of this critic. In conjunction, Tom Cruise, in many ways the ultimate remaining movie star showman, and his director, Joseph Kosinski, have created what feels like the one true blockbuster of the year. *Maverick* is rousinglly entertaining and filled with grippingly realized, thrilling sequences of aerial heroics, but does not slack on the quieter aspects. The romance between Cruise and an excellent Jennifer Connelly might seem perfunctory but is ultimately well-rendered, while a scene midway through the picture featuring the reunion of Cruise and his former co-star Val Kilmer is unexpectedly touching. Miles Teller, Glen Powell, Monica Barbaro, and Jon Hamm fill out the cast nicely, ultimately making *Maverick* one of the finest movies of an otherwise dismal year.

Summer continued promisingly with the release of Baz Luhrmann’s *Elvis* (**** out of *****), a frenetic feat of montage and energy that sets the legend of Elvis Presley (for the film is about the legend far more

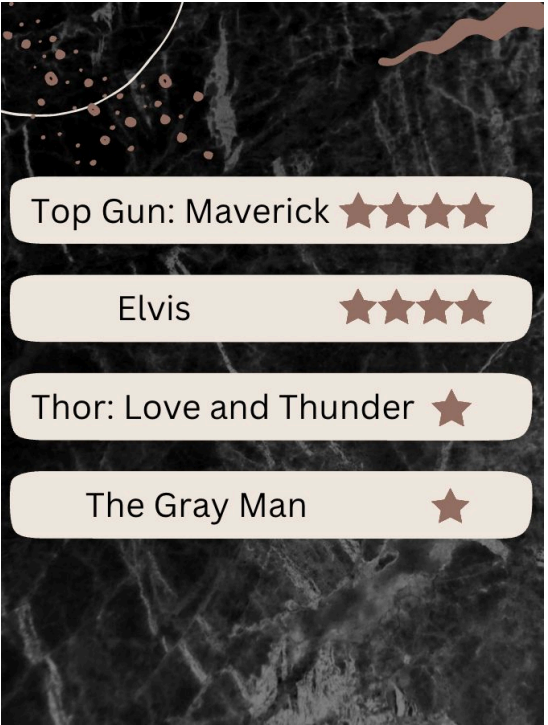
than the man) against a backdrop of the whole of mid-twentieth century Americana, cross-cutting and dissolving through thrilling concerts, moral panics, Hollywood, the chaos of the ‘60s, and the landscape of the United States itself.

All of this is anchored by Austin Butler’s titanic performance as Presley, which transcends mere imitation. Wisely more-or-less choosing Tom Hanks’s shifty Colonel Parker as its main character, *Elvis* becomes an external examination of a man who became a symbol that is rarely less than compelling.

Unfortunately, these two films were highlights that turned out to be few and far between in an otherwise uneventful summer. Pitched as one of the major movie events of the summer, Taika Waititi’s sequel to his widely praised *Thor: Ragnarok*, *Thor: Love and Thunder* (* out of *****) proved to be one of the season’s largest disappointments.

In contrast to the refreshing breeziness of *Ragnarok*, the latter film moves with a jarring conflict of tone, caught between humor that simply does not work and unearned sentimentality, performed by actors all seemingly there for the paycheck. Hemsworth, who had previously finally seemed to come alive in the previous film, now seems to have returned to sort of dead-eyed boredom, only this time with a half-hearted attempt to carry the disastrously unfunny stabs at humor. The film’s attempts at pathos through a poorly-handled cancer subplot involving Natalie Portman’s character Jane are even more disastrous, doing nothing to downplay suspicions of Waititi’s utter inability to handle serious material.

While *Love and Thunder* was memorably atrocious, Netflix’s *The Gray Man* (* out of *****), reportedly the company’s most expensive film ever, was merely bland, leaving no traces of memory in the minds of its audience. Poorly directed, with an excess of bizarrely misconceived drone footage in its unwatchable action scenes, the film seems as paint-by-numbers as its plot synopsis and title would suggest. Ryan Gosling mostly escapes unscathed, but Chris Evans, Ana de Armas, and the remainder of the cast have no choice but to be ultimately dragged down by the poor material. The cinephile community turns its weary eye to the fall awards season to deliver audiences from the summer doldrums.



Infographic - Sophia Rabbideau

Sophia Rabbideau

An Unexpected Concert

Personal Interest Story

I never expected to attend my first rock concert over the summer. I was filling in on drums for a band at a music festival, and they gave me free passes for the weekend. Even then, my family only decided to attend at the last minute.

Suddenly, I found myself at a Collective Soul concert at my local zoo. To make the situation even more unusual, the crowd consisted of fewer than 60 people, as opposed to the anticipated 2,000. Ed Roland, their lead singer, said it was like a family backyard BBQ, and proceeded to put on a spectacular show.

They played hit after hit while the audience belted the lyrics at the top of their lungs. Everyone had front row seats to a band whose debut album spent nearly 76 weeks (about 1 and a half years) on the charts. It was like our own personal show, and I went home with one of the lead guitarist’s picks in my pocket. I am now a fan, despite knowing little about them beforehand, and their songs have become a staple on my Spotify playlists.



Collective Soul Performing Live - Sophia Rabbideau



Artwork - Izabella Grimes

England Mourns Queen Elizabeth’s Death

María Gabriela Duque Solarte

The longest reigning monarch in English history, Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, commonly known as Queen Elizabeth II, passed away on September 8th at the age of 96. The Queen perished in her Scottish vacation home, Balmoral Castle. Experts have determined that she died peacefully and that the precise cause of death was old age. Additionally, many doctors agree that there may have been other reasons contributing to her death, including geriatric syndromes, for which, according to the National Library of Medicine, the term "GC" is used to represent a collection of prevalent medical disorders that affect older individuals but do not fall neatly into one category of disease. She also had COVID-19 earlier this year and had been dealing with other health difficulties. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen's husband of 73 years, passed away on April 9 of last year at the age of 99.

The Queen's coffin arrived in Edinburgh, Scotland, after her last six-hour procession at Balmoral Castle. The Queen was brought to Westminster Hall after arriving at Buckingham Palace on September 14. There, she spent four full days before being finally buried in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, the resting place of her father, King George VI; her mother, Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon; her sister, Princess Margaret; and her husband, Prince Philip. Her funeral was on Monday, the 19th of September.

She transferred the throne to her eldest son, Charles III, who is 73 years old. Charles III now assumes the title of King Charles III, the position of head of the Commonwealth, and other duties such as formally appointing the prime minister and participating in the yearly State Opening of Parliament. Camila Parker Bowles, his 75-year-old wife, is now referred to as the Queen Consort.

There may not be a coronation for the king any time soon, as in the case of his mother who was crowned sixteen months after King George VI passed away. However, the website for the Royal Family, royal.uk, claims that King Charles replaced the Queen of England shortly following her death.

“The Bank of England, however, has stated that products featuring the Queen’s picture will remain legal.”

The passing of Queen Elizabeth resulted in several changes. In addition to new money with King Charles III's portrait instead of the Queen's, other items, including new post boxes and stamps, are also being produced. The Bank of England, however, has stated that products featuring the Queen's picture will remain legal. Many experts concur that it will take years to completely remove these.

The period following the Queen's death was marked by solemn ceremony, and neither the government nor the Bank made any announcements for ten days.

Sophia Rabbideau

Five Strategies to Increase Productivity
Advice Column

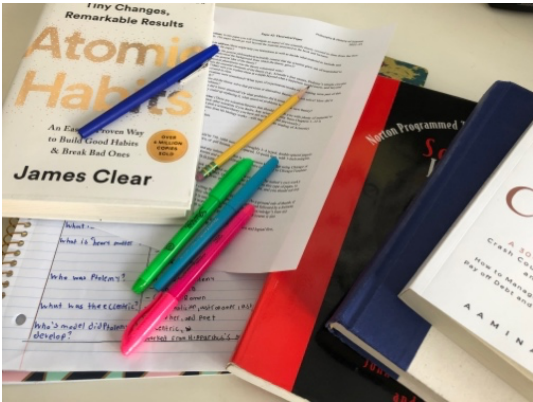


Photo – Sophia Rabbideau

Procrastination is something that most students struggle with. In fact, studies have shown that 80% of high schoolers regularly procrastinate on assignments. This can be overcome. The problem stems from not managing time well, not setting your environment up for success, and not allowing your brain to focus on the task at hand. The following five strategies are a good place to begin.

1. Make a list. In the past you may have struggled to use planners, calendars, and schedules. This strategy is about finding what works best for you. I suggest dedicating 20 to 30 minutes at the beginning of each week to create a list containing all the week’s tasks. This list should include more than just the assignments you need to submit. Be sure to include reminders to take notes and study for an upcoming exam. If you give yourself these visual cues, you will have the satisfaction of seeing the list become smaller as you check off each task.

2. Designate a workspace. I am not trying to sound like your parent when I say that working from your bed does not lend itself to your success. By allotting a space specifically for completing schoolwork, you will begin to associate it with productivity. The more you reinforce this, the easier it will be to get in the right mindset.

3. Define your work hours. Some students enjoy having no schedule other than their class times and extracurriculars. They get up whenever they feel like it and go to sleep in a similar manner. This is not planning for success. There is no need to schedule every hour of the day, but there should be a minimal level of structure to optimize your time. First, set a start time for your school day. For example, I am always sitting at my desk by 8:30 a.m., ready to begin the day. Second, set a realistic end time. I strive to be finished by 4:30 p.m. However, do not set unrealistic goals, for occasionally you may need to work later.

4. Work and plan ahead. Do not delay beginning larger assignments because they are far off. Break the project into weekly goals and you will be ready when the due date arrives. Use your checklist from strategy 1 to do this!

5. Reward yourself for succeeding. If you have interests or hobbies, allow yourself to enjoy those after you have completed your daily tasks. This way, you will have more motivation to get your work finished.

If you employ just one or two of the given strategies, you will be well equipped to maintain control over procrastination.



Photo – Rana Dusseldorp

Rana Dusseldorp

Six Simple Samosas
Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1. six medium-sized potatoes sliced into chunks
- 2. peas - frozen or fresh - to taste; I usually do a tablespoon or two
- 3. six slices of puff pastry
- 4. pepper, salt, cayenne, cumin, coriander powder
- 5. butter, enough to coat the pan



Photo – Rana Dusseldorp

Steps:

- 1. Preheat the oven to 180°C or 356°F.
- 2. Put around a tablespoon of butter in the pan, enough to coat the surface. Then, add the cumin.
- 2. When you smell the cumin, that means it’s fried. Once you smell it, add the potatoes and all of the spices except for the coriander powder.
- 3. When the potatoes are cooked, add in the peas. After 1-2 minutes, add in the coriander powder.
- 4. Let it cool completely. Once it’s cooled, place a spoonful of filling into the middle of each open puff pastry. Then close the ends with your fingers so that nothing falls out.
- 6. Cook them for 15 minutes, but check on them after 10 minutes (the level of cooking depends on the size). It should be a golden brown color.
- 7. Let the samosas cool and enjoy with ketchup and a cup of chai on the side.

Ayron Espino-Nardi

The Backcountry of New Mexico
Travel

Camping and hiking are some of my favorite hobbies. Exploring nature and relaxing in the wild are things that you cannot just do whenever and wherever. As a Boy Scout, I have had the privilege to camp and hike all over the country, totaling more than 100 miles between ten states, including my home state of Florida. Despite all those great experiences, this past summer I went on possibly my favorite camping trip yet.

In New Mexico, there is one of the most famous out of a group of four High Adventure Boy Scout camps. Philmont Scout Ranch was where I was able to camp at an elevation close to 10,000 feet

(compared to the over 100 feet where I live), hike up another steep 2,500 feet and meet with people from all around the country.

On top of all that, I was able to do my favorite thing of all: experience pure nature. While I understand that camping and hiking are not for everyone, and especially not backcountry, I want to assure people it is a wonderful experience. Philmont provides welcoming programs for families that are less experienced in the outdoors, including nice tents and great food while you explore the easier areas of Philmont.

Niccolo Gentile

AI-Generated Art
Redefining or Defiling?



AI-generated art courtesy of OpenAI's DALL-E 2

The rise of artificial intelligence has long been heralded as a fundamental defining moment in human history. Throughout the past century, a succession of scientists, authors, and movie directors have popularized theories about the future under AI, viewing it as the next major turning point in human society and technology, capturing our imaginations as both the servile harbinger of the coming utopia and the omnipresent manager of dystopia. Few could have predicted that one of its first applications to capture the public eye would be in the field of art.

Yet that is exactly what is happening. Text-to-image generators—AI that takes a prompt of keywords and transforms it into a picture—have burst onto the online scene. As coverage and controversy of what was once a niche research field continue to increase, it is worth reflecting on what led to this popularity and what this could mean for the entire art world.

The origins of AI art stretch back to the 1960s and '70s when some of the first AI art programs were developed. These earliest projects were sparked by the simple desire to push the bounds of artistry.

One artist, Harold Cohen, was inspired by the question “what are the minimum conditions under which a set of marks functions as an image?” This led to the creation of AARON, a computer program crafted by Cohen, responsible for the very first piece of AI art ever made.

While by modern standards, AARON and other comparable systems were extremely primitive, these projects established a foundation upon which work continued quietly for decades in university departments and computer research labs around the world. AI art finally entered relative prominence in the mid-to-late 2010s, though it remained relegated to obscure online spaces.

In the past months, however, the industry has exploded in popularity. New, more advanced programs coming out and quickly becoming highly accessible have caused a massive boom in attention paid to this growing field. Programs such as DALL-E 1 and 2 and Midjourney have taken the internet by storm, and companies like Google and Microsoft are developing their own in-house programs in the form of Imagen, Parti, and NUWA-Infinity.

Alongside all these rapid developments, observers are discovering a disconnect when thinking about AI art. Normally, when one defines art, it is something that emerges from the wellspring of human imagination and creativity. AI art is seen to break from this definition. Though the algorithms behind the art are written by humans, the journey the computer takes to translate words and phrases into visual representations, often with distinct visual styles, is still a lengthy one. Critics view the process as thereby diluting and discarding any element of human vision it might have once held, attaining an otherness that could never be surmounted by any amount of artistry.

On the other hand, there is an undeniable uniqueness to AI art that proponents see as something worth cherishing. It might be strange at times, alien even, but in that otherness a vision lurks—whether that is a human or machine vision is still up for debate. This view was summarized in 1994 by Cohen as “if what AARON is making is not art, what is it exactly, and in what ways, other than its origin, does it differ from the ‘real thing?’ If it is not thinking, what exactly is it doing?”

Taking a stance at either extreme of this discussion runs the risk of minimizing the immense efforts put into these projects by their human creators. While the

algorithms might simply be run by computers, behind every action they take, a human hand guides the outcome. All this confusion leaves the state of AI art in an uncomfortable position—neither fully art nor fully not.

While this might seem purely philosophical, a question with no satisfying answer and few implications outside heady circles, it is already having serious effects in the real world. This August, an AI-generated image won the Colorado State Fair’s digitally manipulated art contest, raising questions concerning the validity of such pieces in art competitions and displays.

Legal experts are just as concerned as art lovers about the arrival of AI art, as the copyright law around AI-generated works is practically nonexistent. Previously, copyright offices have rejected requests on such art on the grounds that it “lacks the human authorship necessary.” That line is blurry. As a new business sprouts, that tune might be pressured to change.

Then, there are the artists themselves, who are now facing the long-dreaded advent of automation. While it might be ironic that a field once unconcerned with this looming issue is shaping up to be one of the first to confront a machine takeover, for the artists who could be replaced, this possibility is all too serious.

The ethics of using AI art might be obfuscated by debates around art’s true meaning and the implications it has for consumers, but it is put into the most doubt when it leads directly to the loss of livelihood for real human beings. As the tech sector infiltrates more industries and becomes even more central to our daily existence, it chafes against society’s conventions and norms—look no further than the debacles at Twitter and FTX. Though AI art is not yet nearly as calamitous as a botched takeover or a failed crypto exchange, it also has the potential to have a much longer impact. As people begin to confront these changes, serious questions need to be asked about what role humans could play in a society where our creations become our creative rivals.



AI-generated art courtesy of OpenAI's DALL-E 2

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