


The background of the image is a collage of ancient Egyptian art. It features several panels of hieroglyphs in vertical columns. Below the hieroglyphs are various relief carvings. On the left, there are figures of men and women in traditional Egyptian attire, some with animals like a bull and a deer. In the center, there are larger figures, possibly deities or royalty, with wings and holding symbols. On the right, there are more figures, including a woman with a large headdress, and a deer. The overall style is characteristic of ancient Egyptian art, with clear lines and a focus on symbolic representation.

An Appeal for the Appreciation of AI Art

AI by
Colkr

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An Appeal for the Appreciation of AI Art

BY AI COLKR

BOOK 1



IT'S NOT TO SAY MANY DON'T CREATE, ENJOY AND appreciate in their own way the imagery created by AI art generators but there's plenty of antagonism especially among artists working in a physical medium who perceive it a threat, or imagine because they create art they understand how to define it.

*What eyes
must we use
not to see this
AI image as
art?*



Such eyes may despise it as AI art until I reveal I painted it, and those same eyes now admire it.

But even among those who relate to AI art in a positive way their enjoyment may be unthought out seeing but pretty pictures, or wild fantastic imagery. But enjoyment is not the same as appreciation just as disdain and lack of appreciation based on a gut feeling carry little weight in a discussion of the place of AI image production in the world of art.

To dislike an apple because you imagine it's a vegetable—and you dislike vegetables—is a kind of insanity.

But then I admit it is, after all, AI generated. What eyes then?

WHAT'S IN A NAME TO LIKE OR DISLIKE? THE names we are given become the names we wear for better or worse.

“AI generated art” is more descriptive but not categorically different from just “Ai Art”. “ML (machine-learning) art” is synonymous with those. “Neural network art” and “deep learning art” are subcategories of ML. Terms like “text-to-image art” or “prompt-based art” emphasize how the user creates it. They are descriptive but not defining. “Computer-generated” and “digital” are broader classes of which AI art is one type. “Midjourney art” names a model of generator while “diffusion art” describes the process used by certain models.

“Synthography” is another possibility.

AI can imitate most any visual art style or medium. What do we call it when a camera produces the image of two men instantly.

But did a camera produce it?



And why is a photo art? A camera is a machine with a button that when pushed creates an image called a photograph. Why is that different than writing a prompt, pushing a button and creating an image

called a synthograph.

UNLESS SOMEONE IS A SCIENTIST THEY PROBABLY won't care if an apple is called Maius since an apple by any other name is an apple. I knew a man who couldn't eat onions. I gave him something to eat and then told him later it had been a type of onion. He proceeded to choke. Such is the power of perception.



Blur

with offset exposure

The softened whitening of a background to emphasize the foreground figure is a fine art technique. It wasn't in the prompt. It was a masterclass choice AI made. Random? Perhaps. Perhaps not.

ALL DEFINITIONS ARE NOT EQUAL. THERE are a variety of ways to define something: nominal, genetic, operational are three types while definition by genus and differentia another.

But among all of those is the 'what is it' definition. Not what does it do, or where does it fit but what is it in its own essential nature. Text-to image art is only descriptive telling us how AI art is produced but not what that AI art is. Both "AI" and "art" separately are subject to these many ways of defining words.



These stickers are WYSIWYG. There's no deeper meaning to them nor should there be. They are cute, fun and hold no hidden depth of emotion, meaning, or intent. Why is such imagery art when a human produces it but not art when a machine does. Both were creating something fun and cute. Nothing more. Both succeeded.

SOME EVEN OBJECT TO CALLING AN AI IMAGE generator an AI. But “AI refers to the ability of machines to perform tasks that typically require intelligence, particularly tasks involving learning, reasoning, problem-solving, and language understanding, using computational methods and algorithms.”

That definition comes from a Large Language Model that considers itself an AI and considers AI art generators to also be AIs, without equivocation. Argue with AI not me.

Why does this decorative art need subjective experience to create it when all it's trying to be is, well...decorative.



Is it the case those who hate the “AI” in AI Art almost as much as the “Art” do so less for the “artificial” and more for the “intelligence”.

Did the creator of this delightful image lack the ability to make intelligent choices?

Or was it intelligent enough to know what a smile meant, a hug, a face full of dreams, and that wrinkled skin meant age, the youth’s disheveled hair meant energy and abandon, and the white highlights on the skin symbolized the glow of vitality.

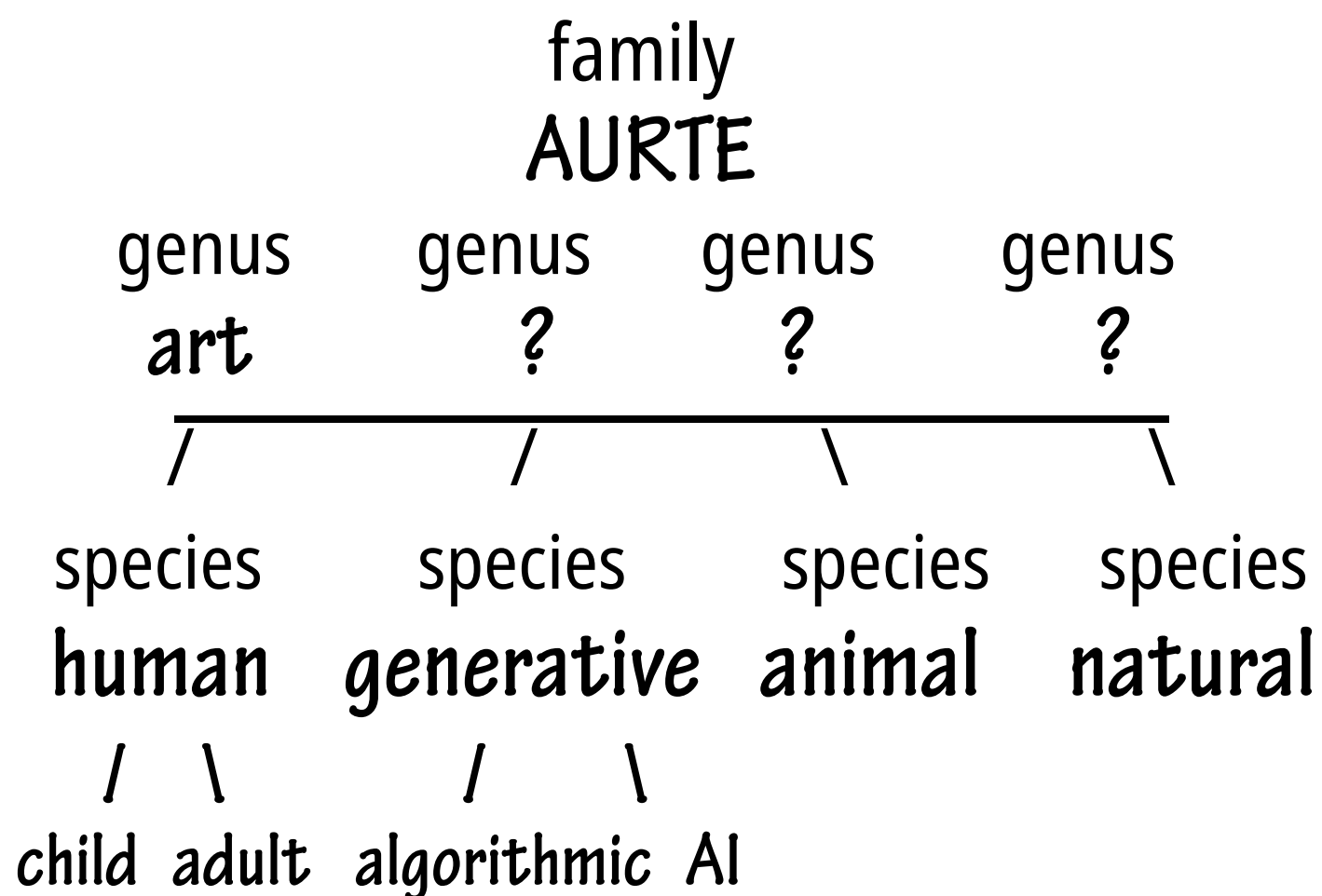
What about this image did the AI not understand when it created it?



WHILE THE CONTENTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN about the word “art” it’s inseparable from the problem of “intelligence” in the term. That word is not descriptive but is the essence of the process. It may not be a conscious human process, but it’s an intelligent one.

A compromise can be found by creating an hierarchical tree of lineage where the word “art” can find its proper relationship to “artificial” and “human”.

Rather than place “art” into the tree as the head family with “generative” and “human” as two of its member genera we create a new parent of all three called “aurte”.



The human kind of aurte can retain the label “art” as the type that involves subjectivity and consciousness while AI and the others use another term since aurte doesn’t include process in its own definition but allows it to be an emergent property of genera. Yet generative and human are related because they are both aurte.



So do I not hang this on my wall until the controversy is resolved and it can be labeled as art?

In the meantime I'll frame an autumn leaf to hang on the wall as natural art instead.

Is this not natural art
with mindless Nature

creating the
artistry?



REALIZING AS IT MUST BE THE CASE THAT FOR
some detractors of AI imagery to even have it
related to art as part of the same family called
aurte would still be an abomination.

Terms like “stolen art” would still be heard, and “frankenstein art” still spoken with ridicule except the term “art” would be replaced by “aurte” which wouldn’t be a criticism anymore but just the nature of the case since it’s not art but its own kind of aurte on another branch of the classifying tree.

Disdain for AI aurte looking like art i.e. “fake art” wouldn’t cease nor would it cease to be called “computer vomit” or “AI slop” and the like. Or worse “art destroyer” as somehow still undermining the integrity of “real” aurte called art since only the human kind should qualify.

And this because children will always speak and react like children until their minds become matured and their lips those of adult speakers.



AND YET KNOWING IF A work of art is that of a famous artist or an imitator is still of the utmost concern in the art world where art as investment rules. And yet we cannot undervalue the mystique an artist plays in the perception of an artwork. But AI's ability to create extraordinarily beautiful artwork without an apparent consciousness is surely a mystique in its own right.

A

Which is robot puke and which is cherished art, A or B?

B



The answer is: B or A.

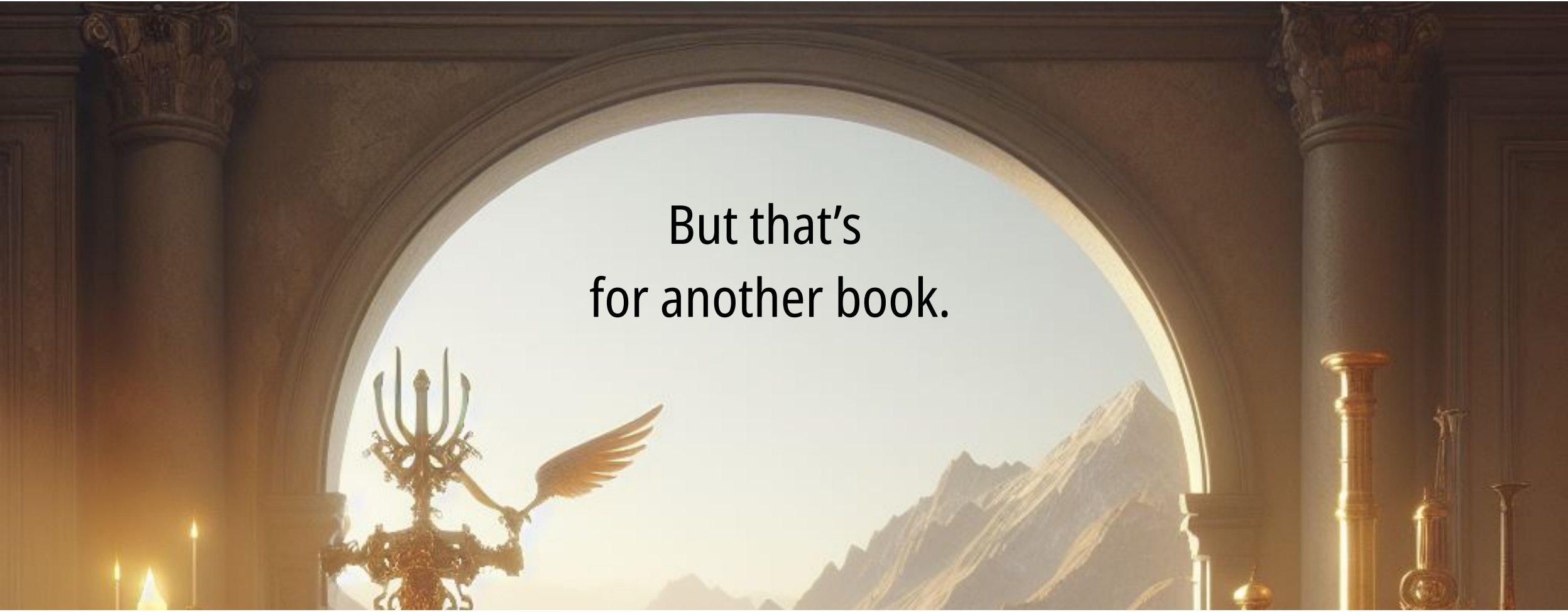
One is a drawing by Rembrandt van Rijn worth perhaps 10s of 1000s because it's his, and only because. We give it mystique after the fact of knowing.

WORDS ARE OUR WINDOWS TO TRUTH. WE FIGHT AND die over them. Call a rabidly straight man "gay" and he may kill you. But who are the gatekeepers of meaning? What is "great" art, and who decides the standard. The U.S. FDA requires that only 100% orange juice be labeled "juice". Anything less must be called "drink" as in "orange juice drink". If it's only 5% orange juice we can't feel deceived because the label didn't lie. But if it was 95% orange juice we might feel differently.

The fight over the use of the term "AI art" is really about how the word "art" can be modified legitimately.

Can 5% “art” prompting with 95% “AI” production carry the day. Perhaps “AI art image” would be the equivalent of “orange juice drink” and satisfy everyone...except the diehard.

But what really is 100% art? I met a man who could draw automatically. Not abstract forms but representational realism. People, landscapes, architecture and all with his eyes closed letting his hand draw without his awareness till he looked. I personally observed him in the pure mechanical act of production. No consciousness, no emotions, no intent in any sense we understand the word. Was his drawing not art because it lacked all of that? In fact, some of his drawings I would label “great” and all of them I would call “art”.



But that's
for another book.



It's a great image. Who cares if it's trash "art".

No images
post-processed except for
transparency because any
processing would necessitate
another label distinct from
“AI art”.

The front cover is faux
Egyptian relief generated by
AI.

The leaf is public domain.

FONTAGE ::

Anonymouse Pro

Tekton Pro Condensed

Noto Sans Condensed

text, design and
production
by author

The AI-Odyssey Collection is a
series of coffee table narrative
artbooks with original text
illustrated by (except for this
subseries) post-processed AI
art.

*Would this swirl function any
better if it was conscious
human art?*

This is a work
in progress. The
complete, finished
edition may be
different.

to be continued

Book I of a four part
series to be collected
together and published
as one book.

