



Welcome!

Our newest Australian members are:

Heidi Lan, Sylvania NSW

Sarah Ewen, Perth WA

Danny Beran, Edgecliff NSW

Roberta Edwards, Toowoomba QLD

Max Lap Pan Lam, Campsie, NSW.

PSA Membership

The total membership of PSA worldwide is currently 5907. The countries with more than 100 members are:

United States 3418

India 307

China 276

Australia 201

Canada 163

England 150

Hong Kong 145

Indonesia 139

189 individuals and 12 clubs

Thank you!

This month I can share with you an insightful article on AI by *Jacky Lee*.

Please email me if you have anything related to photography that you would like to share with fellow PSA members.

PSA Journal

The December issue of the PSA Journal is available now and can be downloaded from the PSA website after you log in. <https://psa-photo.org/page/journal>

Don't miss the information about the great achievement of Vicki Moritz in gaining the inaugural Dan Charbonnet Portfolio Distinction. Vicki has also achieved her GMPSA/S in addition to her BPSA - Well done Vicki!

Check out all the Australians who are mentioned in the Journal for ROPA, Galaxies, Stars and other awards.

Exhibitions

Maitland International Salon of Photography. PSA, FIAP, GPU & APS recognition. Colour and Monochrome PRINTS. Colour, Monochrome, Nature and People DIGITAL. Closing Friday, 12th January 2024.

All exhibitions that have so far received PSA recognition for 2024 are listed on this page: <https://psa-photo.org/page/exhibitions-2024>.

PID Individual Competitions

This year's competitions have been expanded to include Portrait, Still life, Architecture and Landscapes. There will be three competitions and the End of Year finals. For more information and to sign up go the *Divisions > Individual and Chapter Competitions* page and select the competition you want to enter.

In addition to the traditional judging method, Director: Mohammed Arfan Asif, has planned for each entrant to have the opportunity to vote on the other entries. There will be a Competition Image Analysis Webinar held after each round.

PSA Study Groups

All PSA Divisions have Study Groups. Information about how they operate and what you need to do to participate is available here: <https://psa-photo.org/page/study-groups>

The PSA Pictorial Image Division is working on building some new study groups. Members who are interested in Still Life and Architecture should contact Heide Stover, Director PID Digital Study Groups, at pid-ds-director@psa-photo.org so that they can be placed in a group.

The Intersection of AI and Photography: A Prelude to Exploration

Jacky Lee

In the dynamic realm of photography, we stand at an inflection point marked by the convergence of art and technology. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a force, capable of both augmenting our artistic expressions and challenging the foundational beliefs of our craft. As we navigate these waters, four pivotal themes demand our attention:

1. **Authenticity and Trust:** The veracity of images in an age where AI can seamlessly alter or generate them.
2. **Artistic Value:** The balance between human creativity and AI's growing artistic prowess.
3. **Copyright and Ownership:** The shifting sands of intellectual property as AI starts playing a pivotal role in image creation.
4. **Bias and Representation:** The ethical ramifications of potential biases in AI systems and their impact on photographic representation.

With this roadmap in place, our journey begins by examining the sanctity of authenticity and trust in the realm of AI-driven photography.

Authenticity and Trust: A Pillar Challenged

Photography's essence has long been rooted in its ability to chronicle reality. A photograph, by traditional understanding, captures an unfiltered slice of life — a testament to moments, emotions, and narratives. Yet, with the rise of AI capabilities in image generation and manipulation, this foundational pillar encounters formidable challenges.

Innovations, like Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), empower AI tools to fabricate lifelike images. While the potential applications of such technologies are vast, ranging from art to entertainment, they simultaneously cast aspersions over the authenticity of every image. This conundrum deepens when considering the use of these tools beyond the realm of experimentation — in journalistic and documentary photography, where the veracity of an image isn't just artistic but ethical and, at times, legal.

Such a landscape necessitates deeper introspection. While AI can be viewed as an evolution in the photographer's toolkit, akin to the transition from film to digital or the use of post-processing software, its potential in altering or creating realities demands a distinct category of scrutiny. It's one thing to enhance an image's sharpness, contrast, or color balance; it's quite another to introduce elements into a scene or craft a scenario from scratch.

Moreover, as audiences become aware of these capabilities, the ripple effect on the larger photographic community is palpable. The trust, once implicit in viewing a photograph, now requires reinforcement. Verification tools, blockchain-based authentication, and other technological solutions emerge as potential countermeasures. Yet, they are but one facet of the solution.

Photographers: Artists and Guardians in an AI Era

Throughout history, photographers have played the pivotal role of visual narrators, chronicling the world around them with authenticity and candor. But as AI introduces new capacities and challenges into the world of image-making, photographers' roles are expanding, encompassing not just that of artists but also that of guardians of trust.

Artists Crafting Visual Narratives

As artists, photographers have always had the responsibility of conveying stories, emotions, and moments. Each photograph represents a blend of personal interpretation and objective reality. The nuances of lighting, perspective, and composition reflect the photographer's artistry, moulding raw scenes into compelling narratives.

The introduction of AI tools into this realm offers photographers an enhanced palette. From refining image quality to suggesting compositional tweaks, AI can elevate a photograph's aesthetic value. Such tools, when used judiciously, can amplify a photographer's vision, helping manifest images that might have previously been beyond reach.

Guardians of Photographic Trust

However, the same tools that empower also pose challenges to the inherent trust vested in photographs. As AI grows increasingly adept at generating and manipulating images, the line between reality and fabrication blurs. Every AI-touched image carries the potential of sowing doubt: is this scene genuine, or has it been altered beyond the realms of traditional enhancement?

This shift transforms photographers into guardians. Their role transcends capturing and presenting images; they must now also vouch for the authenticity of their work. This guardian role is not merely passive; it demands proactive measures. Whether it's through transparent disclosures, utilizing verification technologies, or educating audiences about their workflows, photographers are entrusted with ensuring that the trust historically associated with their craft remains unbroken.

Moreover, as leaders and influencers within the photographic community, photographers have a broader duty: to set standards and norms for the ethical use of AI in photography.

This means engaging in dialogues about the moral boundaries of AI enhancements, spearheading discussions on authenticity, and mentoring the next generation to navigate these complexities with integrity.

A Balance of Artistry and Responsibility

In essence, photographers are on the front lines of a transformative era. As they embrace the potential of AI, they also grapple with its implications. Their dual role underscores the delicate balance they must strike—leveraging AI's capabilities to enrich their artistry, all while upholding the integrity and trustworthiness of their images.

In this dance between technology and ethics, photographers are not mere participants but the choreographers. They have the privilege and the responsibility to shape the trajectory of photography in the AI age, ensuring it remains a beacon of both artistic brilliance and unyielding trust.

Artistic Value: The Dance Between Human Creativity and AI's Blossoming Artistry

In the annals of art history, technological innovations have frequently been catalysts for change, reshaping how artists conceptualize and execute their visions. From the invention of the camera obscura to the dawn of digital photography, each innovation has sparked debate about the true essence of art and the role of the artist. Today, at the heart of this discourse, stands Artificial Intelligence (AI), as it begins to assert its presence in the realm of creative expression.

A Canvas of Possibilities

AI's capabilities are far-reaching, not just in the analytical world but in the artistic one. Advanced algorithms can now generate original compositions, craft detailed digital art, and even enhance photographs with painterly effects. These tools offer artists a new medium, expanding their horizons and providing avenues previously unthought of.

Yet, this leads us to question: Where does the human artist fit into this digital tapestry? Can creativity, often thought to be a uniquely human trait, be replicated by machines? And more importantly, does AI-generated art carry the same weight and value as that birthed from human ingenuity?

Human Touch vs. Digital Precision

Art, in its truest essence, is not just about the final product but the journey — the emotions, experiences, and intent behind its creation. Human artists infuse their work with a depth of feeling and a personal narrative that is challenging for machines to

emulate. The spontaneity of a brush stroke, the choice of a particular hue on a whim, or the serendipity of an unplanned composition — these are facets of the artistic process that are inherently human.

On the flip side, AI brings to the table precision, vast data processing, and the ability to draw upon myriad styles and techniques at lightning speed. Its creations can be intricate, detailed, and technically impeccable. And in some instances, the results can be so sophisticated that even seasoned artists might struggle to discern between AI-generated art and human-made pieces.

A Collaborative Symphony

Rather than viewing AI as a competitor, perhaps it's more constructive to see it as a collaborator. When human creativity aligns with AI's capabilities, the result can be a harmonious blend of emotion and precision. Photographers, for instance, can use AI tools to refine their shots, make compositional suggestions, or even predict optimal lighting conditions. It's not about replacing the artist but enhancing their vision.

However, the art community, galleries, and aficionados will need to navigate how they perceive and value this collaborative art. Does an AI-assisted piece hold the same value as one created without digital intervention? How do we price, critique, or even categorize such works?

Looking Ahead

As we delve deeper into the AI era, the line between human-made and AI-assisted art will inevitably blur. But one thing remains certain: the indomitable spirit of human creativity. Artists, including photographers, will always seek ways to express themselves, with or without AI. What's crucial is the ongoing dialogue about the evolving definitions of artistry, originality, and value in this brave new world.

The dance between human creativity and AI is not a duel but a duet — a testament to the timeless pursuit of artistic expression in an ever-changing landscape.

Everyone, please consider sending me some news or articles for my next newsletter!

ISO – high or low?

These two images were captured three minutes apart, so the light was very similar for both - heavy shadow at around 7.30am. One was captured at ISO 200, the other at ISO 25600. Which one was the high ISO image - A or B?



A



B

ISO (cont.)

Now imagine that a new member of your club asks you this question: “Should I always set my camera to the lowest possible ISO?” How would you answer that question? Take a few minutes to send me your answer and I will follow up on this in my next newsletter.

Favourites

What is your favourite - photographic subject, shooting location, camera exposure mode, etc? Why? Try writing 200 words about your ‘favourite’ and send it to me for a future newsletter.

Best Wishes for the Festive Season

Stay safe and I hope Santa brings you what you wish for – whatever that may be.



If you need help with any PSA matters please contact me.

Regards,

Roy

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