Æstetisk Seminar

Æstetisk Seminar er tilrettelagt af AIIM – Centre for Aesthetics of AI Images,
Lotte Philipsen og Mette-Marie Zacher Sørensen,
Institut for Kommunikation og Kultur, Aarhus Universitet

Nicolas Malevé

The production of machine vision's aesthetic score

How to approach the relations between aesthetics and infrastructure? The presentation will approach this question through the case of the AI image generation software Stable Diffusion. To function, image generators need large datasets or collections of images paired with descriptions and several other metrics such as an aesthetic score. This presentation will analyse the various actors, humans and machines, who intervene in the curation of these images and the production of this aesthetic score for which images are rated on a scale from one to ten, from the less to the most aesthetically pleasing. It will do so by unravelling a vast network of image production, exchange, description and exhibition that includes photosharing websites, annotation platforms, chat rooms, and university departments. Through the lens of a background aesthetics, it will show how this network functions as an exhibitionnary complex enabling feedback loops and modes of reflexivity in the design and deployment of image generators as well as the vagaries inherent to teaching the judgement of taste to machines.

Torsdag den 11. september 2025, Kl. 14:15-16:00
Kasernen, bygning 1584, lokale 112

Alle er velkomne/All are welcome