

AIIM - CENTRE FOR AESTHETICS OF AI IMAGES



WELCOME AND SIGN UP

Welcome to our newsletter for AIIM, Centre for Aesthetics of AI Images.

AIIM, Centre for Aesthetics of AI Images, is a humanistic research centre at Aarhus University, Denmark. We explore how artificial intelligence's new image practices shape us aesthetically, culturally, and epistemologically. Find us at: <https://cc.au.dk/en/aiim>.

Please forward this newsletter to those of your contacts, who may be interested, and remind them to sign up for the AIIM newsletter on our website: <https://cc.au.dk/en/aiim/newsletter>.

This newsletter reviews the past events that AIIM has held since the last newsletter, which was published in March.

We wish all of you a happy summer!

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ONLINE-SEMINAR:

NON-‘PHOTOGRAPHIC’ AI IMAGES

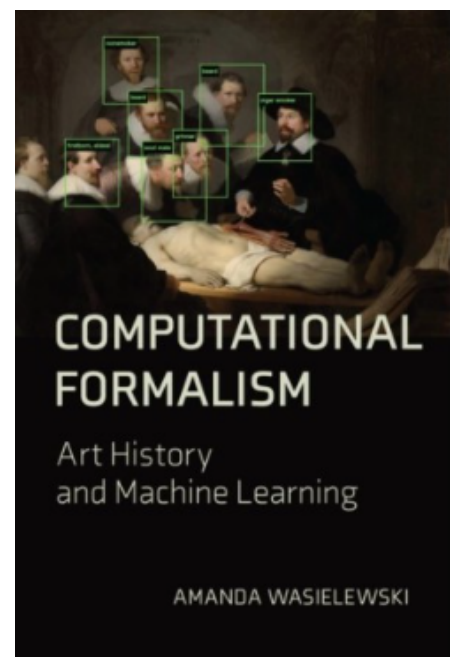
March 19th 2024 AIIM, Centre for Aesthetics of AI Images at Aarhus University, organized an online seminar about ‘non-photographic’ AI images.

AI tool’s ability to generate images that very closely resemble photographs has received a lot of attention and stirred up questions about credibility and deception. In this online seminar with guest speaker [Lukas R.A. Wilde](#) (associate professor with NTNU) we focused on non-‘photographic’ AI images which stir different question. Wilde’s presentation focused on the AI-remediation of pictorial styles of various materials and image tradition as well as on their integration within other media forms such as comic books, films, or videogames.

THEORY LAB: “COMPUTATIONAL FORMALISM”

April 9th AIIM hosted a theory lab called “Computational Formalism”

This theory lab took its point of departure in Amanda Wasielewski’s book “Computational Formalism: Art History and Machine Learning” (2023, MIT Press). Associate professor, Lisbet Tarp, shortly presented some of the book’s main points and highlighted what she found of particular interest in the book. This was followed by an open discussion that offered room for other relevant aspects of the volume.



SEMINAR: CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURES AND IMAGE POLITICS

This seminar, on April 16th, addressed the politics of images and sound as objects of research captured by various digital and scientific apparatuses and infrastructures.

The seminar explored Critical Infrastructures and Image Politics from multiple perspectives derived from a newly established research group at Winchester School of Art (University of Southampton). Along with the Centre for the Study of the Networked Image at LSBU and the Digital Aesthetics Research Centre (DARC) at Aarhus University, we explored collective and decentred forms of research.

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The presentations featured approaches grounded in artistic research, activist-focused sensory media and practices of 'networking' and 'infrastructuring' the university. The approaches are underpinned by an interest in collaborative modes of work that provide provocative approaches to audiovisual culture, as well as interrogating the very context of production of such knowledge in and beyond universities.

The seminar included four guest talks on critical infrastructures and image politics by scholars and artists from the UK: Alexandra Anikina, Kwame Phillips, Stephen Cornford, and Geoff Cox. The Digital Aesthetics Research Centre and the Centre for Aesthetics of AI Images were the local hosts of this seminar and the visit.

Speakers:

- **Alexandra (Sasha) Anikina** is Senior Lecturer in Media Practices at Winchester School of Art (University of Southampton) and Programme Co-Lead for MA Global Media Management.
- **Stephen Cornford** is Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at Winchester School of Art (University of Southampton) and Programme Lead for MA Fine Art.
- **Kwame Phillips** is Senior Lecturer in Media Practices at the Winchester School of Art (University of Southampton) and Programme Co-Lead for MA Global Media Management.
- **Geoff Cox** is Professor of Art and Computational Culture at London South Bank University, and co-Director of the Centre for the Study of the Networked Image.

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SEMINAR: AI AND DEEPFAKES

April 18th AIIM hosted a seminar, associate professor, where Mette-Marie Zacher Sørensen shared her recent research on deepfakes, followed by an open discussion.





THEORY LAB: "THE EYE OF THE MASTER: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE"

In honor of the International Worker's Day (May 1st) AIIM dedicated this theory lab to the examination of Matteo Pasquinelli's "The Eye of the Master: A Social History of Artificial Intelligence".

Under the guidance of Asker Bryld Staunæs, our artistic-research PhD and steadfast techno-revolutionary, we especially dissected and delved into "The Invention of the Perceptron," the book's final chapter. We focused on how Pasquinelli interprets the integration of images, perception, and vision within the collective individuation of general intelligence.



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THEORY LAB: "GALTON RELOADED"

This theory lab took place on May 14th. It took as its point of departure the text "Galton Reloaded: Computer Vision and Machinic Eugenics" (chapter 3 in 'Boundary Images', 2023, Minnesota University Press).

Postdoc. Lea Laura Michelsen shortly presented some of the text's main points and highlighted what she finds of particular interest in the text. This was followed by an open discussion that offered room for other relevant aspects of the text.

EXPLORING GENERATIVE AI IMAGES AND VISUAL CITIZENSHIP

This seminar was hosted by the AI Media network at NTNU on May 24th, and presented AIIM, Centre for Aesthetics of AI Images at Aarhus University.



In the seminar researchers from AIIM presented insights from a project that included explorative workshops done in 2023 in collaboration with four different, non-academic domains that face the realities of GAI image practices (the art scene, welfare technology providers, providers of educational material, and the news media). The workshops provided valuable insights into how AI image practices inform visual citizenship and cause (re)distributions of power, agency, and senses of belonging.

AIIM IN STOCKHOLM

In June some of our AIIM-representatives visited Stockholm. Here they participated in a seminar on "AI and Visual Heritage" at the Stockholm City Museum. James E. Dobson from Dartmouth College spoke here on 'Reading Computers Watching Images'.



In addition, we have had a very good meeting in Stockholm with other researchers (from the universities of Bergen, Uppsala, Linköping, Stockholm and NTNU in Trondheim) about images, visibility and aesthetics seen in the light of AI.



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AIIM CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE IN ICELAND

AIIM researchers Nicolas Malevé, Maja Bak Herrie, and Lotte Philipsen attended the annual conference of The Nordic Society of Aesthetics (Iceland, June 2024) with a joint AIIM panel on "Aesthetics of Generative AI Images."

Nicolas Malevé discussed aesthetic judgement in his paper "The production of machine vision's aesthetic score", Lotte Philipsen dived into "Visual-textual aesthetics of AI images", and Maja Bak Herrie gave a paper on "Exploring aesthetic flatness".

