

AIIM News

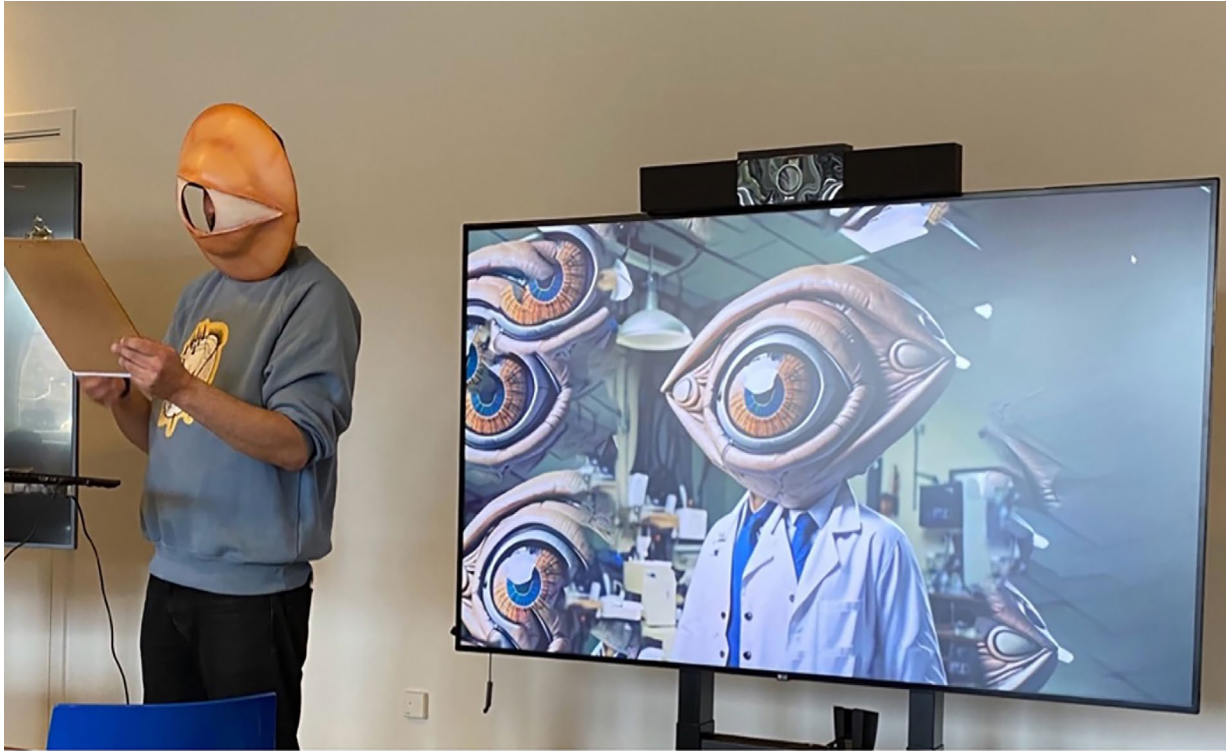
Welcome to the fourth newsletter from [AIIM](#). Many important and exciting events have taken place since our last newsletter, and we are looking forward to sharing them with you in this one! AIIM has organized several workshops with external partners, highlighting the centre's contributions to the general discussion about AI images and their impact on society. Furthermore, the individual members of AIIM have contributed with exciting talks for different organizations, based on their own research.



2023 Workshops with external Partners

During 2023 AIIM has conducted four workshops with external partners in order to explore AI image practices in four different domains: art, the mental health sector, high school education, and news media. The workshops generated a lot of valuable insights, and we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all partners and participants involved! Apart from diving into specific domains, the overall purpose behind the workshops was to investigate how new image practices, driven by artificial intelligence, play different roles in developing citizenship. Briefly sketched, the workshops came together like this:

The first workshop in May was organized in collaboration with Art Hup Copenhagen under the title “AI Images and the Democratization of Art”. Participants were artists, curators, academics from the humanities and from IT-fields, and students, and the workshop explored the latest AI models’ ability to create original images based on textual descriptions, and especially, discussed how these models change the creative process, what that means for the role of the artist today, and how the commercialization of AI images is affecting professional artists and art institutions.



Performance lecture with artist Kristoffer Ørum at the workshop on “AI Images and the Democratization of Art” 3 May 2023 at Art Hub Copenhagen (Photo: Lotte Philipsen).

In June, the workshop “AI Art as Welfare Technology?” was organized with DokkX (Aarhus municipality’s centre for welfare technology) with the specific focus on exploring AI images as therapeutic tool in relation to vulnerable citizens. With the participation of artists and health care project managers, the workshop investigated the implications of supplementing traditional art therapy with use of AI as a creative tool in the treatment of loneliness and psychological vulnerability.

The following workshop in September was organized in collaboration with the publishing house Systime under the heading “AI images at Systime: education and everyday use”. With a diverse group of people from Systime, the workshop explored two paradoxes: 1) Systime wishes to produce material, which helps students critically assess and reflect upon the visual information they are surrounded by, as well as understand how these images are produced, but at the same time, for legal reasons (GDPR and IT security), Systime is prevented from developing the necessary hands-on learning material for students to understand how these images are generated and their effect on the recipient; and 2) While the educational and editorial department in the firm are keen on nourishing students’ critical reflections on AI images’ social and ethical implications, the graphic designers in the firm use AI as a simple, practical tool on an everyday basis. The workshop explored these paradoxes with openness and curiosity.

Finally, in October, the workshop “How do AI images affect the News Media?”, organized with Ritzau/Scanpix, focused on the (potential) use of AI generated images in news media. The workshop brought together press photographers, image managers, and researchers from a broad range of Danish news media houses to explore the potentials, risks and dilemmas that AI image tools present to the news media – from ‘stock’ images that serve decorative purposes to conflict zone images that serve highly representational and evidential purposes. Especially the privileged status of photography as medium, along with the concept of ‘credibility’ as the news media *raison d’être* were central issues at the workshop.

Seminar: AI Images and Democracy

Finally, in November, the seminar “AI Images and Democracy” was organized to identify insights across the workshops and discuss them within the broader framework of AI image practices and their relationship to democratization principles and digital citizenship. The seminar emphasized the importance of understanding the ideology of images in the field of AI studies, and it discussed how art and the humanities can contribute towards exploring the democratic potentials/challenges of AI images. Importantly, the seminar discussed how the most important insights may be developed into relevant output – academic as well as in formats that extend beyond traditional academia, which resulted in promising and exciting ideas for how AIIM can contribute with valuable knowledge and necessary resources. Suggestions for output included development of educational material, theoretical papers, an AI art academy for therapy with Systime and DokkX as well as an exhibition.

Other recent activities (selected) by AIIM-members

Apart from the events organized by AIIM, the individual members of AIIM have actively communicated their research on AI images to a wider audience:

Maja Bak Herrie, Lea Laura Michelsen, and Lotte Philipsen published a feature (“Is what what we see true?”) in *Weekendavisen* in August. The feature discussed the use of AI generated images in NGOs’ campaigns – taking its point of departure in cases from Amnesty International and Børns Vilkår – and explored some of the implications of this new tendency.

Asker Bryld Staunæs was invited to speak at the ADD-project (Algoritmer, data og demokrati) in August and held a presentation under the title: “Automatiske Opstande” - en introduktion til virtuelle politikere og syntetiske partier”, which aimed to mediate between experts from the social sciences and technical experts.

Maja Bak Herrie was invited to speak at a conference organized by Røde Kors and ISOBRO about the implications of using AI generated imagery in their campaigns (in October). Maja’s presentation focused on what she identifies as a “trustworthiness contract” underlying the communication between the fundraising organisations and the recipients of the campaigns, and how the introduction of AI generated images might damage this trust.

Lotte Philipsen was invited to speak at the Danish Universities’ Communication Conference in November. Her presentation focused on the use of AI images in visual communication and the implications following from such use – in terms of redistribution of who/what is represented by whom/what, and under what social and technical circumstances.

Mette-Marie Zacher Sørensen was invited as keynote speaker at the ViLD Annual 2023 conference Artificial November 10th at Aalborg University in Copenhagen. Her talk was entitled AI in Contemporary Art and she gave an introduction to the two concepts ‘Glitch’ and ‘Critical Thoroughness’

Stay in touch

Don’t miss out on news from AIIM, Centre for Aesthetics of AI Images! Be informed about our events and activities – and remember that you are always welcome to participate. Visit our [website](#) regularly and sign up for our [newsletter](#). We are always interested in expanding our circle and hearing new perspectives on the subject of AI image practices. Don’t hesitate to contact us, if you want to participate.

