

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 new publications, upcoming events other AIIM-related news.

We hope you will enjoy reading it

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NEW PUBLICATION ABOUT DEMOCRATIZATION AND GENERATIVE AI IMAGE CREATION

We are excited to announce the publication of the article "Democratization and Generative AI Image Creation: Aesthetics, Citizenship, and Practices", authored by AIIM-members Maja Bak Herrie, Nicolas René Maleve, Lotte Philipsen, and Asker Bryld Staunæs. Recently published in *AI & Society*, the article examines how generative AI reshapes aesthetic practices, notions of citizenship, and democratic engagement. The article critically analyzes how contemporary image practices involving generative artificial intelligence are entangled with processes of democratization. It demonstrates and discusses how generative artificial intelligence images raise questions of democratization and citizenship in terms of access, skills, validation, truths, and diversity.

The article significantly nuances how visual citizenship is at work in different manners depending on the different concrete image practices using generative artificial intelligence and it concludes that an aesthetic perspective offers valuable insights into foundational aspects of belonging to contemporary visual communities.

Read the full article here: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-024-02102-y>

AIIM IS A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND A NEW RESEARCH NETWORK

We are happy to announce that AIIM has initiated and secured funding for Alsthesis – network for research on the aesthetics of AI imagery. The Alsthesis network is generously funded by the Independent Research Foundation Denmark and five AIIM members participate in the network. Alsthesis project brings together Danish, Swedish and Norwegian humanist researchers with the aim of exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) changes contemporary image culture. All network participants, individually or in smaller groups, conduct research in the new, interdisciplinary field that studies the influence of AI technology on imagery (still and moving images). The network will serve an important function as a research community where individual scholars benefits from engaging in workshops, seminars and discussions with academic colleagues also focusing on AI and images from an aesthetic perspective. The first Alsthesis event will be a workshop 20-21 March 2025.

Project period: March 2025 – Feb. 2028. Each year the network organizes two types of activities: a workshop for network participants and an open academic seminar. An international conference will be organized ultimo 2027.

Website:

<https://cc.au.dk/en/aiim>

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/101908969>



UPCOMING WORKSHOP: DECENTRALISED AI IMAGING: AN EXERCISE IN COLLECTIVE DIAGRAMMING

These recent years have been characterized by a strong movement of recentralization towards platforms and a nearly total monopoly over the infrastructure of large-scale computation. This is also true for flagship products of image generation software such as Dall-e or Adobe Firefly. However, the relentless work of communities of developers, enthusiasts and activists has helped create a nascent alternative made of disparate pieces of software, material resources, documentation, forums and counter-lobbies.

For a while, to inspect the state of the art AI models required the permission of software giants under restrictive conditions, the situation is now changing as the alliance between a large series of smaller actors has reached a critical threshold. The Stable Diffusion ecosystem is a paradigmatic example. In this ecosystem, the image acts as a network that binds together software, interfaces and datasets as well as social formations and communities in practices of curation, annotation, prompting, description, observation, rating and censorship.

During the session, facilitated by [Nicolas Maleve](#), we will work together on the elaboration of a diagram that follows these actors and their practices. We have coffee/tea and sweets.

Max. 12 participants. Please sign up by accepting the Outlook invitation or notifying Lotte, lottephilipsen@cc.au.dk

Workshop details:

Date: February 19th, 14:15-16:00

Sign up: Everyone is welcome but please sign up.

Location: Langelandsgade 139, 8000 Aarhus C, Building 1580, room 249.

UPCOMING AIIM WORKSHOP: ADA ADA ADA

In this workshop, we join artist Ada Ada Ada in exploring how she works with AI in her artistic practice through hands-on experiments.

Ada Ada Ada is an algorithmic artist who works with gender, queerness, and bodies as perceived by computers through algorithms, software, “artificial intelligence,” and more. Visit her website at: <https://ada-ada-ada.art/>.

Workshop details:

Date: February 24th, 14:00-16:00

Sign up: Max. 10 participants (sign up by accepting Outlook invitation or e-mail Lotte Philipsen, lottephilipsen@cc.au.dk).

Location: Langelandsgade 139, 8000 Aarhus C, Building 1580, room 114.

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UPCOMING EXHIBITION: SYNTHETIC SUMMIT

One of our AIIM-members, Asker Bryld Stausnæs participates in presenting a new exhibition that transforms Gallery 1 at Aarhus Kunsthall into a dynamic stage for the politics of the future. Featuring performance art, computer sculptures, and a unifying "summit scenography," the exhibition dives into the role of AI in shaping society.

Synthetic Summit reimagines the principles of modern democracy, exploring how AI can rewrite the political frameworks of our time. Through a series of live performances, the exhibition invites the public and policymakers alike to experience an international line-up of leading AI parties and virtual politicians.

Exhibition details:

Date: February

28th - April 13th

Location: Aarhus
Kunsthall

Read more: [Aarhus Kunsthall](#)



Photo: Tamara Wyrzykowski

WORKSHOP RAPPORT

AIIM met with the Royal Danish Library for a workshop 16 Jan. 2025. The library holds a significant part of Danish visual cultural heritage in the form of its vast collection of images (aerial photographs, book illustrations, portraits, maps, postcards, educational posters etc.). In the workshop, researchers from library and AIIM explored how image technologies driven by artificial intelligence might change the understanding and use of the library's digital image collections.

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