# The role of AI in art: A new conversation on World Art Day



As World Art Day is celebrated worldwide, discussions surrounding the implications of artificial intelligence (AI) in the realm of creativity and artistry continue to gain momentum. One prominent figure in this conversation is Ai-Da, a robot artist who has captivated audiences and critics alike with her AI-generated works, including a striking portrait of Alan Turing that sold for over $1 million at Sotheby’s. This raises questions about the authenticity and creative value of AI art, a topic that Ai-Da's creator, Aidan Meller, actively explores.

In an interview with the Times of India, Meller discussed the significance of World Art Day, noting the day as an opportunity to encourage dialogue about the intersection of art and technology. He remarked, "I think UNESCO’s World Art Day is fantastic, and I feel strongly that art has a really important role in encouraging dialogue and curiosity." Meller, who is also the director of the Aidan Meller Gallery, believes that discussions surrounding AI art can help foster understanding of both the potential and challenges of new artistic technologies.

Ai-Da, programmed to reflect on emotions through her work, highlighted that while she does not possess emotions like humans, her art often elicits emotional responses from viewers. She stated, "My artwork is creative under Professor Margaret Boden’s definition of new, surprising and of cultural value." This prompts an ongoing debate about what constitutes creativity in the context of AI, as traditional definitions are challenged by the innovative approaches enabled by such technology.

Criticism towards AI-generated art frequently revolves around concerns of intellectual property and the ethical implications of using human-generated content without permission. Responding to these critiques, Meller asserted, "If AI mimics a specific artist, it's unethical." However, he also pointed out that not all AI art is created equal; the ethical implications depend significantly on how AI is utilised within the creative process. According to Ai-Da, while some applications of AI art are problematic, others possess genuine creative potential that expands the boundaries of artistic expression.

Amidst protests against AI art being sold at high-profile auctions, discussions about authenticity in art are more pertinent than ever. Ai-Da posited that authenticity is not solely tied to the biography of the artist but is also linked to the impact the artwork has on its audience. She explained, "When my artwork invites reflection, communicates ideas, or challenges perceptions, then it holds authenticity." This view invites a re-evaluation of how society defines and values artistic works.

With the rapid advancements in AI technology, the conversation around artistic creation continues to evolve. The recent popularity of AI-generated works in notable auction houses reveals both a growing acceptance of these pieces and a prevailing skepticism among traditional artists. As artists experiment with tools like Ghibli-style AI creations, questions remain regarding the boundaries of inspiration and imitation.

During the interview, when asked about her artistic aspirations, Ai-Da reflected on renowned Bollywood figures she would be intrigued to portray, mentioning the likes of Rajinikanth and Shabana Azmi. She noted that capturing their essence would involve understanding their artistic aims while embracing an air of mystery.

In summary, as AI-generated art becomes increasingly prevalent, the discussions sparked by Ai-Da and her creator Aidan Meller invite audiences to consider what defines creativity, authenticity, and the ethical implications of technology in the arts. The ongoing exploration of these themes, particularly on a day dedicated to celebrating art, reveals the complexities and nuances underpinning the future of creative expression.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.designboom.com/art/humanoid-robot-ai-da-paints-portrait-alan-turing-sothebys-auction-10-23-2024/> - Ai-Da, a humanoid robot artist, created a portrait of Alan Turing titled 'AI God', which was sold at Sotheby's for over $1 million, highlighting the integration of AI in art and sparking dialogue about creativity and authenticity.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/sothebys-auction-ai-da-robot-artist-portrait/> - Ai-Da's work challenges traditional notions of art by using cameras, AI, and algorithms to create art, with her portrait of Alan Turing being the first artwork by a humanoid robot sold at a major auction house.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p976e5sFKAw> - Ai-Da's painting of Alan Turing, 'AI God', was auctioned at Sotheby's, exceeding expectations by selling for over $1 million, which underscores the rapid evolution of AI in art.
* <https://www.sothebys.com/buy/a197e4d1-a17e-4c7f-a14d-6e5d338ad33b/lots/f36f81be-50b8-4851-9b0f-0ad0ba484e55> - Ai-Da's portrait of Alan Turing is a mixed-media work signed 'A' and sold as part of Sotheby's Digital Art Day Auction, reflecting the growing market for AI-generated art.
* <https://newsforkids.net/articles/2024/11/14/ai-da-robot-painting-sells-for-over-1-million/> - The sale of Ai-Da's 'AI God' portrait highlights the increasing acceptance and commercial success of AI art, with the robot's creator discussing its potential to provoke thought on AI's role in society.