

The Comics Journal

FEATURES

REVIEWS

BLOG

TCJ ARCHIVE

FEATURES

IN DEFENSE OF SYNTHETIC COMICS

<u>Ilan Manouach</u> | February 10, 2025 | 20 comments

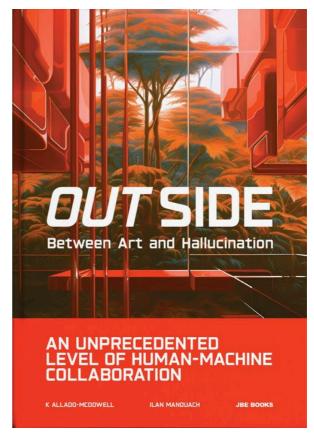
I hate writing, I love having written.

Dorothy Parker

The emergence of online tools enabling users to create images from text prompts has sparked debates about generative AI, resulting in polarized opinions and ethical dilemmas within the cultural industries. It is within this crucible of contention that comics, a medium that has depended for the greatest part of its history on well-documented craft tradition

s and materiality signatures, emerges as an emblematic case study. The increasing access to these tools urges many industry insiders to express a deep-seated unease regarding AI comics and the impending impact of these nascent technologies upon the established craft traditions, the thriving ecosystem of comics industries and the delicate equilibrium of fragile markets.

First, let us unequivocally cast aside the stifling descriptor, "AI comics." This term, when employed without due nuance, perpetuates a stereotype according to which algorithms can produce meaningful and



Out Side by Ilan Manouach & K Allado McDowell, design by Luca Reverdit (Paris: JBE Books, 2024)

engaging comics without any human determination, or where human agency is reduced to mere insignificance. Such a description fails to acknowledge the intricate interplay of computational creativity in a medium with a long history of human-machine determination. While speculations about the growing role of automation in artistic production have been a consistent trope in modern and contemporary art debates throughout the mid-twentieth century, comics have always been situated in a dense information economy driven by automation and best practices for transforming craft into mass production. The industrial scale

of these operations, from the early stages of ideation to the last-minute editorial revisions, relies on a carefully orchestrated division of human labor and technical determination. Mainstream comics are the direct output of industrial processes of completion based on instituted sets of standardization practices and notions of efficiency, marginal utility and computability that are both conceptually and technically crucial to the comics medium.

Instead of "AI comics," in Belgium we prefer the term "synthetic comics" (bandes dessinées synthétiques). This acknowledges how comics have always been the products of the aggregate nature of knowledge production and dissemination, increasingly so when they are determinedly embedded in the information-intensive contexts of our computational age. The integration of computational processes for the production of synthetic comics can be traced back to the origins of comics craft and its symbiotic expansion alongside the early development of printing, distribution, and communication technologies. Synthetic comics are works whose forms, material characteristics, and operations are entrusted to technical systems programmed to generate an infinite array of distinctive and original outcomes, leveraging annotated datasets. Their production depends on sets of discrete, decentralized and somewhat asynchronous operations that should be captured in terms of what computer scientist Rudy Rucker describes as



interior page from Out Side by Ilan Manouach & K Allado McDowell, created using the Al program Midjourney, design by Luca Reverdit (Paris: JBE Books, 2024)

computation: any "process that obeys finitely describable rules," involving operations of calculating, processing and transforming information employing diverse substrates, digital or otherwise. Consequently, the significance of computation in their creation cannot be overstated, for it is instrumental in apprehending and constructing the aesthetic encounters facilitated by these works.

I am a comics artist and a postdoctoral researcher working on computational creativity. I have been publishing comic books for over twenty years, using comics less as a vehicle of personal expression and more as a tool for disseminating new forms of knowledge production. Comics is a medium for tackling larger ideas in politics, society and ethics, allowing the production of works that, in other sectors of contemporary research and practice, would be too expensive, too risky, very slow or simply highly dependent on institutional support to initiate.

For myself and many in my Belgian community, comics represent a rich field of experimentation. I've actively delved into this dynamic medium by creating <u>Shapereader</u> comics tailored for visually impaired users/readers, undertaking large-scale, global crowd-sourced projects like <u>Peanuts Minus Schulz</u> or <u>The Cubicle Island</u>, and exploring the capacity of comics objects to articulate <u>artistic statements</u>, elaborate <u>reflections</u> on the medium's materiality, and establish bridges with the literary arts and conceptual <u>poetry</u>. Comics have also been an opportunity to explore machinic assemblages with books such as <u>Out Side</u>, a

collaboration with K Allado-McDowell, founder of Artists + Machine Intelligence (AMI) program at Google—, *Fastwalkers*, possibly the first comic book co-created with emerging AI—, or the *Neural Yorker*, a generator of editorial cartoons based on customized generative models. Recently, I mainly focus on designing tools for relational vector databases holding millions of comics media, as well as developing generative engines and computational systems for producing synthetic comics.

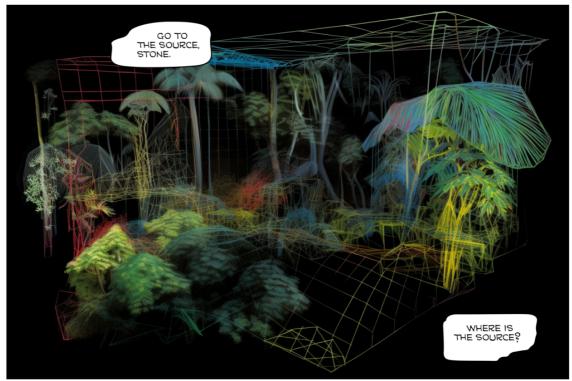
Synthetic comics are not transparent, neutral entities. Their computational systems are inexorably rooted in political, social and economic worlds and, more often than not, engineered in ways that reinforce and amplify existing hierarchies—a concept explored by theorists like Donna Haraway, who referred to this as the "informatics of domination." Access to computational tools and platforms is undeniably restricted by socio-economic, geographical, and cultural barriers, resulting in a digital divide where only certain individuals or entities can fully participate and benefit. While I am enthusiastic about the new prospects in synthetic comics, working with computational tools is daunting. Fastwalkers, for instance, required extensive model development to train conditional domain-specific models on the features we needed for our comic narrative, such as characters, landscapes, vehicles, weapons, etc. The production costs accounted for thousands of GPU hours on expensive A100 computational clusters that Nvidia's Inception Program generously provided. As importantly, data extraction processes frequently rely on unrecognized and uncompensated contributions from diverse populations, raising ethical concerns about consent and ownership. The questions of who has access to computational resources, generative models and ample amounts of annotated data, and who provides the data for these models is an important question, and there are ongoing efforts to mitigate the operations of data extraction.

While computational systems often reinforce existing socio-economic and cultural hierarchies, comics artists, have a long legacy in experimenting with and contributing to the expansion of a diverse range of tools ranging from the very early photoengraving technologies, such as the industrially patented Ben Day, to today's generalized use of proprietary and open source software for image editing, lettering, colouring and layout. Computer-generated imagery (CGI), 3D modeling, algorithmic text generation, and other technologies common in industries such as animation, movie production, and video games have been regularly used by comics artists. Fueled by the inventive spirit and open-mindedness of both historical and contemporary practitioners, experimental comics artists have consistently leveraged the technologies of their time to expand their expressive tools, disseminate new artistic forms, and explore unconventional processes, often with innovative ambitions, such as in Giovanotti Mondani Meccanici's *Computer Comics*, pioneering computer-generated comics in the 80s. Recognizing the potential of machine learning tools in this context feels more like a somewhat expected progression rather than a disruption, aligning with the tradition of innovation that has long defined the history of comics.

Yet, the apprehension surrounding the introduction of ML tools in comics contradicts the medium's longstanding, symbiotic relation to technology. I believe it's fair to write that in a medium that has historically served as a laboratory for today's global entertainment industries, the vast majority of contemporary comics artists are not only unwilling to see the potential of computational tools, but are also vehemently opposed to the idea of integrating them for the production of their work. Seasoned professionals publicly "disavow AI" and call for a general blackballing of artists who would "deceptively" create work using generative AI. In other cases, publishers called out these "fake" artists who don't even have "a Facebook or Instagram page"

(or what is humorously known as the boomer Turing test) and retailers outright refused to stock comics featuring AI-generated cover art. Additionally, academics still face significantly increased challenges in publishing research related to synthetic comics.

This tension highlights a profound paradox within the comics world. It is surprising that this industry, which has historically embraced "swiping"— the deliberate replication of panels or pages from prior works and arguably one of comics' most innovative contributions to the history of creativity— would now rigidly assert the "human hand" as the only warrant of authentic creativity. While comics communities have long celebrated artistic borrowing and reinterpretation as sources of innovation, they pain to understand how new technologies can help them, much like previous generations refused to acknowledge how digital tools would empower them. Today, few would claim that contemporary comics are a weaker form of expression due to digital photo editing tools such as Photoshop or Procreate.





99

interior page from Out Side by Ilan Manouach & K Allado McDowell, created using the AI program Midjourney, design by Luca Reverdit (Paris: JBE Books, 2024)

Some professionals go the extra mile by proposing different variations of industry-wide compliance with a "Made by Humans" label, displaying a nostalgic yet uneasy yearning of the Comics Code Authority's era. As a reminder, CCA was a regulatory body coveted as a third-party alternative to government censorship administrated by the comics industry. It was legitimized by controversial figures like Fredric Wertham, who was known for pathologizing readers and authors, aiming to uphold a "code of ethics and standards" against perceived social misconduct.

Setting the question aside of what the political aspirations of mainstream and alternative comics artists who reminisce of postwar US (and there are many!), the tribal, conservative overtones of anti-AI feelings have an evident and dark pedigree in comics history—comic book bans are the forerunners of their twenty-first-century variants of blackballing, deplatforming or doxxing.

There's a noticeable cognitive dissonance between comics professionals decrying AI's impact on their industry and their longstanding use of social media to promote their work. Many outspoken critics of AI within the comics community express concerns about generative AI technologies, yet they conspicuously overlook the broader implications of platform capitalism, which thrives on data extraction. For years, many comics professionals have not just willingly shared content-comics, illustrations, Instagram reels- but their entire networked life on platforms using data to train algorithms and enhance recommendation systems. This disconnect highlights a potential hypocrisy, as these same vocal professionals rarely objected to the "zero compensation" model of sharing their work on platforms like DeviantArt or ArtStation. They also did not scrutinize social media platforms where they've "lent their reputation," nor did they see an urgency to thoroughly review contractual agreements or terms of service. Nobody cared until platform capitalism knocked on their door. As much as this is symptomatic of a "Not Against My Business or Industry (NAMBI)" mindset, this reflection might encourage a more critical examination of all sharing practices, prompting comics professionals to adopt better habits, such as practicing due diligence when engaging with platforms—a potentially positive outcome in an otherwise conflicted stance.

Among the small group of comics artists who have embraced computational tools like Midjourney, an intriguing pattern emerges. Many seem to downplay the creative aspect of their work with these technologies, either minimizing the merit of their AI-assisted creations or hesitantly defending the creative effort involved in crafting effective prompts—acknowledging the discipline and numerous iterations required. This attitude reveals an entertaining hesitance to wholeheartedly affirm their work against the industry's staunch traditionalists and their prevailing attitudes within the community. And yet, neither the act of prompting nor the traditional production of comics is inherently creative as both require a blend of conceptual thought and technical skill. But in comics, the perceived value lies in the tangible, laborintensive aspects. What saddens me is that despite the increasingly multiple ways one can be a comics artist today, the notion of "hard work" remains the primary measure of an artist's legitimacy and worth within the comics community. This emphasis on effort over innovation or experimentation with technology reflects deeper cultural values about artistry, where sweat equity is seen as the core pillar for being a meaningful member of this community.

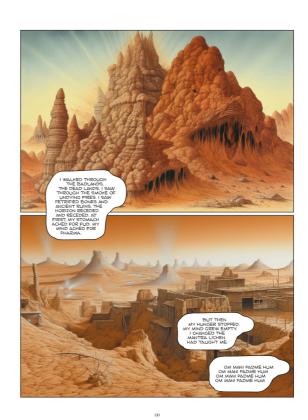
When artists decide to take generative AI "seriously," it's usually to reveal the concealed, repressed, disavowed and deceptive motivations behind an artwork. Isn't it twisted that one of the main ways to spot AI-generated art in the commercial world of fantasy illustration and superhero comics, a bastion of male gaze and female objectification, is to look for illustrations of women with sexualized features, beautiful poses and suggestive expressions? I can't help but wonder why Midjourney excels in that kind of "cheesecake images", but joking aside, there is an interesting collateral effect here. We observe the gradual institution of an entirely new practice of "suspicious reading" promising to reveal an image's production context. Comics professionals and anti-AI evangelists are becoming experts in the science of "comics forensics," designed to interpret clues, establish connections, and identify culprits by determining if AI has created a particular image. Besides the proverbial but short-lived seven-finger Midjourney hands, possibly one of big tech's most fantastic subliminal stunts, an array of subtle tell-tale signs of "dishonesty" are reflected on the reader's multilayered interplay of affect and

expectation: Portraits are dissected for extra creases around the chest, unaccounted human geometries, skin blemishes, facial "distortions", unexpected body hair and other signs of AI "doctoring". The response to these AI-created images thus serves as a mirror reflecting the community's deeper assumptions and unease regarding authenticity, normalcy, and the evolving role of technology in reimagining human aesthetics. These considerations reveal more of the comics community's normative preconceptions about the human body than anything else.

It's intriguing to consider whether comics artists, who have long championed a genuine vernacular form of artistic expression and often opposed institutionalized art and traditional academia, now are the unexpected defenders of practices centered on mastery. Ironically, comics artists, often marginalized by the art world for their commercial associations and seen as craftspeople rather than artists, now find themselves inadvertently caught in the crosshairs of rampant democratization—not just from generative AI but also from novel forms of media literacy. This role reversal presents a curious twist: comics artists are now the gatekeepers of the established norms they once contested. They are the ones who once fought against elitist art world conventions but now mirror those exclusionary tactics, critiquing new artists for not engaging in the "serious work" they once eschewed.

From memes and rage comics to the emerging skill of promptcraft and synthetic comics, these mediums not only undeniably build on the creative ethos rooted in comics; they also evolve it to meet the aspirations of the twenty-first century. As the boundaries of creativity expand and evolve, this raises questions about how these shifts redefine artistic legitimacy and who is empowered or marginalized in this ongoing transformation. It's no coincidence that the loudest critics of text-to-image generation hail from countries with a rich cultural heritage in comics. Now, it's their chance to admonish artists for not putting in the "serious work" required to make a mark in the comics world.

Synthetic comics and computational tools have the potential to play out multiple infrastructural interests at the crossroads of institutional, educational and commercial establishments. Whether these interests might be integrated into broader strategies with far-ranging impacts on the comics



interior page from Out Side by Ilan Manouach & K Allado McDowell, created using the Al program Midjourney, design by Luca Reverdit (Paris: JBE Books, 2024)

industry is tied to how we understand these new tools and the production of new insights in comics and what futures we can construct from these insights. Understanding how comic artists can harness computational tools to produce synthetic comics contributes to a dynamic reconfiguration of craft traditions. It represents an excellent opportunity to expand the operational agency on the part of comics professionals.

Comics artists, by learning to navigate vast quantities of data, are able to identify patterns and outliers, experiment with innovative data visualization techniques, bring their experience in compelling storytelling for data mining, or rely less on ready-made solutions and straightforwardly build their own customized generative models in the production of image, text and multimodal content. These new skills might reinscribe and reconfigure what it means to be a comics artist in a highly technologically-mediated landscape, what counts as creativity, and possibly help us understand better how to respond to ethical questions related to authorship, attribution and co-ownership.

Comics artists were never just making images. They have been making and contributing to building *systems*.

Comics artists have approached their craft in social, evolutionary, and dynamic terms to embrace a diverse range of inscription techniques, skills, and expertise that move beyond traditional types of labor associated with making a comic book.

The integration of computational tools in comics is part of a continuous process of technological world-making that is deeply inscribed in the history of the comics medium, intensely more so in countries such as in the US where comics are an essential part of its popular cultural heritage and where comics communities have a collective stake in what the futures of comics would look like.

The research for this article is part of the .expub project (Creative Europe 2023-2025), a consortium between Echo Chamber (Belgium), Aksioma (Slovenia), the Institute of Network Cultures (the Netherlands) and Nero Editions (Italy). .expub explores an operational model for expanded editions and experimentation with new forms of publishing.

WRITTEN BY

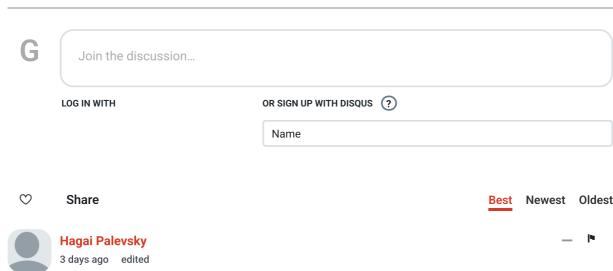
Ilan Manouach

POSTED

February 10, 2025

TOPICS

AI, AI art, Editorial, synthetic comics



There is much to be said against this piece, but I can't help but think that there's something beautiful about Ilan Manouach, one of the kings of pseudo-intellectualism around comics, opening an essay with a misattributed quote: https://quoteinvestigator.com/2014/10/18/on-writing/





Alex Hoffman

2 days ago

Chiming in here to point out, perhaps necessarily, that many of Manouach's major arguments are not "for" generative AI, per se, but rather that people who are against generative AI are Luddites. The word luddite has largely come under disfavor or is used as an insult in modern English, but I think it's worthwhile to point out that the Luddites, as a political group, used their destruction of new technology as a political act to increase pressure on employers, undermine less-skilled labor, and create solidarity within their movement.

Would it be so off-kilter to say that the thing that Manouach is actually arguing against is class solidarity? That we should just accept that beneficent billionaires have our best interests in mind, and that their tools should be included in our creative lives, regardless of the cost to our planet, creativity, or critical thinking?

Finally, it is worthwhile to mention that Manouach is heavily invested in arguing for generative AI. It is one of the main focuses of his corpus over the last 4 years. And, although I cannot and care not to prove this assertion, I suspect that much of his art's funding over the last 4 years has come from private and public funders who are financially incentivized to increase the global mainstreaming of generative AI.

I bring up money because, obviously, it's important, and Manouach may be yet another "useful idiot"

see more

6 0 Reply 🖆



Austin English

3 days ago

"Comics artists have approached their craft in social, evolutionary, and dynamic terms to embrace a diverse range of inscription techniques, skills, and expertise that move beyond traditional types of labor associated with making a comic book."

Ok...but is John Porcellino using a xerox machine and working in a style that many 'traditional' cartoonists (time has proven, wrongly) found offensive to their 'established craft' the same as this? I think we all know the answer but I'd like to hear your perspective

4 Reply 0 **Ilan Manouach** Austin English 2 days ago edited Hey Austin, I'm writing from another part of the world, and while I may appreciate Porcellino, I don't think any U.S. comics artist should be arbitrarily used to set precedents for what is considered acceptable in comics globally or define the extent of a confrontational nature of an artistic practice. I believe the time of canons-big or small-is over, and the aggressive responses in these comments feel like the last gasp of a fading sense of boyish privilege. Reply 🚅 **Austin English** → Ilan Manouach 2 days ago But Porcellino isn't an 'arbitrary' example, his method of printing his comics and his way of drawing (not in line in with traditional comics making as we see it in normal comic shops, but still very much working towards a standard of storytelling) are how thousands and thousands of people produce their comics, far more than the numbers of people who make comics with AI. In fact, I don't think any of us are fully aware how many people are making handmade comics, in this moment, across the world---in an age of impending AI, it seems to be increasing rather than diminishing. Why is AI, then, considered unique in undoing what you say it's undoing, if we suspend disbelief and agree to believe that it is in fact going to do that? 'Boyish privilege'---but there's more women making homemade self published comics these days than men, at least from what I see. Also I can understand being annoyed by other comments, I don't see any point in engaging with an essay with some of the language used above, but I'm interested in what you wrote. 0 Reply 🚅 Stinky Buttwhiler Ilan Manouach One wonders if the man who has made a career of being a provocateur is having trouble handling the heat in the kitchen. I say, bring the heat. This is The Comics Journal, not the Polite Disagreement Society. Reply **Stinky Buttwhiler** 3 days ago edited I'll find more to say later whenever I find the time, but frankly, this essay is about as insightful as the idea of pasting all the editions of One Piece together and calling it a transformative work. What a laugh. What a fucking nuisance. What an enormous amount of dogshit claptrap. Reply 🚅 3 **Hank Kennedy** 3 days ago "Synthetic comics" is a phrase that makes me feel like I'm living in a science-fiction dystopia. 2 Reply 🔼 disqus_eyFLPhvdKQ 3 days ago LinkedIn-ass bio. Hit the bricks with this trash. Reply [

Greg Hunter

16 hours ago

For all the jargon and signaling of academic bona fides in this piece, 'comics have relied on mechanical reproduction, therefore the use of a new technology simply continues this tradition' is a flimsy argument. The author writes as if player pianos had been putting comics out till now - a total flattening of the differences between tools.

1 0 Reply 🖆



Johann Tor

2 days ago

I think Ilan spells out the argument for the artistic use of generative AI as best as possible, but I can't help but roll my eyes at "promptcraft". Kindly don't drink the Kool-Aid!

1 0 Reply 🚅



ninthart

3 days ago edited

Yeah, as much as I respect Manouach for such projects as Shapereader, this AI kick he's been on for the last couple of years is utter bullshit.

"Synthetic" anything is usually inferior to the real thing, and so it is with comics.

Kudos to the Journal for running this piece alongside Ben Passmore's essay—I know which one stands up far better.

1 0 Reply 🚅



greenberger

3 days ago

I actually agree with your basic philosophical premise- generative AI, for all the issues it opens up, isn't fundamentally different than all the other crap that computers have brought us- from customized-handwriting fonts to digital colors to CGI to Pixar. Of course people are having kneejerk reactions to the threat AI imposes- though their arguments, when you dig into them, are really against capitalism, not technology.

However, I would argue that computers have not helped or enhanced the medium in any way. Comics look like shit today, and even people I respect have lazily chosen to type out their dialogue rather than hand-letter it. There's no way one can argue that's an aesthetic improvement, even if it is a time-saver that I, myself, take part in often. I look forward to the day I can plug my brain into a computer and have it actually generate my vision exactly as I envisioned it, but until then, so far the evidence is pretty grim as far as "AI is great" goes. I have yet to see anything in comics, music, writing, video, photography or art generated by AI that is in any way a step forward in the language of its respected medium. Again- maybe someday, and I certainly know better than to have a reactionary "hell, no" attitude towards any emerging technology- I think History has made that point of view pretty clearly ignorant. But it'll be a long while before artificial intelligences are able to contribute anything of value to art- they'll need to develop individual personalities and points of view first. In the meantime, very-real issues like the environmental costs of AI generation are enough to make any sober person pause on the experiment. Figure that out first before basking in the digital sandbox!

1 0 Reply 🖆

3 days ago

I disagree. "Comics look like shit today" only to someone who is not paying close attention, or Is looking for good comics in the same places: the comicons and the alternative publishers. Comics have left the building.

0 4 Reply 🚅





Which alternative publishers would those be? Fantagraphics, who in recent memory have published Tommi Parrish, Bhanu Pratap, Olivier Schrauwen, Thijs Desmet, Julia Gfrörer? Drawn and Quarterly, which publishes Michael DeForge, Lee Lai, Jillian Tamaki? Or, for small press... Breakdown Press (Patrick Kyle, Margot Ferrick, Liam Cobb, Yokoyama Yūichi)? Silver Sprocket (Leo Fox, EM Carroll)? Perfectly Acceptable Press? Certainly Lale Westvind is more energizing than the sub-*ReBoot* on offer in this sterile view of 'the comics of tomorrow.' Or, for the Francosphere... is this Al art more interesting than anything published by L'Apocalypse, or Frémok? I'd rather read Frédéric Coché or François Henninger.

For all this intellectualizing about the intertwining of comics and technology, I fail to see any actual artistic justification for why I should care about art that the artist didn't care enough to draw (or paint, or the digital equivalents); all I'm seeing is "all comics that aren't AI are suddenly bad because of this new thing." If this is the future, just drag me behind the barn and shoot me in the back of the head.

5 0 Reply 🚅

greenberger Allan Manouach

3 days ago

I humbly ask for examples. I've yet to see them- the one example in this article certainly does not help your argument. Between the "AI is the Future" and "AI is the Devil" camps, the more truthful perspective (IMHO) is that AI may, at some point, be a truly useful creative tool, but right now we are in the stone ages with it- nothing worthwhile is going to come out for a long time. Someday, sure- no doubt. But we're currently trying to carve out masterpieces using the bluntest of objects. But if there's a world of greatness out there that I'm missing, by all means, post some links!

1 0 Reply 🖆

Tom Herpich

15 hours ago

Ethics aside, Al comics are genuinely the ugliest things I've ever seen in my life. No exaggeration at all. I feel sick when I look at them, in a way I've never felt before. It's like these guys have invented a whole new form of nausea.

0 0 Reply 🖆



Robin Bland

15 hours ago

You can't synthesise magic. "It's just lines on paper, folks!" Is it? To the TechBro mind, creativity is, like all other human mysteries, ultimately knowable and can be reduced to a digital formula, just another frontier to be crossed, conquered and processed. At the heart of it lies a conviction that only Silicon Valley's systems of commodification and delivery count. That ever-narrowing sensibility dominates all cultural conversations now, certain that it's the only dialogue in play. It isn't. But all moral considerations aside, all these pro and anti-Al articles don't seem to account for the larger picture. Comics has never just been an industry. It's a language. Language is culture, and how, why and what you contribute to and consume from it isn't always only about convenience and monetisation. Comics, like any language, is biomorphic in that it behaves like a living thing that wants to survive and perpetuate itself, so it'll seed itself into all modes of human expression (including via AI). It's inevitable that comics will be created this way, but that doesn't mean they'll carry with them the same potency of ingenuity, the kind of creative quantum leaps and indefinable magic that come with genuinely original, offbeat thinking. That'll have to come from the, ervisionary human directing the output of the image generators. Personally, I think that'll probably create a bigger audience and appetite for "handmade" comics, which will adapt and survive to this new, harsher ecosystem. Maybe this isn't just a cultural branching point but an evolutionary branching point, not just for comics and culture in general, but for humanity too.

0 0 Reply 🖆

jonplutz

a day ago

It seems that an intellect solely, or perhaps partially, interested in ingratiating itself to a nascent yet powerful technological advancement is, in effect, admitting its own inherent limitations and bending the knee (pardon the romanticism) to the neo-establishment whereby said advancement came into existence, thus negating not only its objectivity but its respectability as well. (See, ma, I can do it, too!) Get bent.

0 0 Reply 🚅

Subscribe Privacy Do Not Sell My Data

Sally Madden & Chris Mautner, CO-

EDITORS

Kristy Valenti, EDITORIAL

COORDINATOR

Kit, ADVERTISING

EDITORIAL QUERIES AND

INFORMATION: editorial@tcj.com

QUESTIONS? FAQ

PUBLISHED BY <u>FANTAGRAPHICS</u>

BOOKS

Contact Us

7563 Lake City Way NE Seattle, WA 98115 Order Toll-Free: 1-800-

657-1100

Outside USA: 206-524-

1967

The Magazine of Comics
Journalism,
Criticism and
History

The Comics Journal © 2025 Fantagraphics Books Inc., All rights reserved.