

Art or AI? A Museum of Very Modern Art

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) has seen dramatic progress in recent years. Most recently, rapid improvements in the capabilities of generative AI have prompted a mix of excitement and concern among the public about AI's potential societal impact [1]

AI-generated art tools like DALL-E and Midjourney are transforming our perception of art and creativity. This raises the question: can we, as humans, distinguish classic artworks from AI-generated pieces?

The 'Art or AI?' Museum of Very Modern Art uses interactive games to prompt audiences to reflect on AI's role in our lives. It challenges visitors to determine whether artworks are human-made or AI-generated. Participants engage in a short visual quiz in which they are graded on their ability to decipher their Dalís from their DALL-Es. This quiz encourages reflection on generative AI's impact and raises questions like: "Is the use of such systems ethical and desirable?"

Created by the SFI ADAPT Research Centre, Art or AI? has featured at European Researchers' Night in Dublin, Citizen Science Day 2024 in Vienna, and regional science and technology festivals around Ireland. It forms part of ADAPT's '#DiscussAI' campaign, which has engaged more than 60,000 members of the Irish public in a national conversation on AI.

Visitors to the Art or AI? museum have scored an average of seven out of ten to date, which demonstrates that people aren't fully equipped to discern AI images from those created by human artists. Will PCST 2025 participants fare better?

The exhibition and its interactive quiz effectively engage public audiences of all ages, sparking discussions and deeper reflection on the capabilities and ethical implications of emerging AI systems.

References

[1] Leiter, C. et al. (2023) 'ChatGPT: A Meta-Analysis after 2.5 Months'. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2302.13795>