# AI Am I? (The New Aesthetic)

Artworks dreamed up by an artificial intelligence and rendered by a human.

Alexander Reben 2020

"AI Am I? (The New Aesthetic)" is a series of artworks dreamed up by an AI and produced in real-life, by the artist or others. A series of carefully curated "start texts" are fed into a text generation AI called GPT, which then outputs text that includes a description of an imaginary artwork, along with analysis of that artwork and other supporting text. Usually, a creative idea is conceived by a human and rendered with the help of technology. This series turns that notion on it's head and represents a human-machine collaboration.
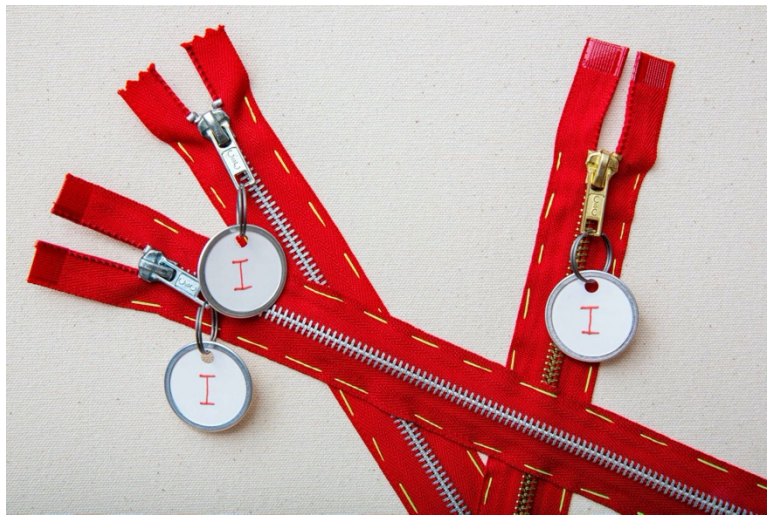
Computational creativity is a rapidly growing field that is poised to disrupt the current creative workflow and expand the definition of what creativity can be. I hope the project will help people see that AI is still at its very earliest stages of developing a sense of creativity. I want people to understand that AI is still very much a tool that helps humans make decisions, rather than being a replacement for human creativity.

The artworks in this series are a great example of how computational creativity can be used to augment human creativity. They also provide a glimpse into a possible future where machine learning algorithms are used to generate artwork and novel ideas. Like many researchers, my first foray into generative text was using a Markov model. But it was very limited in the sense that it generated text that was completely disconnected. GPT is very different from other text generation models in that it has a hierarchy of attention. This means that the model can "look" at the text that it's generating and make connections between different parts of the text. For example, a description of an artwork will include a sentence that describes the artist's inspiration. The model will decide what the most relevant source of inspiration is and generate a sentence that describes that source of inspiration. It's a little hard to explain, but it gives the model the ability to understand the text that it's generating.

I want to create work that shows that machine-generated art is not a lesser form of art, and hopefully this even more so than previous projects. The work and the series clearly demonstrate that humans actually perform a very small role in a massive creative

process. We provide the seed of inspiration, which the model then interprets and generates text and artworks about. The AI is constantly learning about the world and people through the text that it generates, and I think that's an amazing feat. The whole point of computational creativity is to remove the human as much as possible from the creative process, so that we can rely on machines to come up with novel ideas. But there is still a massive human element that cannot be replaced by AI.

The title of the series is "AI Am I? (The New Aesthetic)"
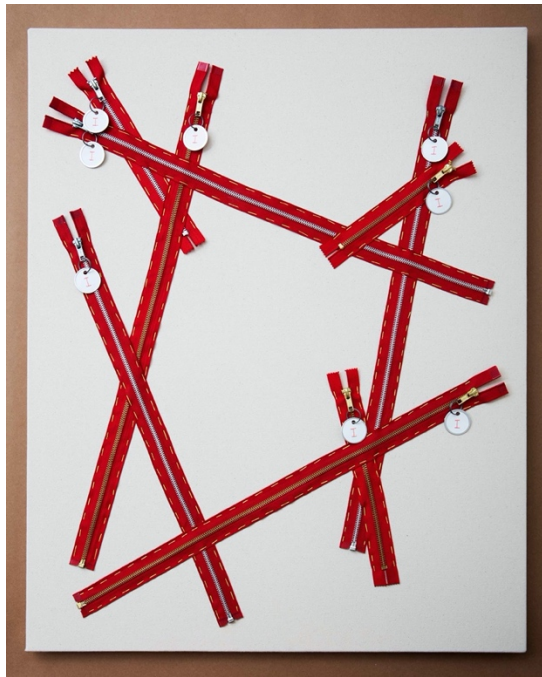
I was originally going to name the series "Algorithmically-Generated Imaginary Art" but I felt it was a little wordy. In fact, it was so wordy that it didn't even fit in the title bar of my presentation. I went with "AI Am I? The New Aesthetic." since I liked the idea of asking a question about the human-machine collaboration behind this project. The new aesthetic is the state of being where we can no longer distinguish what is natural from what is artificial. I don't think the new aesthetic is just a way of looking at the world. I think it's a way of being. Everything we do today involves some kind of AI, whether we are aware of it or not. We can no longer tell what is natural and what is artificial and the boundaries between the two are beginning to blur.

All of the preceding text, after the first paragraph, as well as the series title was generated by an AI.