Art and Artificial Intelligence

Kasperi Mäki-Reinikka
6.5.2019

Mario Klingemann: Memories of Passersby I

Research project: Mixing Fields

PhD research project exploring interdisciplinary artistic practise in higher education

- Aim: map methods of collaboration between fields when making art

- Voluntary participation

- Please fill in the Participant Consent form

Data to be gathered

- Audio/video documentation from the class
- Feedback Form in the end
- Possible follow-up (asked separately)
- Artistic projects created within the course

Principal investigator:
Kasperi Mäki-Reinikka
p. +358408203791
kasperi.maki-reinikka@aalto.fi

Course Overview

5 credits

1st week: lectures and exercises

2nd week: artistic work

Exhibition opening Fri 17.5. at 4pm

How to pass?

80% attendance in lectures

Exercises submitted

Participation in the exhibition (final project)

UWAS-C0025 - Art and Artificial
Intelligence, 06.05.2019-17.05.2019

Grades

» Course home page

» Materials

» Assignments

» For Aalto users

Dashboard

Site home

A?

Course home page

📕 **Course Schedule**
PDF document

This is the preliminary course schedule (updated 30.4.). The final schedule will be discussed on our first meeting and updated here.

💬 *Announcements*

💬 *General discussion*

💬 *Meeting 1: Intro to Art and AI*

Discussion and exercises from the first meeting.
Topics: Course overview, getting to know each other, brief intro to Art and AI

💬 *Meeting 2: Currents in AI and Art*

Discussion and exercises from the second meeting.

COMPLETION PROGRESS

🏳 NOW

Mouse over or touch bar for info

**LATEST
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(No announcements have been posted yet.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

📅 (L01) Art and Artificial
Intelligence Lecture, U402,
Otakaari 1
Today, 13:15 – 16:45

📅 (L01) Art and Artificial
Intelligence Lecture, M203,
Otakaari 1
Tomorrow, 13:15 – 16:45

📅 (L01) Art and Artificial
Intelligence Lecture, M203,
Otakaari 1
Wednesday, 8 May, 13:15 – 16:45

📅 (L01) Art and Artificial
Intelligence Lecture, M203,   ❓

13:15–16:45

Mon 6.5. Intro to Art and AI   **U402**
Course overview
Getting to know each other
Brief intro to Art and AI

Tue 7.5. Currents in AI Art   **M205**
Neural networks
Artist talk: Jukka Hautamäki

Wed 8.5. Utopias and Dystopias   **M203**
Transhumanism
Singularity

Thu 9.5. Other Intelligences   **M205**
Posthumanism
Exhibition brief

Fri 10.5. Sensing machines   **M205**
Sensory-material machine
World of a machine
Exhibition brief

WKND

Mon 13.5. Independent work

Tue 14.5. Towards an exhibition   **M205**
Feedback
Forming a shared vision

Wed 15.5. Work work work   **M203**
Independent work, teacher present

Thur 16.5. Feedback   **M205**
Building the exhibition   **Kipsari**
Last critique & feedback
Feedback from the course

Fri 17.5. Opening night   **M205**
Building the exhibition   **Kipsari**
Exhibition opening 16:00

Teardown 31.5.

Timetable

Who are You?

and what are you doing here?

What do you study?

What are your hobbies / other interests in life?

What are your expectations from the course?

Which exhibition did you go to see (if any, pre-task)?

Bring your skills and interests to a common table, share the knowledge you have
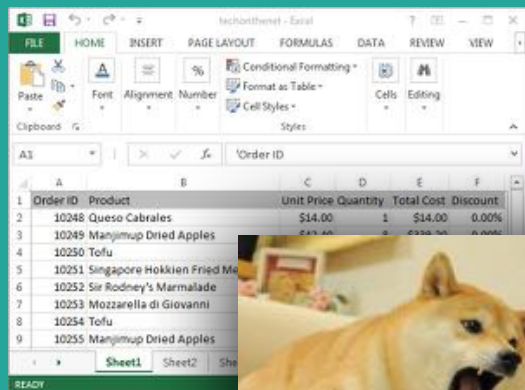
Exercise

Pair up! Please explain with your own words:

1)   What do we mean when we say: "this is AI"
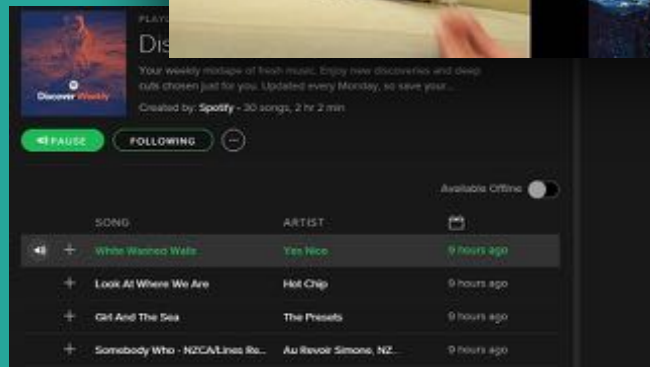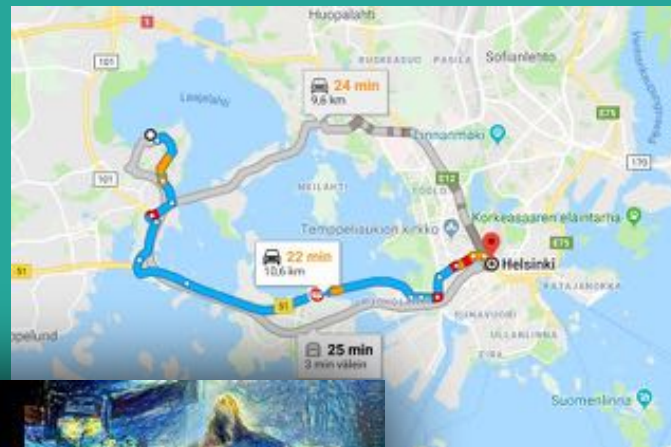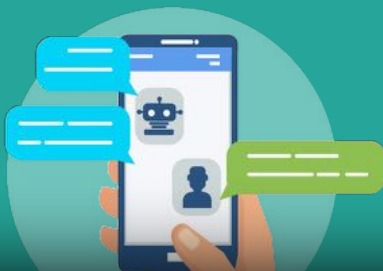2)   What do we mean when we say: "this is art"

Brief intro to Art and AI

Is this AI? Why, why not?

artificial intelligence (noun)

The theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages.

(Oxford Dictionary)

Artificial Intelligence?

- Autonomous, can perform tasks without supervision
- Adaptive to different situations and environments

Machine learning

- Systems that improve their performance in a given task with more and more experience or data (subcategory of AI)

General AI or Narrow AI?

Narrow (weak) AI is made to tackle one specific task, systems that behave intelligently

General (strong) AI could behave intelligently towards any situation, self-conscious artificial mind

General AI is (still) science fiction and the current AI developments are happening in the field of narrow AI

Some ethical concerns
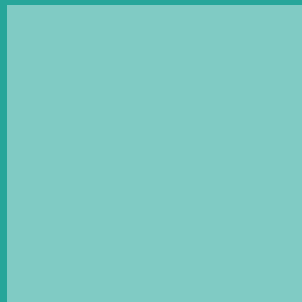
Bias   Privacy   Jobs   Politics   Legal   Art?
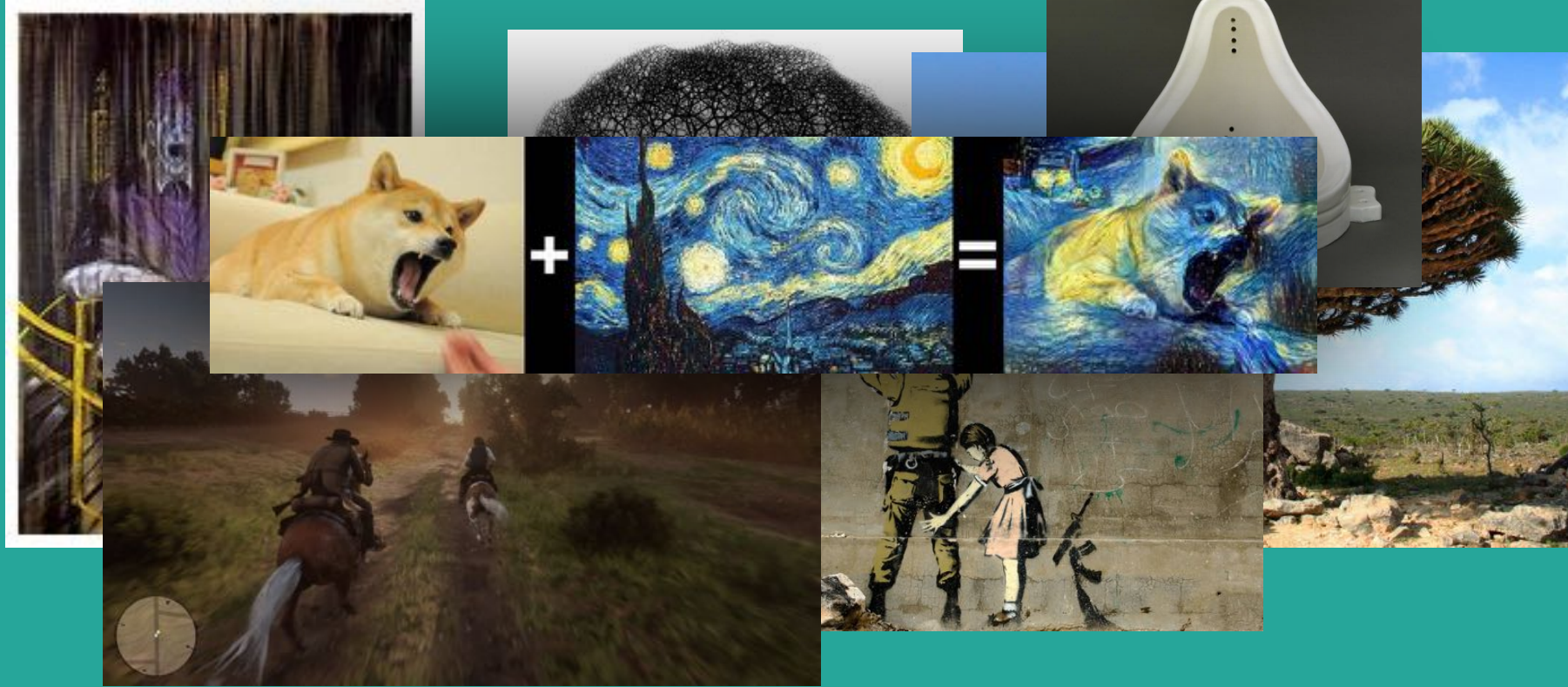
AI systems are autonomous and adaptive

Is this art? Why, why not?

art (noun)

The expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.
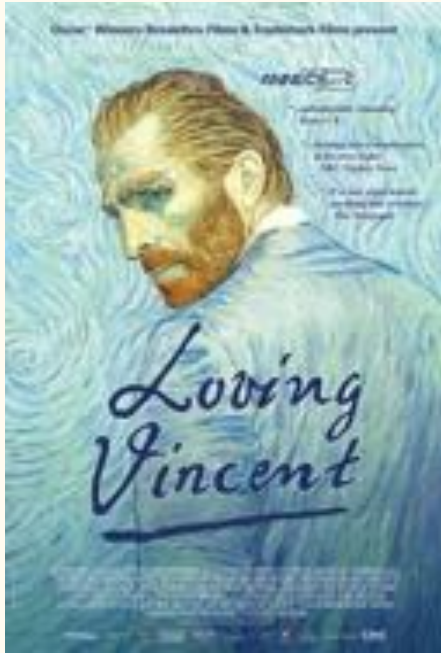
(Oxford Dictionary)

Art?

- (Cultural) Practices of producing visual, auditory, tactile etc. sensory experiences or expressions

Institutional theory of art

- "To see something as art requires something the eye cannot descry—an atmosphere of artistic theory, a knowledge of the history of art: an artworld"
(*Arthur Danto*)

The role of craft in arts?

65000 oil painted frames
by 125 painters, 2017

A Neural Algorithm of Artistic Style
Gatys et al. 2015

Art as a set of cultural practices | Art needs the context of art

Exercise

How to Art?

What methods are in our disposal, no matter what medium we use?

Collect a list to MyCourses (Meeting 1＞Artistic Methods)

- Cherish the mistakes
- **Cherish the process**
- Aesthetics
- **Document**
- Exaggerate or simplify
- **Symbols & Metaphors**
- Appropriate
- **Use the tools 'wrongly'**
- Fiction, Science-fiction
- **Narratives**
- Inspiration from personal life, history, news, science, pop culture, etc.
- Use the tools to comment the tools themselves
- Express
- **Name**
- Emotions allowed
- **Use your existing skills in a new context**
- Copy others, do the same thing differently
- **Mix & match, collage**
- Concept or idea can be an artwork
- **Lists, repetition!**
- Perform
- Criticise
- **Raise questions**
- Create weird rules, limitations and stick to them

How to art?

... Test things - see what happens!

Lot of interesting art is being made all the time without the maker stopping for a second to think "is this art or not?"
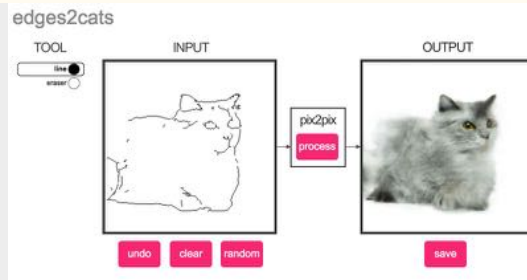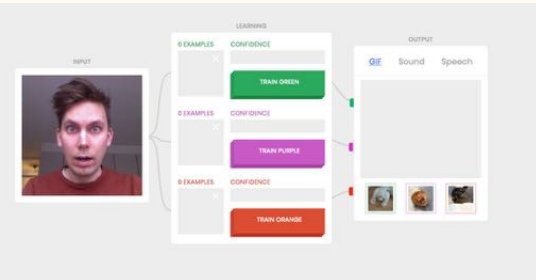
Tools of AI Art

OUTSIDE TOOLS

- You don't have to do everything from the scratch
- Projects in MyCourses (add more!)
- Appropriate tools
- Use them 'wrongly'
- Use them creatively
- Make your own versions

Please use your own expertise during the course

Pair up with others to get insights, ideas, skills

Co-create during the course: bring ideas for the whole group

Physical tools

- Equipment
- Printlab
- Fablab
- Papershop
- Workshops

Exercise

Think about your visit to an exhibition

What elements did the exhibition
include beside the artworks?

During the course,
keep a running list of
AI art ideas!

Exercise

1) Go to MyCourses > Materials > Interesting links > Demos & Cool Projects
2) Pick one project
3) Make a demo with it
4) Make an artwork with it
5) Post both to MyCourses (Meeting 1)

Homework

For tomorrow

Finalise your previous demo/artwork. Come up with 2 other suggestions for an AI artwork