

Intro:

Die Fabrikanten DILEMMABLOG. Art and society in the age of artificial intelligence. How our ideas about creativity are being radically challenged. Die Fabrikanten ask the living and the dead.

A fictional conversation with Joseph Beuys, Susan Sontag, Marilyn Monroe and Andy Warhol.

Moderator:

Could AI help to find the real art of being human?

Andy Warhol:

At the end of the day, the real art of being human is about our imperfections, our unpredictability. AI might help us understand that better, but it can't replace the raw, messy, wonderful experience of being alive. It's like having a mirror that shows us who we are, but we're the ones who give it meaning.

Moderator:

Joseph, how would you use artificial intelligence in your works today to bring about social change?

Joseph Beuys:

I admit that I am a bit sketchy about AI but I've always believed in the power of optimism and collective action. Art, for me, has always been about transformation and healing. Using AI to engage people in the creative process and highlight social issues might sound too idealistic, but on the other hand it's about harnessing technology for positive change.

Yes, there are risks and challenges, but isn't that true of any powerful tool? The key is in how we use it. AI could become a force for good if we approach it with intention and integrity. I want to inspire and mobilize people, and if AI can help us do that, then why not embrace it? It's about dreaming big and working towards those dreams with the tools at our disposal.

Moderator:

And how could AI specifically be used as a creative element in social sculpture?

Joseph Beuys:

It is about to create something truly transformative. Imagine an AI that acts almost like a shaman, listening to the collective emotions and stories of the community. This AI could create living, interactive spaces that respond to people in real time, reflecting their thoughts and feelings back at them. It could be a mirror for the soul of the community, constantly evolving with its input.

AI could also facilitate a global conversation, a digital campfire where people share their stories and ideas. This collective input could be woven into a dynamic, evolving artwork that embodies the spirit of community and collaboration. It's not just about using technology for the sake of it, but about harnessing its potential to bring people together and inspire change. AI, in this sense, becomes a partner in the artistic process, helping to amplify our collective voice and vision.

Moderator:

One last, very personal question for you, Joseph: Your work draws a lot from your personal biography, from the stories you tell about your war experiences. Nowadays, would you be afraid that AI would convict you of lying?

Joseph Beuys:

Ah, yes, my war story. The account of being shot down, rescued by the Tartar tribesmen, and wrapped in fat and felt—that has become almost legendary. Some people have always questioned its veracity. If AI

were to dig into historical records and find discrepancies, it might indeed challenge the factual accuracy of my story.

But here's the thing: that story, whether wholly accurate or mythologized, was a means to an end. It was a way to express the profound impact of my experiences and to convey a sense of rebirth and transformation. The fat and felt became symbols of healing and protection, deeply embedded in my work.

Would I be afraid of AI convicting me of lying? Not really. I would be more concerned with how the essence of my experiences—the emotional and spiritual truths—are understood. Art often operates in the realm beyond mere facts, dealing with deeper truths about human existence. So, while AI might challenge the specifics, it can't negate the impact and meaning those stories have brought to my art and to those who engage with it.

Moderator:

Last question to the others: who of you would use AI, for example chatGPT for text development or image and video generators for your work, or stay away from it because it's the work of the devil? Marilyn?

Marilyn Monroe:

I'm open to trying new things, darling. If AI can help me experiment with new looks or ideas, why not? But it won't replace the magic of a live performance or the authenticity of human connection.

Susan Sontag:

I'm all for embracing new tools, but I'd approach AI cautiously. It's not the work of the devil, but it's certainly something to be critically engaged with. Let's use it to enhance our understanding, not replace our humanity.

Andy Warhol:

Why fear the future, darling? Let's use it to churn out new ideas, reimagine the mundane, and push the boundaries of art. The devil's in the details, but also in the delights of innovation.

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