

# Metapets as NI

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## Exponential Phenomena

AI was getting closer again. The speed is extremely faster than dogs or cats coming to you when you open the front door. Netflix - 3.5 years, Twitter - 2 years, Facebook - 10 months, Spotify - 5 months, Instagram - 2.5 months. It is said these are the times it took to reach 1 million users. And ChatGPT - 5 days (released on November 30, 2022). 2022 was truly a year of exponential phenomena (ChatGPT is a website where you can interact with AI (chatbot), developed by OpenAI/OpenAI, an artificial intelligence laboratory, that has also developed DALL-E 2, an image-generating AI that generates images from text). In 2005 Ray Kurzweil predicted that the Singularity would arrive in 2045, but some believe it will be earlier, or never come in the first place. In any case, something uncanny (for better or worse, or anything else) or a "technological tsunami" (Anthony Elliott) [1] is approaching our lives. It is not an object, so unlike our adorable pets, we cannot hear it, no matter how closely we listen. There are no doors.

## from Classic AI to Innovative AI

On December 30, 2022, Cindy Gordon stated this in *2022: The Year Of AI Hopes And Horrors*. [2] 'According to a Gartner study, the revenue from AI in 2022 will reach \$62 billion. This is an increase of roughly a 21.3% increase from 2021.' "Human curiosity is a natural force of evolutionary discovery - what we must ensure is that human civilization harnesses AI's goodness and controls its' risks." As of February 2023, "Unsupervised" by Refik Anadol is currently on view at MoMA. Using nearly 200 years of data from the museum's collection, AI generates "Machine Hallucinations" in real-time, which are projected on the large wall of the Gund Lobby today as well. The website of MoMA begins with this question: [3] "What would a machine dream about after seeing the collection of The Museum of Modern Art?" And it ends with the following quote from Anadol. "I am trying to find ways to connect memories with the future." Will we humans find evolutionary discoveries through AI? The current human understanding of AI appears to be somewhat old-school. Evolutionary discoveries will not be found in AI as a tool to meet human desires, but be found in AI as a transformer to change the human mentality. "Dreams" and "hallucinations" here are not those of humans; AI sees them. How will classical AI be transformed into innovative AI?

## Art and Consciousness

Or perhaps AI will extend its invisible tentacles into parts of humans that have yet to be touched. In another way, those elusive might be "consciousness". In reality (without even quoting David Chalmers), consciousness is far more uncanny than people think. At this point, the aforementioned question connects with the next problem. How does technology change consciousness? Of course, technology here is not limited to only AI. Rather, it can be replaced by art. "How does art change consciousness?" Since this is a very macro setting, I will focus on the micro level for a moment (you might say it's domestic). In the first place, the title of this exhibition, "ART AFTER HUMAN" as a concept, surfaced in my mind around 2017. The following year, 2018, I organized a talk titled "ART AFTER HUMAN". [4] The guest was Fumio Nanjo, director of the Mori Art Museum at that time. "There is ART AFTER HUMAN at the overlap of Anthropocene, astrobiology, and AI." That was my hypothesis at that time. The following question posed by Mr. Nanjo at the end of the talk still remains unanswered for the moment (or, when this text is read in the future, this question may have already been resolved). "After all, it will be humans who decide what art is and what not art is." And then, in 2022, *Metapets* transformed my consciousness. Something that had been vague appeared in front of my eyes with increased resolution. Although art changes many things, its core is the transformation of consciousness (my gradual writing of this text would not have happened if I had not encountered *Metapets*).

## Multidimensionalism

Looking carefully at the word "harness" in the above-quoted portion of Gordon's article, you will find something. "Harness" is a restraining device to be worn on a horse in the

first place. This word choice implies a master-slave relationship between humans and AI. In this sense, Gordon is situated within the realm of anthropocentrism. Humans and AI will move away from such a hierarchical-ordered dichotomy in the future. Let us call this departure from a certain center “multidimensionalism.” Multidimensionalism, by definition, is not centered on one particular dimension from which the world is viewed, but rather “a thought that you exist in several dimensions” (multidimensional is different from multiculturalism in the 1990s because it refers to dimensions rather than culture). A more concrete example for humans is the Internet. Even when a person is having a power napping offline, people can get to know the person through the data the person posted online. The person is offline and online simultaneously. Existence or reality is not only getting hungry, bleeding, or dead. Existence or reality will become even more polysemic and complex in the future. Currently, the general reality is described as a three-dimensional space. However, in multidimensional, other dimensions (extra dimensions) are also included. Cosmology, quantum mechanics, and sometimes science fiction are also referenced. In some cases, the laws of physics must be ignored. Although it is called as a principle, multidimensionalism has no center because it is multi-dimensional. Nature has no center. In this sense, Multidimensionalism is also nature.

### **Multidimensional Nature**

Gordon's fears come true. The subject is nature. Humans will not be able to control it. What is fear in the first place? You can learn something from camping alone. The fear you feel in the middle of nowhere at midnight comes from separating yourself from nature. You can stop doing that. Nature is not something you should control or something that you can control. Humans are also nature, to begin with. You can be nature, too. In this way, humans and AI become part of nature. Hopes and fears are not objectified externally, but humans and AI will live within them. And that nature is multidimensional. The now suggestive *Flatland* written by A Square in 1884 is set in a two-dimensional world. The protagonist, A. Square, encounters a three-dimensional world at one point, but he does not understand what it is. Something similar to this is already happening in the multidimensional nature; in a post-AGI world where weak AI becomes strong AI, some humans will live in multidimensional nature. And just as goggles help us see underwater, or language learning helps us communicate while traveling, we will need some power to live in this multidimensional nature.

### **AI and Art**

Here's a quick rundown of the relationship between AI and art. One of the origins of AI is Alan Turing's "Intelligent Machinery" in 1947. Harald Cohen, who created AARON in 1972, one of the early stages of computer-generated art, said, "The real power, the real magic ... rests not in the making of images, but in the conjuring of meaning." [5] In 2018, news "the first AI art in the history of major auctions sold for \$430,000" was reported. The day before the auction, Obvious, who created the work "Edmond de Belamy," apologized on Twitter for using the AI code created by then-19-year-old Robbie Barratt without permission. The copyright issues regarding the images in Obvious's database have also been controversial. In 1974, Gaëtan Picon mentioned Manet in his book *The Birth of Modern Painting*, "From this year, 1863, the history of painting is no longer the history of an imaginary world, but essentially the history of perception." In the same book, Picon quotes Gauguin: "Painting begins with Manet." In the first place, Manet's *Luncheon on the Grass* uses Raimondi and Titian as a "database." In 1863 Samuel Butler wrote in *Darwin among the Machines*: "The upshot is simply a question of time, but that the time will come when the machines will hold the real supremacy over the world and its inhabitants is what no person of a truly philosophic mind can for a moment question." In 2019, Matt Dryhurst and Holly Herndon had "a musically inclined, artificially intelligent baby" by the name of "Spawn". [6] Spawning, meaning "mass production of eggs", is the term for "the act of creating entirely new art with an AI trained on older art." [7] In 2022, the duo founded spawning.ai.

### **Birth of NI**

The term AI will disappear in the near future. The reason is simple: intelligence will no longer be artificial. The best example is "software 2.0." In 2017, Andrej Karpathy pointed out the shift from software 1.0, where humans write algorithms, to software 2.0, where

algorithms write algorithms (in Japan, Yusuke Narita mentions that in *Overcoming the Future* in 2022). [8] These discussions are also deeply connected to *Superintelligence* (2014) by Nick Bostrom, *Homo Deus* (2015) by Yuval Noah Harari, *LIFE 3.0* (2017) by Max Tegmark, and *Novacene* (2019) by James Lovelock, and so on. Intelligence in multidimensional nature might be called not AI but NA (Natural Intelligence). Humans will begin to survive with NI in multidimensional nature. At this point, a hypothesis emerges. Thomas Vauthier's *Metapets*, which is created by digitally painting "glitches" that contain the "artificial unconscious" using an AI Image Generator with the hand of a Surrealist, may represent the birth of NI. This is not an imitation (mimesis) of the nature in front of us, such as fruits or mountains, but a new mimesis of a new nature created by AI. Since the aforementioned DALL-E 2, countless AI-generated images have continued to proliferate on social media, but i have never heard of AI-generated images being redrawn digitally by hand. This "repainting" makes *Metapets* not AI-generated images, but art based on AI-generated images. Nobody knows how *Metapets* will grow from now. Containing many problems, *Metapets* waits its time in MOCAF.

### **Present Form of Museum**

MOCAF (Museum Of Contemporary Art Fukushima) opened on March 11, 2021. It's just 10 years after the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011. MOCAF is located 10km away from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. In 2021, Noi Sawaragi wrote in ARTiT, "But what prompted MOCAF to realize such a peculiar idea to begin with?" And MOCAF may be "a future form of Hojo-an, or tiny hut as a place to flee to escape disasters and ponder/meditate on one's own." [9] The aforementioned "domestic" is taken from his "ART / DOMESTIC 2021". This international exhibition, which began in 2015, was held in an area that is difficult to return to, and therefore inaccessible. However, the first public showing of the work was realized in 2022, when a portion of the area was lifted. What I strongly felt from the artwork "Home Drama" by Meiro Koizumi was extinction. The distorted experience of time and space, as if i was walking in a world after the human race had disappeared, was not science fiction. Art history has never considered extinction before. Although "Home Drama" does not explicitly mention extinction, it does imply it. I have already mentioned in "We Transform into SUPERDEME" [10] that extinction and despair are not synonymous. On March X, 2023, *Metapets* by Thomas Vauthier in a capsule were buried underground at MOCAF. We won't be extinct. MOCAF is not only the future form of the museum but also the present form of the museum.

### **Metapets as the beginning of NI Generated Art**

Using all the above text as a database, I will try to generate a summary text of *Metapets* (the following text is written for the next intelligence so that it will be buried with *Metapets* under the ground of MOCAF). "Natural Intelligence Generated Art begins with Thomas Vauthier. From this year, 2023, the history of art will not be the history of human perception (Human-Generated Art), but the history of NI consciousness (NI-Generated Art). With this new consciousness, the curiosity of humans will reach to multidimensional nature, passing cultural genes to the next intelligence. *Metapets* as NI flew here after the physical tsunami and have been waiting for their moment under the ground at MOCAF during the technological tsunami. Today, the capsule has opened and the embryo, equipped with the summoning magic of meaning, has awakened. So we over different demes and could be SUPERDEME. The name ART AFTER HUMAN is now a thing of the past. It is you who will start a new art."

[1] <https://www.france24.com/en/tv-shows/perspective/20220523-should-we-be-afraid-of-artificial-intelligence>

[2] <https://www.forbes.com/sites/cindygordon/2022/12/30/ai-hopes-and-horrors/?sh=22093c0a7abe>

[3] <https://www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/5535>

[4] <http://www.y-o-d-o-y-a.com/ART-AFTER-HUMAN.html>

[5] <https://outland.art/harold-cohen-aaron/>

[6] <https://amp.smh.com.au/culture/music/the-artist-who-spawned-an-ai-baby-20200115-p53rp9.html>

[7] <https://spawning.ai/About>

[8] <https://karpathy.medium.com/software-2-0-a64152b37c35>

[9] [https://www.art-it.asia/en/top\\_e/contributertop\\_e/217174/](https://www.art-it.asia/en/top_e/contributertop_e/217174/)

[10] <http://www.mocaf.art/art-after-human.html>