

REVIEW

OF THE BOOK “BACH VS. AI OR CAN THE MACHINE CREATE ART” “ BY ASSOCIATE PROF. HRISTO KARAGYOZOV

From Cristo Taneff

The book “Bach vs. AI or Can the Machine Create Art” by Associate Prof. Hristo Karagyzov, Ph.D., leads us through the difficult and enchanting labyrinth of the creative process of the human mind and its technological projection — the AI-generated art.

The book leads us on a challenging journey through the mysterious landscape of the creative process, which “comes from the depths of the mind.”, as the author himself states.

The author explores the nature of our consciousness as a creative womb in which music, painting, and other forms of art are born.

Karagyzov has significant knowledge in the theory of art and was teaching composition at the National academy of music “Prof. Pancho Vladigerov” in Sofia, Bulgaria.

In this book, he draws upon his extensive personal experience and knowledge in these and other related disciplines such as aesthetics and music theory, which he uses to dissect the process and nature of AI-generated “artworks”.

Notably, Karagyzov deliberately and ironically places quotation marks around the word “artworks” when referring to AI creations: In comparison to the creative human mind, even the most elaborate artificial intelligence model appears trivial and cannot legitimately claim to enter the pantheon of true art.

“BACH vs AI” undertakes an intellectually ambitious exploration of one of the most pressing questions of our time: can artificial intelligence replicate, or even rival, human creativity — particularly in the complex and deeply emotional

realm of music. Karagyzov builds upon a skeptical yet open-minded premise: while AI can mimic the surface of the creative process, artistic creativity remains a uniquely human domain, powered by the depth of spirit and mind.

In other words, as the author underlines: “‘calculation capacity’ is different from ‘intellect’.”

By examining key elements of what constitutes artistic thought, emotion, and intention, the author highlights the deeply subjective and culturally specific nature of human art.

He states that the “machine intellect does not see the need of producing art”, since it does not comply to the necessary pre-conditions for producing a “creative impulse”.

His choice of Johann Sebastian Bach as a symbol is deliberate: Bach’s music exemplifies a perfect synthesis of mathematical laws and deep spiritual inspiration, making him an ideal reference point for putting side by side algorithmic models and the phenomenon of human genius.

The second part of the book delves into the theory of art, where many picture are used to illustrate various artworks. The third section delves into the specificities of the music of Joseph Sebastian Bach.

The book is written in a sharp, intellectually rigorous style, employing rich rhetorical devices such as irony, metaphor, and carefully constructed analogies. Throughout, Karagyzov balances philosophical depth of analysis with a subtle, often ironic sense of humor that both engages and provokes the reader.

It is remarkable that the author introduces new thought-provoking concepts in the theory of art, such as “construct”, “diamond effect”, “limiting factors”, and “assumptions”.

The book also presents interesting examples of AI generated music works, visual art, and texts. There are many interesting illustrations.

The book’s strength lies in its multidisciplinary scope, referencing not only music and visual art, but also science fiction, psychology, and even military

applications of AI.

Though skeptical of AI's ability to produce truly meaningful art, Karagyzov does not dismiss the role of technology altogether. Instead, he advocates for a clearer understanding of the boundaries and capacities of machine intelligence, especially in the context of the deeply emotional human nature and its quest for self-knowing through art.

The book is a thoughtful meditation on what makes us human — and why that still matters in a world increasingly shaped by algorithms and other technologies. “BACH vs AI” is an essential reading for anyone interested in the intersection of art and technology. It challenges both technophiles and traditionalists to think deeply about creativity, our inner dimensions, and the experience of art.

Bio of Cristo Taneff, PhD

The reviewer is a researcher in Natural Language Processing at the Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy. Is working on knowledge acquisition from texts, text classification, and related topics. His current research interests are in the area of socio political event detection, geocoding, information extraction, lexical learning and terminology extraction, text classification, and deep learning.

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