Title: Science and Art in Symbiosis: The Relationship of Algorithms and Aesthetics in the Field of Art History
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Art and science have a symbiotic relationship. Art expresses aesthetic emotions to portray our world, but science invents realistic solutions to evolve our world. The application of artificial intelligence is increasingly blurring the boundaries between art and science. The Stack: On Software and Sovereignty, by Benjamin Bratton, explores the Stack, a model of planetary-scale computation suggesting the overlap of aesthetic perfection and scientific realism. The Stack raises the possibility of the machine learning to discriminate between different artistic styles by using visual features that are not interpretable by humans. The Stack is capable of meeting the cognitive criteria of both human and nonhuman computer users. An example of a nonhuman user would be an AI user with "an artificial human personality" (Bratton 277). Such a personality enables new platforms of artificial aesthetic cognition. The Stack opens an infinite potential for applying computer science to reshape humanity's understanding of art history and so the history of humanity. The gap between science and humanity involves the distinction between algorithmical and analogical approaches to reality. The human emotions artworks solicit signal the approach of reality. Graham Harman's The Third Table suggests that art serves as "the attempt to establish objects deeper than the features through which they are announced, or allude to objects that cannot quite be made present" (14). Drawing from Harman's argument, art is the only area where we approach reality, but, with the Stack, computers that do art history will accompany us all the way to the real.

Works Cited

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