

Sheeny shadow narratives Algorithms in the age of art

Verbal narrative: Bob Kastner
Visual narrative: Donna Sy
Reading time: 7 min.

Storyline

Quantum computers are on the doorstep and artificial intelligence has already entered our living rooms. Human creativity is being challenged by unlimited computing power and intelligent code. Intuitive robots are starting to act in tandem with scientists and artists alike. Soon, “Super sapiens” could replace both. Contemporary art and big science are being called into question.

Research breakthroughs in quantum technology and artificial intelligence already determine company’s stock values. Reasonable investment volumes and financial funding frameworks are in place. This signals that applications are within sight and the pace of development is increasing rapidly. As yet we have no clue how quantum computers and AI will change us fundamentally.

Revolutionary technologies will soon disrupt markets, shake up societies and shape human creativity. Governments and industry are powerful drivers, offering (i.) security for citizens, (ii.) personalized services and entertainment for users and (iii.) global communication at our fingertips. But convenient services come at a price. Individuals pay with a loss of privacy and personal autonomy. Creative codes and unlimited computing power could replace human cognitive capacities. Contemporary art and big science are being called into question.

The consequences of disruptive technologies and the “quantum race” are not inevitable. We are experimenting with visual and verbal languages. Playfully, untamed human creativity clashes with twin dystopias: totalitarian surveillance and “Super sapiens” machines.

The audience

Debates on quantum technology started quite recently and the SciArt approach is fairly new. “Surveillance” and “super-intelligence” are covered in publications. The book further motivates an engagement of scientists and artists to support a broader public discussion. Readers will discover:

- Quantum computing (QC) complemented by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its revolutionary impact on science, art and society.
- A technology race driven by corporate business and government intelligence.
- Threats of total surveillance and the challenges of “Super sapiens”.
- Science and art experiments and their co-creation to support a public debate.

Chapter summary

The book delivers state of the art information on technologies in understandable language and new formats. It presents social relations with human privacy and creativity at stake. The publication is focused on artists and scientists – on a participatory SciArt approach – to envision scientific and artistic experiments ahead.

- 0.0 Clouds and storylines; describes the cyclic book structure. Relevant quotes put the argumentation into context. “Cues” are introduced as verbal and visual formats to express the counterintuitive quantum logic.
- 0.1 Technologies; provides the access to core elements of revolutionary applications and most relevant impacts on art, science and societies.
- 0.2 Drivers and trappers; presents government intelligence and corporate business as the driving forces of the “Quantum race”
- 3.0 Art & Science; shows the deficiencies of contemporary art and big science to adequately answer the challenges of upcoming new technologies.
- 4.0 Quantum Alphabet; hacks verbal and visual metaphors, artistic languages to express new realities and to inspire a public debate.
- 5.0 Call to participation; motivates scientists and artists to enter into a SciArt co-creation approach to critically move quantum technology and AI into a revolutionary new mainstream.

The author

Bob Kastner has a background in biology and the science of science. A senior consultant in communication, he works for governments, corporate business, the World Bank and the EU Commission. He is founder and manager of Candeed Cue, a Vienna, Austria based company specializing in art & technology communication. Candeed Cue accompanies this publication as a co-creation and coaching platform.