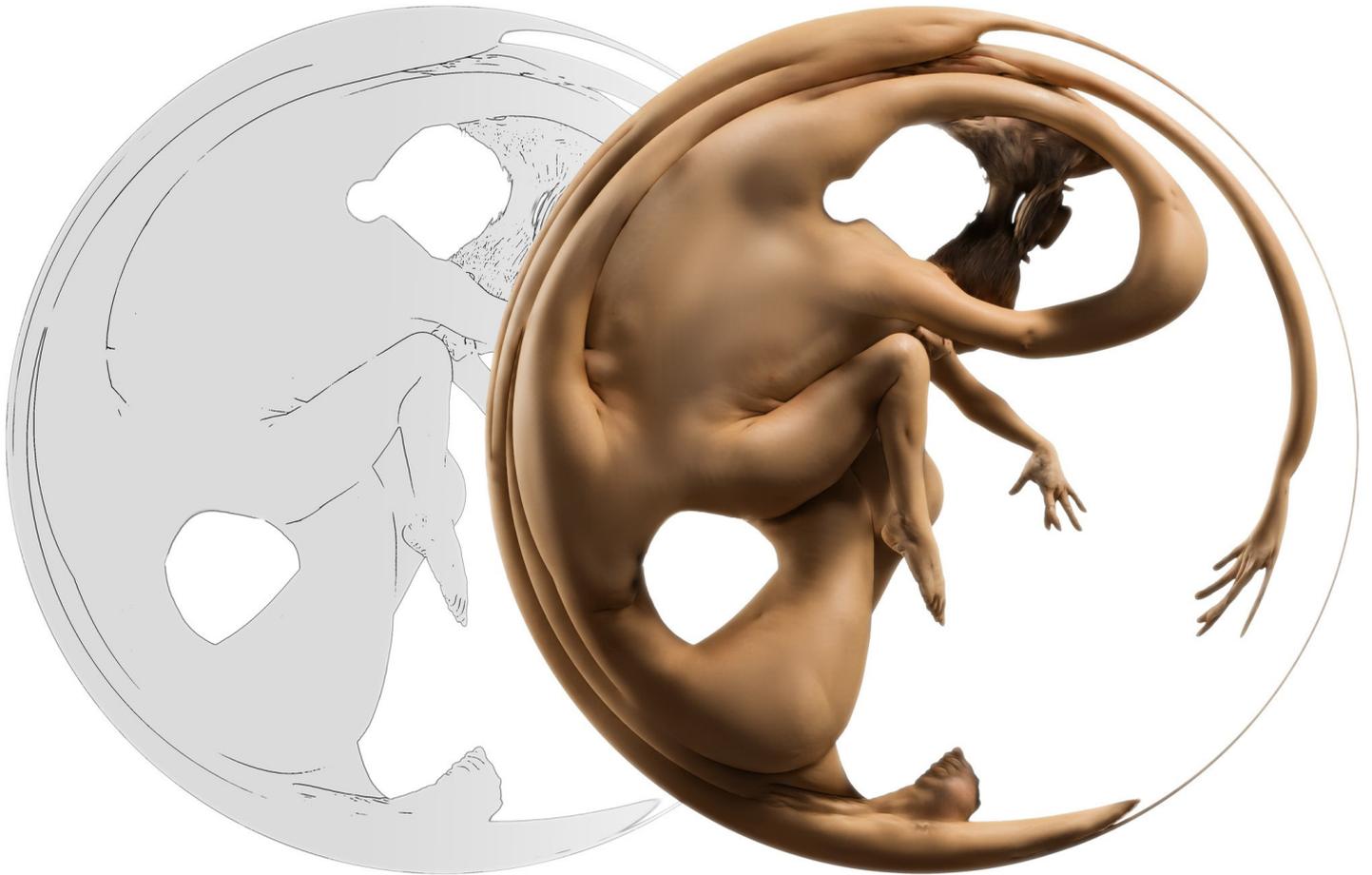


Scott Eaton

Artist+AI: Figures & Form in the Age of Intelligent Machines



Hyperbolic Composition I

Exhibition Dates: 18 June - 23 June, 2019

Private View: Tuesday 18 June, 7 - 10pm

The convergence of the human hand and the latest Artificial Intelligence technology is explored in Scott Eaton's debut exhibition, *Artist+AI: Figures & Form in the Age of Intelligent Machines*, which opens at Somerset House, London, on June 18, 2019.

The exhibition combines the latest in generative artificial intelligence (AI) with the centuries old practices of drawing and sculpture. All of the featured works are a result of a dynamic interaction between Scott's traditionally-trained hand and the AI tools he has 'taught' to work as his assistants. In doing so, Eaton, an interdisciplinary artist with a background in anatomy, sculpture and engineering, underscores the impact AI is set to have on art-making and in particular how it will change our perception and understanding of the human form.

He observes: *'For as long as humans have made art, the figure has been a primary focus of creative exploration. In each age new tools, techniques and styles influence how the figure is portrayed. Often the tools remain the same - pencil, charcoal, paint, clay - but the style changes - impressionism, cubism, surrealism, abstract expressionism. At certain times, however, there are seismic advances in technology that create entirely new possibilities for representation - photography, moving image, animation ... and now AI.'*

Eaton creates and trains AI to translate his drawings and animation into photographic, figurative representations as well as abstracted sculptural forms. His interest in this emerging field of AI is not in creating agents that 'create art' autonomously, but rather in making art 'assistants', AI collaborators that take direction and enhance the creative possibilities available to the human artist.

Eaton adds: *'In the teaching process, AI learns its 'craft' by continually comparing different visual representations – in this instance line drawings and photographs. After millions and millions of views, it gradually begins to understand how to transform a drawing into something photographic, and eventually it learns to faithfully produce figures. At this point it becomes a capable collaborator in the creative process.'*

Figures & Form in the Age of the Intelligent Machines is composed of three parts: first, animation showing timelapses of drawings and sculpture emerging from the AI cauldron; second, a series of drawings and prints of the collaborative compositions; and third, a selection of sculptures realised in the round by artist + AI.

The magic of the process is revealed, Eaton says, when you guide the AI to create something unlike anything it has seen before: *'The AI has no choice but to do what I ask, no matter how difficult or unreasonable my request. The result is often a wondrous, unexpected, interplay of visual ideas, both mine and the machine's.'*

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Notes to Editors:

About the artist:

Scott Eaton (b. 1973, Washington) is an American artist, designer, and photographer. His work explores the representation of the human figure through various mediums – drawing, sculpture, photography, and generative AI. Eaton received his masters degree from the MIT Media Lab and subsequently studied academic drawing and sculpture in Florence, Italy.

Eaton is one of the pioneering artists in the field of digital sculpture and his work combines a deep understanding of human anatomy and traditional sculpture techniques with the power of modern digital tools. Eaton worked for many years as an animator - his clients include Pixar, Disney, Sony, Microsoft, Warner Bros. In recent years he has focused on creative technology, anatomy, and art, collaborating on project with artists and institutions including Jeff Koons, Mark Wallinger, Elton John, the Royal Academy, the BBC, and the London Science Museum. Eaton lives and works in London.

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Opening Hours: 10-6pm