

Royal Photographic Society members want more to be done to protect the copyright of photographers and their work

- 'Photography and Artificial Intelligence', RPS House, Bristol - 9th and 10th October -

13th September, Bristol: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in photography represents an opportunity to be excited about but it comes with risks to photographer's rights, that's according to a new survey issued by the Royal Photographic Society. The rapid rise of generative AI has raised concerns amongst RPS members about the way AI algorithms are trained, specifically when using other creators' images without permission or payment; over 85% of those polled feel any unfair use of imagery needs to be regulated to protect the copywriter of the photographer and their work.

The Royal Photographic Society, which has been the world-leading authority on photography for over 170 years, has seen a lot of technological innovation so was keen to gather views on AI from members of its diverse and global photographic community, Before their upcoming AI and Photography Conference on 9th and 10th Oct. The aim of the two-day event is to open up the discussion on AI within the industry.

Dan Jones, CEO of the RPS comments: "As AI continues to evolve in the world of photography, the concerns of our members demonstrate the pressing need for all of us to strike a balance between embracing technological progress, safeguarding the work of creators and maintaining the integrity of visual storytelling in this digital era, all subjects we will be covering in the Conference."

The RPS conference 'Photography and Artificial Intelligence' brings together leading international voices from across the profession including the Association of Photographers and NUJ, the law, academics, and photographers and artists. Through their papers they will be discussing the application of AI to photography, rights and the law, history, and how AI is being used by photographers. The conference takes place live in Bristol and online on 9-10 October 2023. The programme and registration is [available here](#).



Survey Results:

The RPS survey asked the follow questions of its membership with 423 responses

1. Do we need traditional photography if images created by AI are better and quicker to create than photographs taken by people?
Yes: 95% / No: 2% / Maybe: 3%
2. Do you consider AI created images to be real photography?
Yes: 3% / No: 81% / Maybe: 16%
3. Is it fair for AI algorithms to be trained using images without permission or payment for the original creator?
Yes: 4% / No: 85% / Maybe:10%
4. Could AI imagery lead to a rise in fake news and lying?
Yes: 95% / No: 0% / 5%
5. Which of the following best describes your view of AI for photography (up to two responses)?
Cautious: 40% / An opportunity: 24% / Dangerous: 19% / Fearful: 12% / Excited:5%

Media contact:

For press inquiries, interviews, or additional information, please contact:

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About The Royal Photographic Society:

The Royal Photographic Society (The RPS) is an educational charity with an international membership. Founded in 1853, when photography was in its infancy, the objective of The RPS is to make the art and science of photography more widely available and is committed to bringing photography to everyone. Today, The RPS is a world-leading photographic community, made up of accomplished artists, dedicated academics, hobbyists, and seasoned professionals. The RPS aims to inspire people through its innovative exhibitions, its award-winning RPS Journal, and its highly respected awards and events. The RPS helps photographers create images through its educational programmes, qualifications, and its public initiatives; and it seeks to connect photographers through its UK and international community groups. Membership is open to everyone. The RPS Gallery is situated in the photography hub at Paintworks, Bristol, UK.



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