Exploring the Side Effects of AI on Creativity & Labor:
The pros, the cons, and the issues we never think about.

This roundtable discussion goal was to explore the downstream effects of AI on the everyday lives of artists and technicians in the creative sectors. How does AI affect the track to becoming a master of its craft? What is the new entry-level position? How does this affect healthcare, pension, and retirement? What are the up-skilling and re-skilling opportunities? How do we reincorporate the creative sector? What are the emotional side effects of economizing, streamlining, and personnel contraction due to AI?

How can we integrate AI with the least negative impact while not stifling the positive impact within our creative communities?

Discussion Process:
Our roundtable played the game "Flip the Fact." This exercise is designed to help participants stretch their minds and explore nonobvious futures. The goal is to examine the reverse of what we consider "factual." Here's how it works:

1. Pick a topic related to AI and the creative sector
2. List the facts about what is generally true about that topic
3. "Flip" the facts.
4. Imagine a world where one of these flipped facts is a reality.
5. Ask yourself why that might be the case.

Here are some of the results of this exercise.

Discussion Topic: Entry Level Jobs in a World of Integrated AI
What will be the new entry point for those seeking the creative sectors? Will jobs be created or lost in this technical evolution?

We imagined a world where AI could create opportunities for artists and labor, as opposed to one where entry-level jobs are eliminated.

We discussed the idea that society can create more jobs for those with diverse backgrounds by creating programs to help edge cases develop skills so that they thrive in this new territory. If a person possesses cutting-edge technology skills, their employment won't be based on their diversity or background but on their job set and work ethic. When we value the outliers of these crafts because of the contraction of entry-level positions, we give power and voice to those who are underprivileged.

Rather than focusing on the negative aspects of eliminating entry-level jobs, we can focus on how it can help marginalized groups enter the workforce by giving them the skills and placement for success.

Discussion Topic: Separation of Artists and Developers
Should there be more or less separation and space between artists or craftsmen with machine learning experts and developers? Where is the line drawn between those who create and those who use? Should those who feel impact be part of the development process?

We imagined a world with less separation and more collaboration between these two sectors.

Some participants would like more collaboration between the artists and machine learning researchers, while others have developed an extreme skepticism of that relationship. Machine learning researchers want artists to weigh in on the impact that their products create, while artists feel that this input will increase the momentum to destroy the arts.

We discussed the idea that Big Tech will forever be at an advantage with many privileges. Developers have always had an advantage in terms of resources, venture capital funding, money, and the power to persuade lawmakers. These privileges hold great power in the economic and political arenas.

On the other hand, artists face issues similar to those of labor and the working class. Art is not valued at the same level as Big Tech. The resources needed to create art are generally underfunded and under-appreciated compared to their counterparts. We discussed this power imbalance, concluding that when one side has power and privilege over the other, a long-term collaboration will prove to be difficult.

Conclusions,
When we analyze AI's effects on labor, we begin to understand the complexity of this technical evolution. With each negative impact we generate, we need to look at a positive aspect of its implementation. When one door closes, another opens. We believe that a power imbalance exists. How do we create more harmony?

We may not have the answers to these existential questions, but our group has a new method for thinking and dreaming about alternative perspectives and outcomes.