

Sorry AI, you cannot take my job

AI bots may be writing music, stories, and jokes, but are they creating art or simply replicating information?

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In a quiet weekday afternoon, I decided to take a break from my desk and listen to a song. Not on YouTube, Spotify, or Alexa, but ChatGPT. I hear it can do “everything” so, why not? ‘Hey ChatGPT, please sing me a song’, I asked. A few verses of an ‘uplifting and catchy’ song quickly appeared on screen and I was asked to ‘imagine it with a gentle acoustic guitar rhythm’. Not quite what I had in mind.

Well, not music, but it could definitely make me some food. ‘Hey, ChatGPT, please make me some ramen’, and quicker than two-minute noodles came a recipe. I insisted; ‘Make it for me’. ‘I wish I could... but until teleporting ramen becomes a thing, here are more suggestions...’ came the reply.

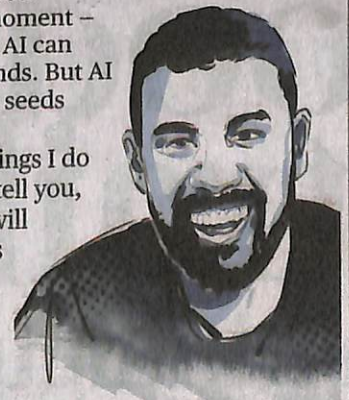
Nevermind, ChatGPT. You can create resumes and cook up stories, but there are things you will never be able to do. Experts across the field of fashion, art, writing, design, and more, tell us why.

Gresham Fernandes,
chef-partner, *Bandra Born*

As someone who’s obsessed with the rawness of art – whether it’s the hand that draws a line or the mind that layers a beat – I find myself caught in this odd, uncomfortable in-between.

In a kitchen, it’s not just about flavour combinations or plating techniques. It’s about the instinct to add a squeeze of lime because your grandmother used to. It’s the hesitation before you plate, the tiny adjustments you make after tasting something for the 100th time. It’s the way a smell can stop you mid-step and pull you into a childhood moment – and how that moment becomes a recipe. AI can suggest ingredients, and it can follow trends. But AI doesn’t know why you reach for mustard seeds instead of cumin on that particular day.

I draw. I DJ. I cook. These aren’t just things I do – they’re how I see the world. And I can tell you, with full certainty, that the one thing AI will never replicate is intent. That quiet chaos behind every brushstroke, or the energy of a live set that shifts with the crowd, or the way a dish evolves from a memory into a plate – that’s deeply human. AI can mimic the output. It can even make you feel things. But it cannot feel.



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Sanjay Garg,
designer

AI cannot create the basic realities, and necessities of our existence. It cannot eat, drink, have sex... cuddle, or cry or feel. It can only do things based on what's human: imitating. But human evolution is a living phenomenon, an ongoing and growing process.

Though AI may be a part of the future, it can't predict the future. Nor can it be the only future. It's funny, from Early Man and the Stone Age to the age of AI, the basic things have to be done (and can only be done) by humans.

For me, in my field, it's amazing. The more high-tech the world goes, the more special my work is considered to be. Hand-drawn, handcrafted, drawing on centuries of human knowledge passed down. My value is up because I am not an AI.

India is a land of stories, and oral storytelling is a major part of our culture. It doesn't come from one source. It's not so evenly distributed and it's difficult to organise it so neatly, but it is still sustained. There are thousands of practices, religions, income groups and age groups, languages, skill sets, customs, tribes and cultures and experiences: all of these inform what we know, and this plurality lends itself to our individuality.

So much of this is undocumented, that even to record all of it, it will take a long time. This is what's nice about India. Its strength and its weakness, this undocumented, chaotic repository of knowledge. That's exactly what AI can't know, it can only draw from what is documented and online. There's emotion, unique self expression and connection. Our idea of what's luxury and what's exclusive? That's something that only the human hand can do.

