

Fellowship

Fellowship announces forthcoming release of acclaimed artist Laurie Simmons' first AI-generated photography project



Laurie Simmons, In and Around The House II #25, 2022. © Laurie Simmons

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Fellowship - a Web3 photography organization that works with prominent photographers to release their work as NFTs, is pleased to announce the forthcoming body of work titled ***In and Around the House II*** by acclaimed photographic artist **Laurie Simmons**. This body of work represents Simmons' first foray into **AI-generated photography**, and is a continuation of the artist's decades-long legacy of using plastic dolls and miniatures as subject matter to critique media stereotypes through a feminist lens.

Debuting in February, this 30-piece selection of work was curated by widely renowned AI artist, pioneer, and thought-leader **Claire Silver**, who states that “Curating this collection was a great joy, and it was a privilege to spend so much time selecting pieces that manifest as such natural continuations of [Laurie’s] legacy”

In and Around the House II is a body of work that uses the AI-image generator DALL-E to produce photographic images of dolls in various domestic and narrative scenes, which mimic the miniature tableaus that Simmons has been globally recognized for over her long and storied career. Like Simmons’ subject matter itself, these new works represent forms of imitation and AI-tools begin to disrupt photography’s traditional lineage in favor of what writer and theorist Fred Ritchin refers to as “Synthetic Images.” With ever-deepening layers of artifice, *In and Around the House* pushes photography into new conversations regarding stereotypes, gender roles, and the mechanisms of image making at the foundation of these issues.

Laurie Simmons on her adoption of DALL-E as an image making tool:

“I feel as deep a connection to language as I do to images, though they’ve always lived in separate compartments of my brain. Writing sentences that convert to pictures feels oddly like a dream come true. I have no recollection of having had that dream but the process feels like it was born from an unconscious wish. It interests me that some people are frightened by AI picture making technologies and think it will be the end of art and create a generation of lazy artists. New technologies frighten people. We know that Plato reported Socrates’ condemnation of the rise of writing. In this narrative Socrates insists that writing “will introduce forgetfulness into the soul of those who learn it”. For me the fear and resistance to AI image generators makes the text to image process more appealing.”

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