Parallels between painting and doing (math) research

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Are you an artist?

• People cannot find purpose in what you do
• You try to be original
• You sign your work
• You have a notion of « beauty »
• You « produce », and there is a process:
Practicing through exercises, and « académie » (nudes)
Originality: not repeating yourself

Avoid being the international expert of your master thesis
Material conditions
Truth and beauty: a matter of perception

Kernels

Neural networks
Publish or perish
« Vernissage » and galley proofs

Tips for Handling Galley Proofs

- Make only critical changes (e.g., author name/data correction)
- Update any "in-press" citations
- Proofread for language and grammar errors
- Avoid moving blocks of text or making extensive content-related revision(s)
- Do not miss the deadline
- Refrain from submitting without co-authors' approval

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« Salons » and ML conferences
Publication strategies

Da Vinci
< 20 paintings

Vermeer
36 paintings

Picasso
13,5k paintings
Publication strategies

Evariste Galois
6 articles

John Von Neumann
150 articles

Yoshua Bengio
1033 articles
DIY: co-signing and mass production

Rubens did over 1500 paintings with various categories:

1. Done himself alone
   “another artist’s work was by no means seen as an individual contribution to his paintings. To the contrary, the only goal was to create stylistic conformity, namely in the style of the master himself”

2. Done partly himself

3. Retouched (Co-signed)

“Your Excellency has taken only the originals, with which I am perfectly satisfied. Yet Your Excellency must not think that the others are mere copies, for they are so well retouched by my hand that they are hardly to be distinguished from originals. Nevertheless, they are rated at a much lower price” (Rubens)

From Patricia Schmiedlechner, A Study on the Creative Process and Studio Practice, Modi Operandi in Rubens’s Workshop
Copycats: « inspiration » from old masters

« Nothing grows well in the shade of a big tree » Constantin Brancusi
Citations Soulages

https://www.arte.tv/fr/videos/073080-000-A/pierre-soulages/

Soulages, différence entre l'artiste et l'artisan "L'artisan sait très bien ce qu'il va faire, et comment y arriver, et bien moi c'est le contraire. Je ne sais pas ce que je vais faire, je sais vaguement comment je vais y arriver parce que je connais des tas de possibilités, mais je ne sais pas vraiment lesquelles je vais employer."

Soulages "ce que je fais m'apprend ce que je cherche" réaction de David Quéré, commentaire sur la recherche incrémentale qui ne prend pas de risque "quelque chose peut sortir de la démarche même, ce qui compte c'est le chemin"