

Distant Reading Textual AI Art Prompts

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AI Art Today

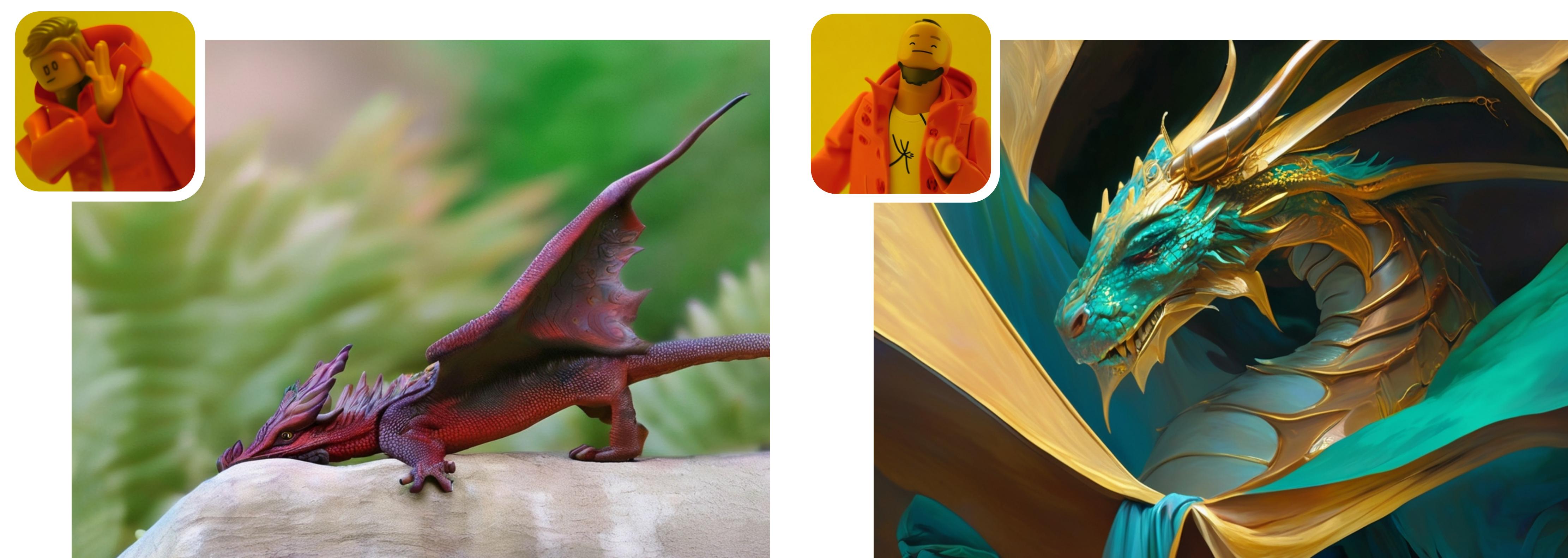
The last few years have seen a Cambrian explosion of high quality neural image generation systems trained on billions of images from the web. They share the novel idea of allowing users to enter textual prompts to inform the generation process according to their desired visual output. While early tools required a lot of technical expertise and the use of dedicated hardware, online services such as DALL-E, Midjourney, and Adobe Firefly have brought this cutting-edge technology to everyone, opening up new creative possibilities and allowing all kinds of people to express themselves artistically with unparalleled visual quality.

Textual AI Art Prompts

As with every new power there is a learning curve attached to controlling and mastering it. Short and simple textual descriptions of the images as input (i.e. "prompts") to the systems will often not yield the desired result. By expanding and refining their prompts, users direct the somewhat "collaborative" artistic process towards a desired outcome while still containing exploratory and serendipitous elements. Text additions or alterations that prove to be effective are likely to be re-used for the next prompt and even shared in the community. Adding "trending on artstation" to your prompt can vastly improve image quality since that description can be found in the web-acquired training data of the models next to distinguished, community-voted qualitative artworks. This phrase is not an intuitive addition to a prompt, but something learned by imitating others.

By collecting a large sample of the prompts entered into online generation systems, it is possible to gain insights into how users interact with this novel technology. In the prompts they share their interests, imagination, their perception of art, clues to popular art history knowledge and much more, hidden in sometimes very cryptical, repetitive, and boilerplate-ridden text. The prompts are by no means "natural language" in the way we are used to dealing with it in the DH. This is what makes analyzing this domain so challenging and rewarding. A new cultural practice can be studied while it is emerging!

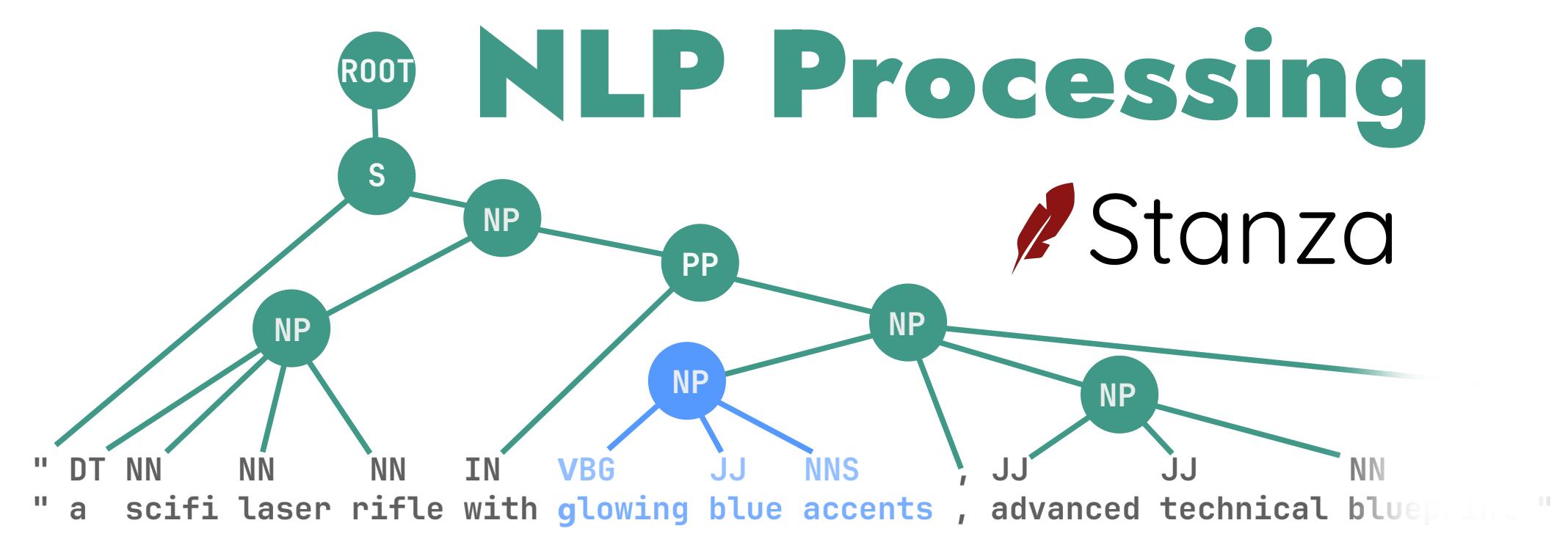
This poster presents
work in progress.
Learn more and get
updates over at:
<https://aiprompts.art>



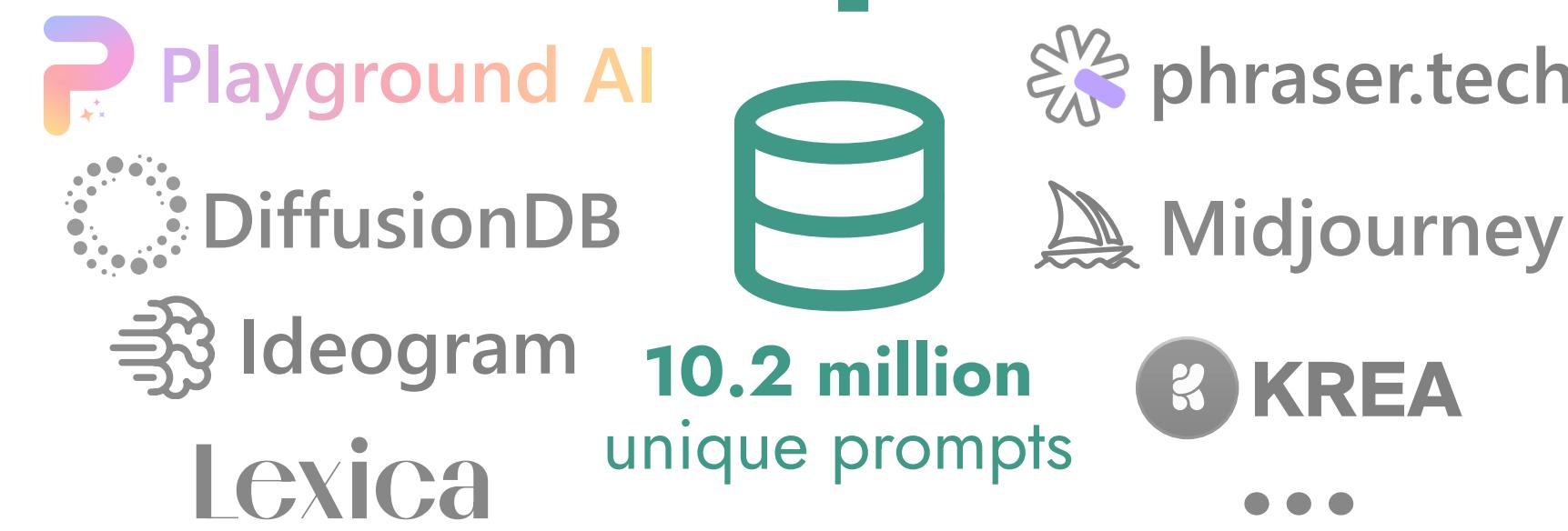
A dragon



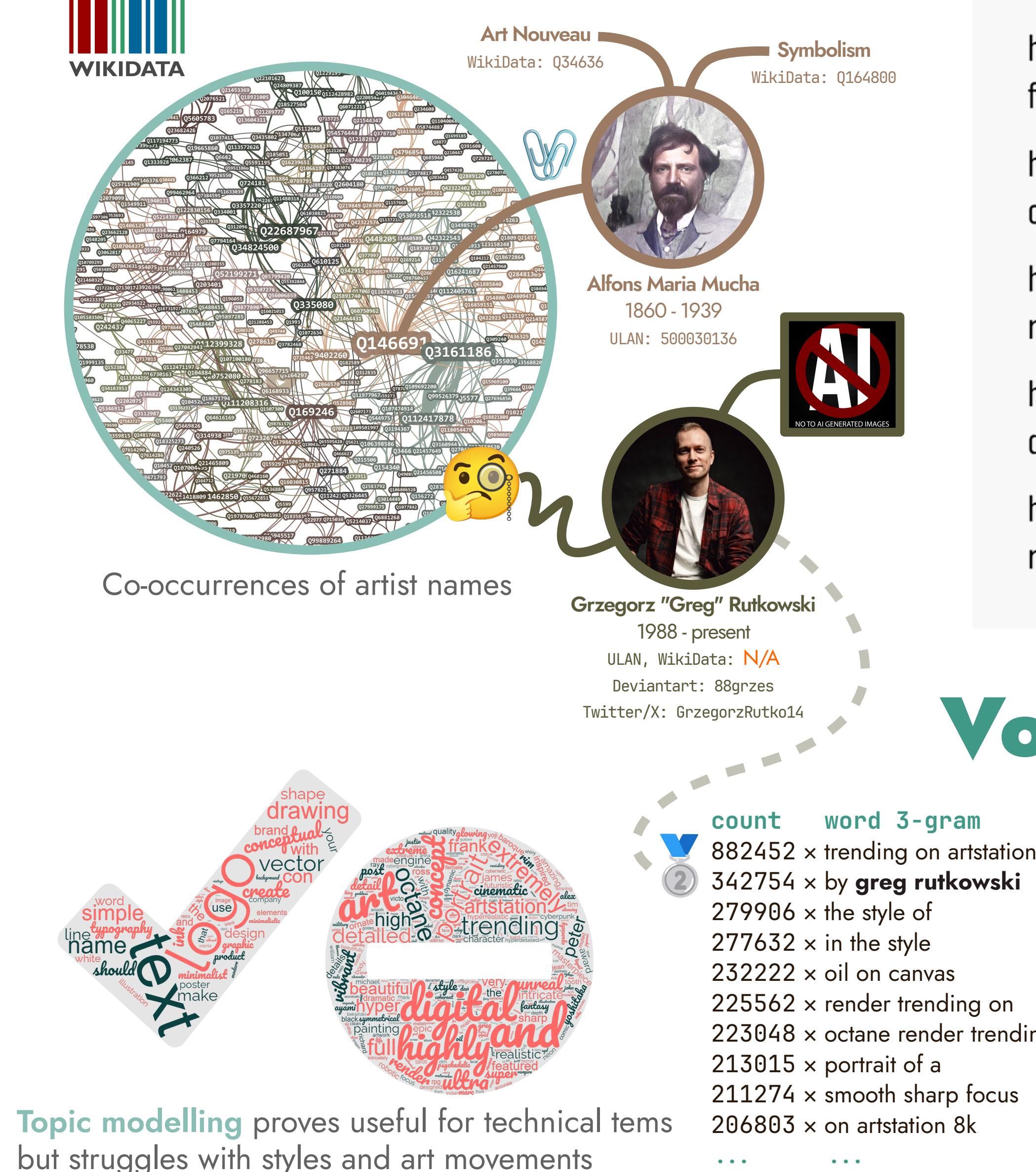
A dragon, cover artwork, dynamic composition, dramatic lighting, trending on artstation, award winning art, stylized painting by sophie anderson, leonardo da vinci and raphael, concept art, 4k, 8k, gold and teal color scheme



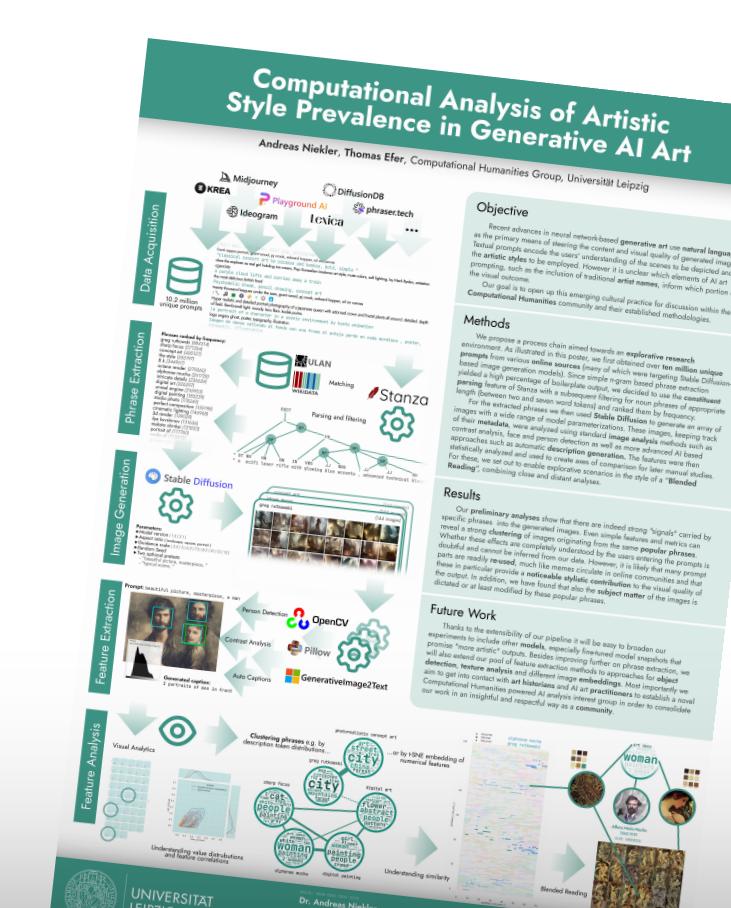
Data Acquisition



CITYULAN Entity Linking



Visual Analysis



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dreamy room full of renaissance furniture, cinematic lighting
highly detailed photo of an humanoid android walking in
renaissance furniture, cinematic lighting, intricate, 4k resolu

- Multi-perspective:
 - n-gram-statistics
 - phrase extraction
 - word co-occurrence
 - topic models
 - word embeddings
 - close reading

Scenic emojis such as "Sunrise" are among the most frequent ones:



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Quo Vadis DH

Computational Humanities

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