

Third Space's Statement on Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence)

August 2026

To our membership, community, and creative neighbours,

In light of the recent technological developments with Artificial Intelligence (AI), we believe it is important to make ourselves clear in a time of unregulated and evolving software which directly impacts our creative community and the arts & culture sector at large. This statement reflects on the topic of Generative AI, which encompasses, but is not limited to: Image, text, audio, video, and software code generation, amongst other things. The act of content generation is what separates generative AI models with other types of AI, which has become the most detrimental to our creative sector currently.

Third Space's mandate reflects our standards as an organization, with the goal of prioritizing the needs and ambitions of artists above all else. Three principles represent our sentiments as an organization on the topic of generative AI: The labour of art, compensation for artists, and fair legal treatment of artists.

Art in itself is a form of labour, much like every other field, as it requires process, time, and mental and physical effort to create. Removing the process from art-making through the usage of generative digital tools robs an artist of the effort, patience, and passion necessary to create their body of work.

Remuneration for an artist's labour is of equal importance to their practice and professional experience. Third Space Gallery prides itself on abiding by industry standards when compensating artists, aiming for livable wages and fair compensation for creative labour whenever possible. When generative AI is used to create content, there are copyrights, intellectual property rights, and royalties unaccounted for and infringed upon due to the unregulated datasets on which these models train and generate media.

Fair legal treatment of artists is a prevalent subject in our current political landscape. With recent progress made through The Status of the Artist and its royal ascent in New Brunswick in 2025, it is important that we recognize the rights and protections artists are owed as contributing members of our society. Unregulated datasets model themselves after content accessible on the Internet, regardless of parameters or limitations imposed by its coder, nor the person typing prompts for the AI software to generate. As such, there is no explicit consent being provided to use creative material to generate "new" media. There lacks clarity in copyright ownership of the works from which it was taken without the artist's permission, meaning there are no proper protocols in place to protect the original creators of the training materials.

These principles guide our values and mission to support artists in every way we can, we ask that those who choose to use AI-generated media reflect on their decision and ask themselves if

it is necessary to their practice, creative process, application writing, and other contributions when engaging with Third Space.

While we understand some may opt for AI methods to improve accessibility, we would like to reiterate that Third Space offers accessible application support and transparent processes so that our programming and resources remain as clear and human[e] as possible. Application assistance is available during calls for proposals, submissions, artists, employments, and other opportunities. For anyone who faces disability-related barriers to completing an online application and/or Indigenous applicants facing language, geographic, and/or cultural barriers within the online application process, we provide alternative ways to submit. In addition to the online format, Third Space also accepts applications via phone, video, or audio file as needed by the applicant. Applications may be submitted in either official language of your choosing, but may be translated for assessment.

Any art-related applications submitted to Third Space are reviewed by our team and community members, whether it be through staff, the board of directors, past participating artists, juries, or committees. It is our creative community who reads these over, considers ideas, and helps find ways to make these projects happen. Please be considerate that assessments are informed by lived experience and established processes, not algorithms and softwares. Our community is here to support artists above all else. It is important that applicants can reciprocate the same amount of respect and effort that goes into evaluation processes as they do their own work.

As technology advances and the digital landscape changes, we want to make it clear that this sentiment is subject to change to better reflect our values and mission as an organization. We look forward to a more ethical, transparent, and environmentally sustainable world with these tools. We are always eager to learn, support artists, and provide resources to our community, and this statement is one of many efforts to recognize the difficult climate we all navigate together. Should you have any questions or concerns about this statement, or are interested in getting involved with us in any capacity, please reach out, we're always happy to help.

Thank you,
Third Space

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