

Music

Music is a sort of identity. When first meeting someone, a common early question is understanding what music they like. The question allows us to put them into a box of what that music means to us. While mainstream music is typically socially acceptable, the people that find identity in that music are also likely in mainstream internet culture consumption. On the other hand, people who feel outcast by culture, tend to find themselves enjoying media that's also outcast. These groups aren't a new genre themselves, they are just pushing the sound to the extreme. Rock pushed further is metal, there's hyper pop in contrast to pop, and a plethora of rap subgenres that aren't found in mainstream culture.

Identifying with a genre of music comes from the emotional evocation of the music itself. I go through phases connecting to certain genres of music. When I'm excited for the future, I listen to a lot of indie rock. Going to small shows where everyone knows the words and it's high energy. I feel that I go to country when I'm sad, and rap when I'm feeling radical. There's been a shift in the way I've consumed music recently. I think about when I'm queueing music in a car, after I've queued multiple songs, I can't wait for the end of the song because there are so many that I want to listen to. I lose the patience for listening, and it makes me wonder if I'm losing my appreciation for music as well. Systemically bought out and co-opted turning art into a consumer good. This has pushed me to start looking at spotify as a rent seeker, putting themselves in between me and the artist. While I appreciate spotify historically allowing me to find new music, I've started to think more about how it disconnects me from the very new music it helps me find. I think about how an artist wants to be listened to and understood. Historically, music was listened to in order on an album, and the order of songs had significance. A way for the artist to tell their story. Spotify, streaming, and shuffle has completely shifted the way we perceive music.

This feeling has led me to get more into analog music. Listening to a vinyl record, there is no choice but to listen to an album in its entirety in order. This transition isn't perfect though. There are times where I want to listen to a specific song or playlist and I rely on the spotify family plan which allows me to continue doing that. Nonetheless, it made me more conscious about the way I consume music. Leading me to feel disconnected to the music I once loved.

Recently I was really excited because spotify recommended a song that I really connected to. It was silly, fun, and catchy and I was vibing to it. This led me down a rabbit hole trying to find out more about the artist, where I found out it was an AI generated artist and likely an AI generated song. I felt betrayed by the artist but also by Spotify. This started to get me thinking about art in general. Art is perspective, the artist uses their lens of the world and expresses their understanding of the world. AI is equipped with others' lenses, but not its own. Until AI can create, and not regurgitate, AI generated music will just be art theft.

This worsened the rift between me and music I used to enjoy. I am now conscious about listening to music spotify recommended. Is this a real up and coming artist or is it just generated spam. The biggest tragedy to me is that I have lost my avenue for finding new fresh music. I love supporting local artists, there are few things I enjoy more. It is scary that I can't tell the difference between the two. The only thing that gives me solace is that ingenuity and creativity will not come from generated music. AI might be involved in the next big genre to pop out in music but I can certainly say, it will be the human creativity that will make it uniquely stand out.