

Nanopublication – A borrowed codex needs an origin – AI text borrows none

by Arnaud Quercy

The line sits between borrowing and having none: P21 grips the reader-detectable flatness of institutional AI-text as 'fashion at scale,' but its own metaphor presumes a prior codex being imitated – and the source's description of hollowness points instead to no codex at all, a case the framework's vocabulary of emitter/codex does not reach.

CONTEXT

☐ **Thin page** – the source itself is thin (teaser, notice, paywalled preamble). Distinct from truncation: nothing was cut by the pipeline.

WHAT THE SOURCE SAYS ^[1]

A Hyperallergic editor argues that readers can recognize AI-generated writing in museum wall labels, press releases, and artist statements by its hollow, overconfident cadence. She distinguishes individual artists, who turn to these tools under unpaid, time-starved conditions and deserve sympathy, from well-resourced institutions, which have no excuse for substituting generative text for paid writers and bear a moral responsibility to keep original composition at the center of their communication.

WHERE THE LENS GRIPS

P21 (Codex Authenticity) grips the central phenomenon directly: the editor describes a detectable, generic 'voice' – 'that uncanny cadence that's overconfident in style yet hollow in substance' – recognized precisely because it does not come from a singular authorial logic. Her closing line, 'they really have no shame,' and the framing of institutional AI-use as a mass, scaled practice fits P21's own vocabulary almost exactly: 'Fashion is the name we give to borrowed codices at scale.' The detection she reports ('we can tell') reads as the symptom of a wave emitted without a codex behind it.

WHERE IT BREAKS

P21 models counterfeit diffraction as relaying SOMEONE ELSE's wave – a borrowed codex still traces back to an origin, which is what makes borrowing legible as borrowing (fashion imitates identifiable styles at scale). Generative

text does not relay one other emitter's codex; it interpolates statistically across a corpus with no single origin to point to. The editor's own diagnosis supports this: the flatness she names is not 'someone else's voice' showing through but the ABSENCE of any voice – 'overconfident in style yet hollow in substance.' This pushes on P19a too: that proposition treats an inexplicable invariant as OPAQUE but still real (the proto-codex case, P14a) – an artist who cannot fully articulate why. The institutional press release has no such residual intentional layer to be opaque about; there is no artist-emitter whose answer would even be incomplete. The framework has vocabulary for borrowed codices and for opaque ones, but is silent on a codex-less emission – a case its own taxonomy does not anticipate. This slips IF one reads 'borrowed codex' loosely enough to include statistical aggregation as a limit case of borrowing; it holds as a genuine edge if one reads 'borrowing' as requiring an identifiable prior codex, which P21's own fashion analogy presupposes.

PROPOSITIONAL GRID ^[2]

Read this grid. “Not evaluated” does **not** mean the source has nothing to say about that proposition. It means **the reading did not instruct it**. That is not a result, and it counts in no denominator. A silence, by contrast, is a finding: the reading touched the proposition without concluding, or noted its absence itself.

Evaluated

proposition		audit status	relational verdict
P19a	Explicability as Condition	not audited	pressure-against
P21	Codex Authenticity	not audited	evidence-for

Not evaluated (35) – P1, P2, P3, P3a, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, P14a, P14b, P15, P16, P16a, P17, P18, P18a, P19, P20, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P28, P29, P30, P31

Overall verdict: Bounded – taxonomy of the August 2026 pass, predating the move to relational verdicts. Kept as metadata: the gap between the two forms is data, not residue. This reading's judgement is in the grid above.

Reading of 2026-10-21 · model claude-sonnet-5
· source 5,019 chars · 2 attempt(s)

REFERENCES

- [1] Dear Art World, We Can Tell When You're Using AI. Hyperallergic, 2026-10-21. <https://hyperallergic.com/dear-art-world-we-can-tell-when-youre-using-ai/>
- [2] Quercy, A. (2026). The 31 Propositions of Ideamorphism. <https://ideamorphism.org/en/publications/2026/03/the-31-propositions-of-ideamorphism.html>

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	boundary reading
Voice	third person analysis
Epistemic status	bounded grip
Methodology	Boundary-finding lens applied to one source, model claude-sonnet-5, 2 attempt(s), traceability check passed.

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

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