

Thoughts on Artificial Intelligence in Photography

When I recently bought the photo editing program ON1 2022, the bundle included a number of tools with artificial intelligence.

I was almost amazed at what is possible there: At the push of a button, for example, you can completely change the mood of a picture, a sky can be exchanged in various versions, for example in clouds that were not there before, rain, sunrise can be added / changed - to name just a few examples.

In my opinion, these changes to an image with artificial intelligence no longer have anything to do with the idea of an original photograph, as the majority believe was valid at least in analog times.

At that time, the photographer still completely designed a picture, not only in terms of the angle of view of the pictures, but also in the development in the darkroom, in which the possibilities were very limited, at least very similar to reality. Turning a picture into something completely different was hardly possible. It was not possible to change a color only within a part of a picture. Nowadays you don't only create a picture yourself at the push of a button, but at the software engineer's intention in his program created with the artificial intelligence. The design of an image is thus taken out of hand of the photographer and is limited to the selection of the various software products with the options specified there (different in the respective programs).

The American Photographer Steve McCurry became world famous around three decades ago with the picture of a young Afghan girl with piercing green eyes. A few days ago (November 2021) it was reported in the world press that this Afghan woman meanwhile in the 40-ties was granted asylum in Italy. Various current images were found in the various media, one with a slightly greenish eye color, then with a more brownish tone - but all were without pungent green. Coincidence? Incidence of light? Change of color in old age? Change / manipulation of color with a software?

With my statements I do not want to speak badly about the developments in these modern times with all its artificial intelligence - I just point it out and say:.

I won't go along with it and remain with my old fashioned photography - with the concession to create it digitally, however in the traditional way. I still claim to be a creator of a photograph and not ruled by an anonymous artificial program.