



The Ethical Decision Tree

A Practical Worksheet for Ethical AI-Assisted Creation

This worksheet guides artists through a series of ethical checkpoints before publishing or distributing AI-assisted work. Follow each step honestly. If you answer 'No' or feel uncertain at any stage, pause and reassess before moving forward.

1. ORIGIN & INPUTS (Intellectual Property)

Did you use source material (images, text, styles) that you do not own?

Yes No

If YES:

- Do you have permission or proper licensing?
- Is the source material in the public domain?
- Are you relying on imitation of a living artist's style?

Decision:

2. TRANSFORMATION & ORIGINALITY

Have you meaningfully transformed the output beyond the prompt?

Yes No

If NO:

- Are you presenting AI output as fully original work?
- Have you added your own creative direction, editing, or refinement?

Decision:

3. REPRESENTATION & TRUTH

Does this work depict real people, cultures, or sensitive subjects?

Yes No

If YES:

- Is the representation respectful and accurate?
- Could it mislead, harm, or misrepresent?
- Does it appropriate or exploit identity or culture?

Decision:

4. TRANSPARENCY & DISCLOSURE

Will you disclose that this work was AI-assisted?

Yes No

If NO:

- Could this mislead your audience or clients?
- Are there platform or contractual requirements for disclosure?

Decision:

5. PLATFORM & USAGE RIGHTS

Where will this work be published or sold?

Platform(s): _____

- Do the platform's terms allow AI-generated or assisted work?
- Are there restrictions on commercial use?
- Are you granting rights you don't actually own?

Decision:

6. IMPACT & RESPONSIBILITY

Could this work cause harm (misinformation, offense, misuse)?

Yes No

If YES:

- Can the risk be reduced?

- Should you include context, disclaimers, or revisions?

Decision:

FINAL DECISION

After reviewing all checkpoints:

Proceed with Publication

Revise Before Publishing

Do Not Publish

Why:
