

# TALE: Training-free Cross-domain Image Composition via Adaptive Latent Manipulation and Energy-guided Optimization

## Supplementary Materials

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### 1 FULL ALGORITHM

We describe the complete pseudocode of the proposed training-free cross-domain image composition framework (TALE) in Algorithm 3. Note that  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  represents the autoencoder’s encoder and decoder of the employed LDM [3], **PREPROCESS** and **INVERSE** denotes preprocessing pipeline and inversion technique adopted from TF-ICON [2], **DENOISE** indicates each LDM’s inference step, and **NORMALIZE** and **OPTIMIZE** correspond to the Adaptive Latent Normalization (Algorithm 1) and Energy-guided Latent Optimization (Algorithm 2) respectively introduced in Section 4.2 and Section 4.3 in the main paper.

### 2 ADDITIONAL QUALITATIVE RESULTS

We exhibit numerous extra qualitative results of image composition across different domains in Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 for a more thorough comparison. Besides, we show additional ablation study results for component effectiveness in Figure 3 and for T’ selection in Figure 4.

### 3 USER STUDY ELABORATION

Given the primary objective of subjectively evaluating the performance of the proposed TALE framework against existing SOTA and concurrent works, employing a ranking format for user study questions, as adopted in TF-ICON [2], would be redundant. This approach would be cumbersome and time-consuming for users as there are seven baselines to compare with, and some of which may generate visually similar composite results. Therefore, we opted for an either-or format for user study questions, as detailed in Section 5.2 of the main paper. This format offers enhanced user-friendliness while effectively demonstrating user preference for our method compared to alternative approaches.

Users are requested to select better option based on comprehensive criteria:

- **Foreground Content-Style Balance:** The composited image should well-preserve the identity features of given object within the user-specified mask region while its style adapts to that of the background.
- **Background Preservation:** The complement background area outside the mask should remain unchanged.
- **Text Alignment:** The composited image should conform to the given text prompt.
- **Seamless Composition:** The composited image should be visually pleasing and free from any noticeable artifacts, such that it is challenging for users to recognize it was produced by AI or copied and pasted.

Among 310 questions, there are 56 ones for oil painting, 56 ones for cartoon animation, 63 ones for sketching, 84 ones for photorealism from the baseline benchmark, and 51 ones for mixture

### Algorithm 3 Training-free Image Composition - TALE

**Input:** Background and foreground images ( $\mathbf{x}_{bg}, \mathbf{x}_{fg}$ ), object segmentation mask  $\mathbf{M}_{obj}$ , user-specified mask  $\mathbf{M}_u$ , prompt  $\mathbf{P}$ , selective timestep  $T'$ , threshold  $\tau$

**Output:** Composition image  $\mathbf{x}_{res}$

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1:  $\mathbf{x}_{fg}^p, \mathbf{M}_{obj}^z = \text{PREPROCESS}(\mathbf{x}_{fg}, \mathbf{M}_{obj}, \mathbf{M}_u)$ 
2:  $\mathbf{z}_0^{bg}, \mathbf{z}_0^{fg} = \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{x}_{bg}, \mathbf{x}_{fg}^p)$ 
3:  $\mathbf{z}_T^{bg}, \mathbf{z}_T^{fg} = \text{INVERSE}(\mathbf{z}_0^{bg}, \mathbf{z}_0^{fg}, T)$ 
4: for  $t = T$  to 0 do
5:    $\mathbf{z}_{t-1}^{bg}, \mathbf{z}_{t-1}^{fg} = \text{DENOISE}(\mathbf{z}_t^{bg}, \mathbf{z}_t^{fg})$ 
6:   if  $t == T'$  then
7:      $\mathbf{z}_t^{res} = \mathbf{z}_t^{bg} \odot (1 - \mathbf{M}_{obj}^z) + \mathbf{z}_t^{fg} \odot \mathbf{M}_{obj}^z$ 
8:      $\mathbf{z}_{t-1}^{res} = \text{DENOISE}(\mathbf{z}_t^{res})$ 
9:   else if  $T' - \tau \leq t < T'$  then
10:     $\hat{\mathbf{z}}_t^{res} = \text{NORMALIZE}(\mathbf{z}_t^{res})$ 
11:     $\hat{\mathbf{z}}_{t-1}^{res} = \text{OPTIMIZE}(\hat{\mathbf{z}}_t^{res})$ 
12:   end if
13: end for
14:  $\mathbf{x}_{res} = \mathcal{D}(\hat{\mathbf{z}}_0^{res})$ 
15: return  $\mathbf{x}_{res}$ 

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of domains from the extended benchmark. The average preference percentage of TALE over work  $W$  ( $APP_W$ ) is calculated by:

$$APP_W = \frac{1}{N_W} \sum_{i=1}^{N_W} \frac{c_i}{n_i}, \quad (1)$$

where  $N_W$  is the number of questions of which one option is the composited result generated by TALE and the other by work  $W$ ,  $c_i$  is the number of users select TALE’s option for the  $i^{th}$  question, and  $n_i$  is the total number of user responses for that question.

### 4 ADDITIONAL ABLATION STUDIES

#### 4.1 Adaptive Threshold $\lambda_t$

Figure 1 demonstrates the effects of setting different fixed values for  $\lambda_t$ . As stated in the main paper Section 4.2, introducing  $\lambda_t$  helps balance the content-style trade-off within the object region. We can observe that the higher the value for  $\lambda_t$ , the more the color tone of object adapts to the background but the less identifying information is preserved. Empirical findings suggest that progressively increasing the value of  $\lambda_t$  as the composition (denoising) process progresses leads to optimal outcomes across diverse domains. This configuration is motivated by the observation that at later timesteps, a significant portion of the object content information has already

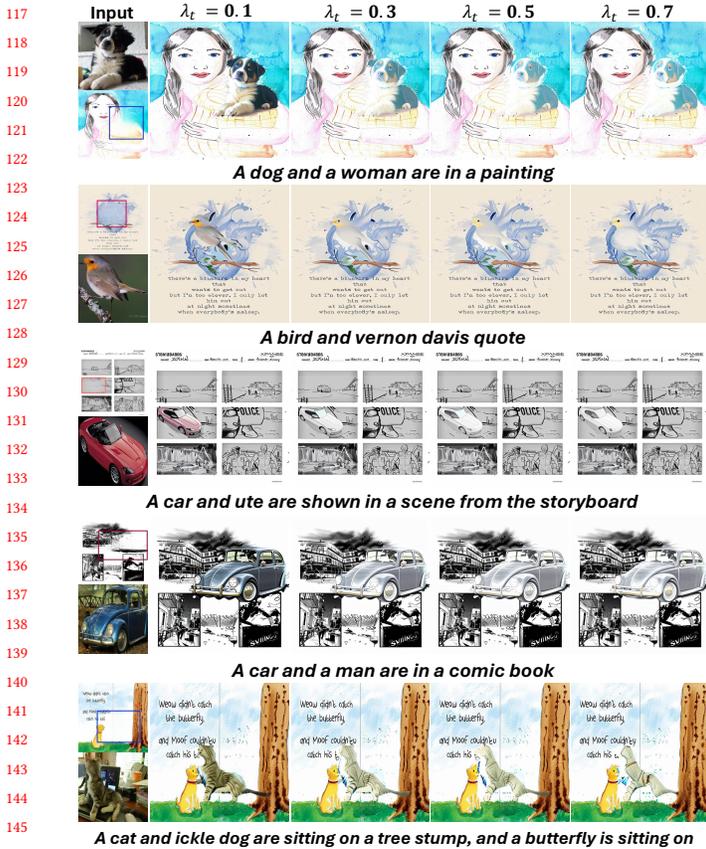


Figure 1: Ablation study: Qualitative evaluation on the effect of adative threshold  $\lambda_t$ .

been incorporated. Consequently, a higher trade-off with style information becomes feasible, enabling the generation of more refined and stylistically consistent results.

### 4.2 Timestep Constraint $\tau$

Figure 2 assesses the effects of setting different values for  $\tau$ . As mentioned in the main paper Section 4.3, applying Adaptive Latent Normalization and Energy-guided Latent Optimization for every timestep  $t \in [0, T')$  may induce unwanted artifacts in transition area. Moreover, it is also observed that setting large value for  $\tau$  can lead to loss of content information and thus content-style imbalance in object area.

## 5 LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE WORK

The primary limitation of our propose framework TALE is the inability to generate object views that deviate significantly from the provided reference image. Consequently, the selection of input objects images may be constrained in certain instances. This stems from the reliance of TALE on the preprocessed object segmentation mask  $M_{obj}^z$  for both Adaptive Latent Manipulation and Energy-guided Latent Optimization components. Though using the rescaled user-specified mask  $M_u^z$  as alternative can allow for some

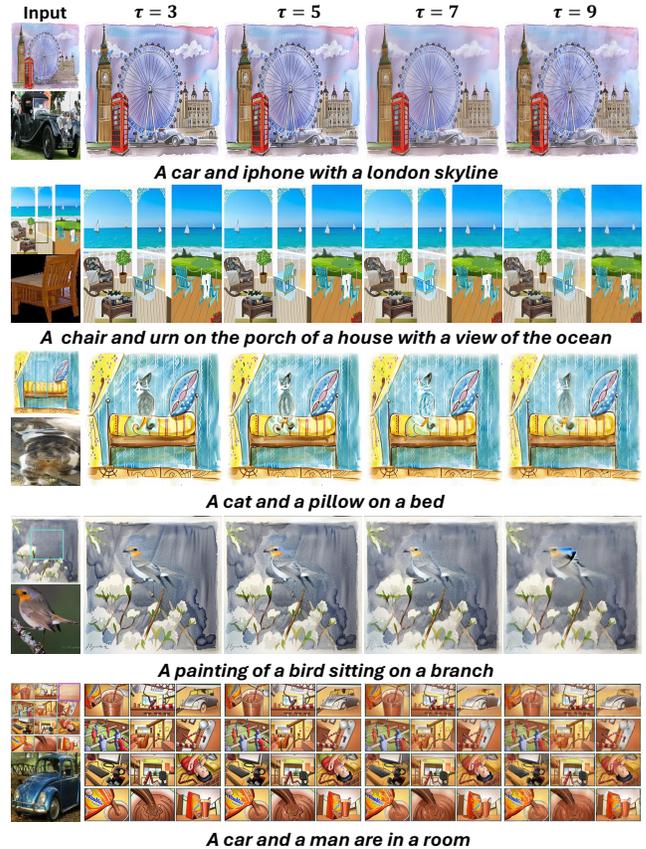


Figure 2: Ablation study: Qualitative evaluation on the effect of timestep constraint  $\tau$ .

flexibility to incorporate objects of different views into composited results, this often compromises the preservation of object identity and induces unwanted artifacts in transition areas. To address this challenge, further research could exploit personalized concept learning methods, such as Textual Inversion [1] and InST [6], to encode identifying features of objects fused with background style information into special text embeddings which can require additional training or fine-tuning. Besides, it is worth mentioning that TALE leverages pre-trained LDM [3] hence also inherits its drawbacks and biases that may lead to undesired outcomes in certain scenarios.

## 6 SOCIETAL IMPACTS

TALE empowers individuals without professional artistic expertise to engage in image-guided composition. However, there are some potential risks associated with employing our framework. For instance, it could be misused for malicious purposes, such as harassment or dissemination of false information. Additionally, image composition is intrinsically linked to image generation, necessitating awareness of potential biases introduced by diffusion models trained on web-scraped data like LAION [5]. Notably, LAION unintentionally contains inappropriate NSFW contents. Consequently,

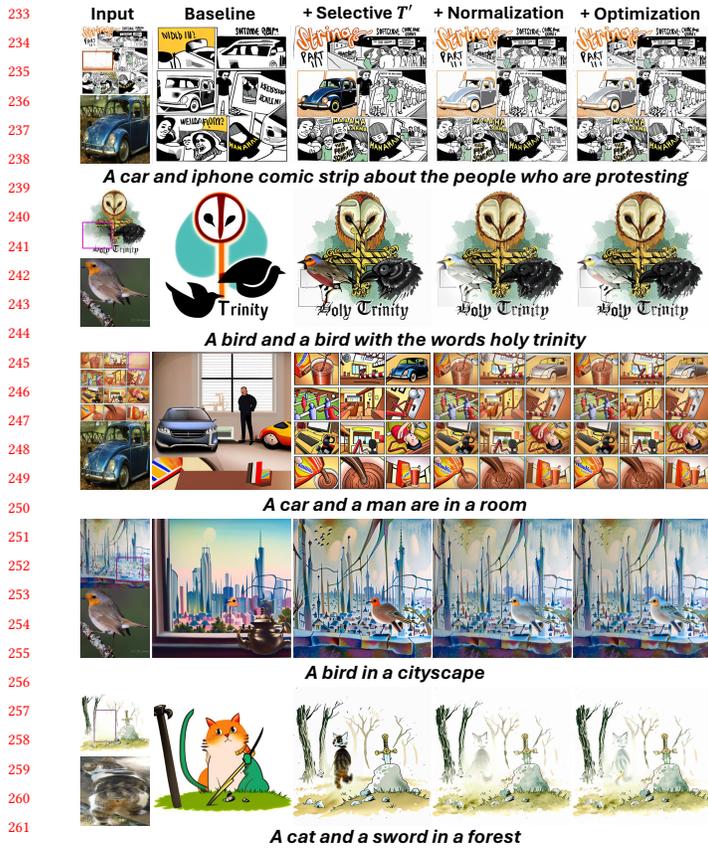


Figure 3: Ablation study: Qualitative evaluation on effectiveness of each component.

diffusion models trained on LAION, such as LDM [3] and Imagen [4], may exhibit social and cultural biases. Therefore, using such models can raise ethical concerns hence warrants careful consideration. Finally, the ability to compose across artistic domains could be misapplied for copyright infringement, as users could create images of similar style without the artist’s consent. While the generated artwork may currently be readily distinguishable from the original, future technologies could make such infringement challenging to differentiate. Consequently, we urge users to use this method with caution and only for legitimate purposes.

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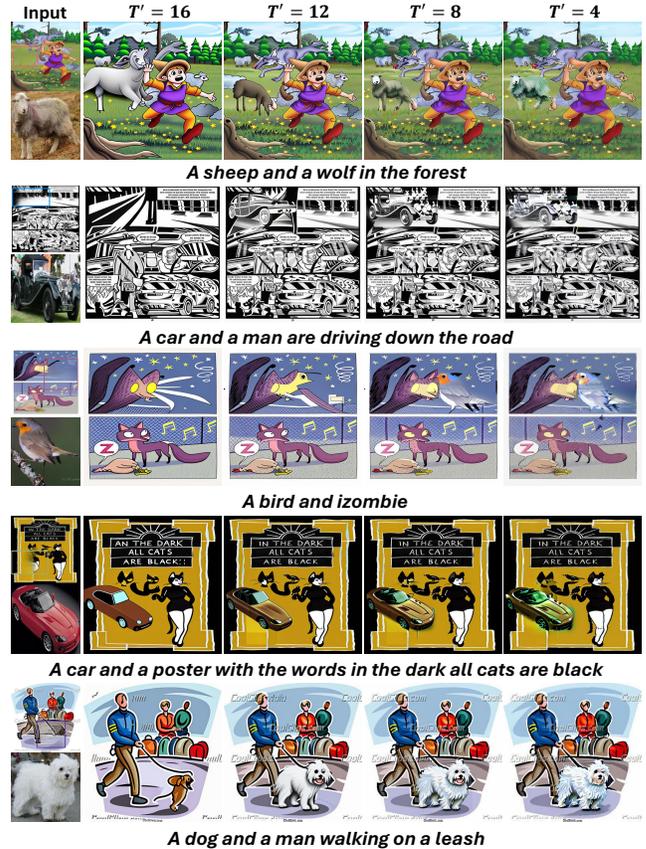


Figure 4: Ablation study: Qualitative evaluation on selection of  $T'$ .

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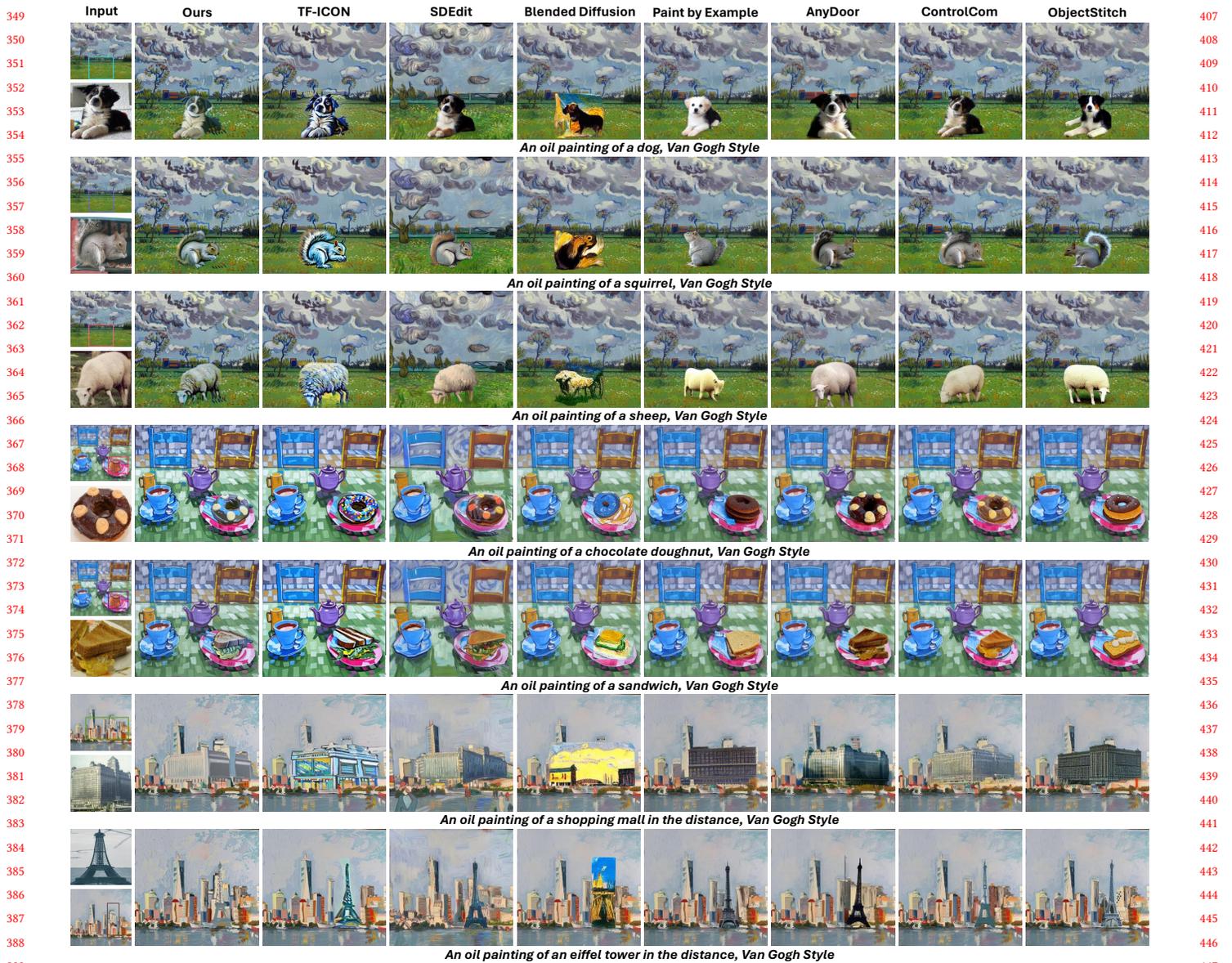


Figure 5: Qualitative comparison with prior SOTA and concurrent works in image composition for the oil painting domain on baseline benchmark. Zoom-in for details.



Figure 6: Qualitative comparison with prior SOTA and concurrent works in image composition for the cartoon animation domain on baseline benchmark. Zoom-in for details.

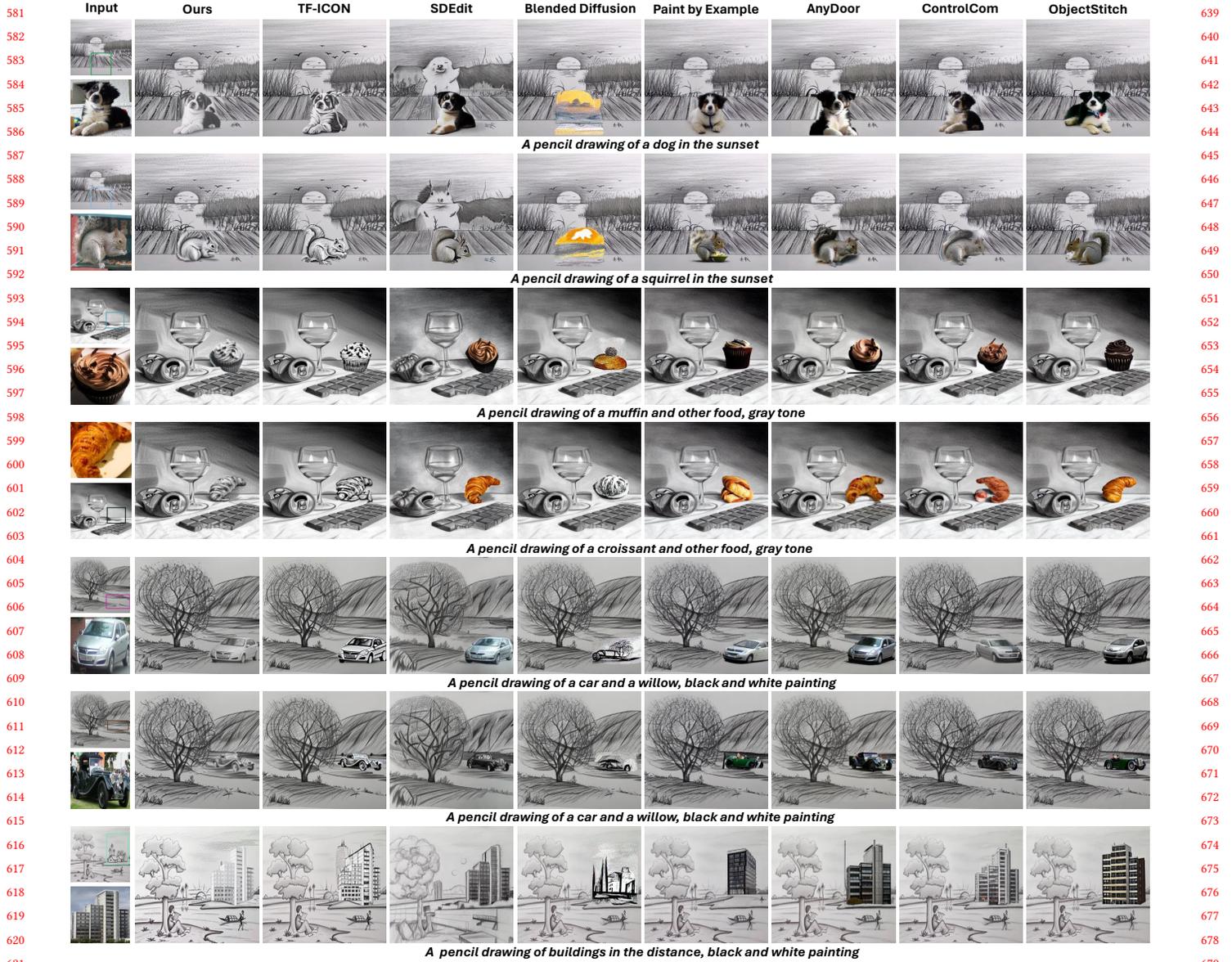


Figure 7: Qualitative comparison with prior SOTA and concurrent works in image composition for the sketching domain on baseline benchmark. Zoom-in for details.

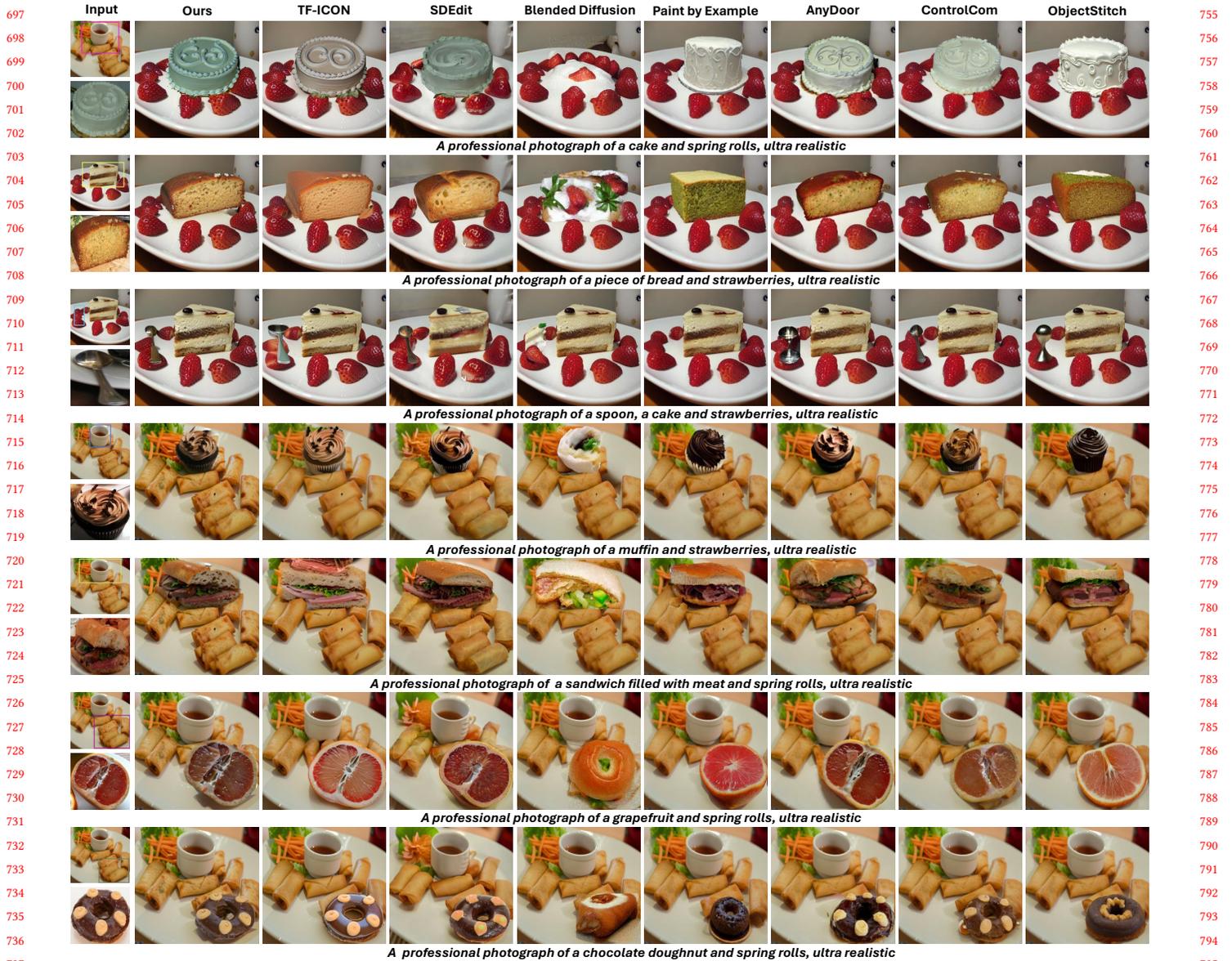


Figure 8: Qualitative comparison with prior SOTA and concurrent works in image composition for the photorealism domain on baseline benchmark. Zoom-in for details.

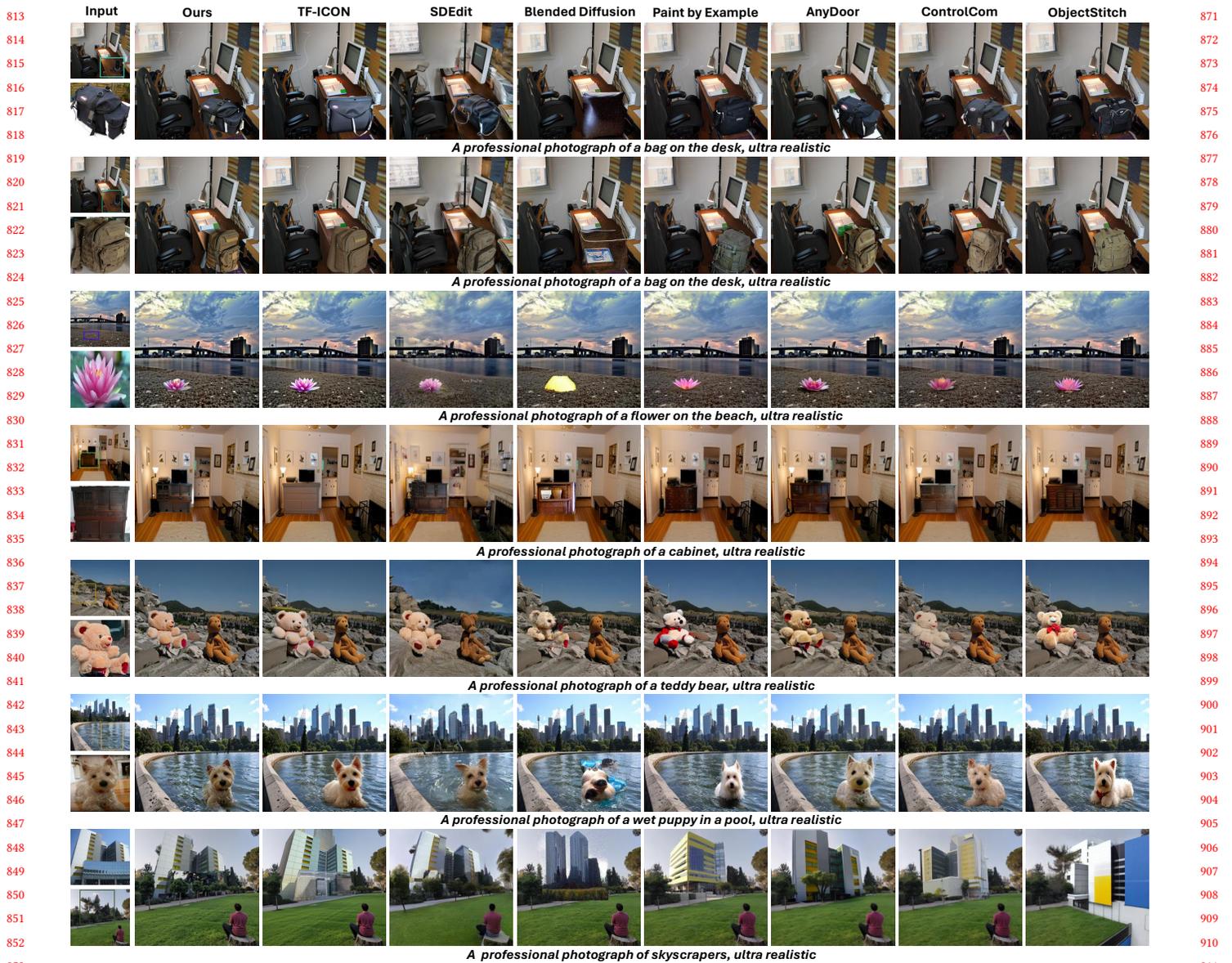


Figure 9: Qualitative comparison with prior SOTA and concurrent works in image composition for the photorealism domain on baseline benchmark. Zoom-in for details.



Figure 10: Qualitative comparison with prior SOTA and concurrent works in image composition for the photorealism domain on baseline benchmark. Zoom-in for details.

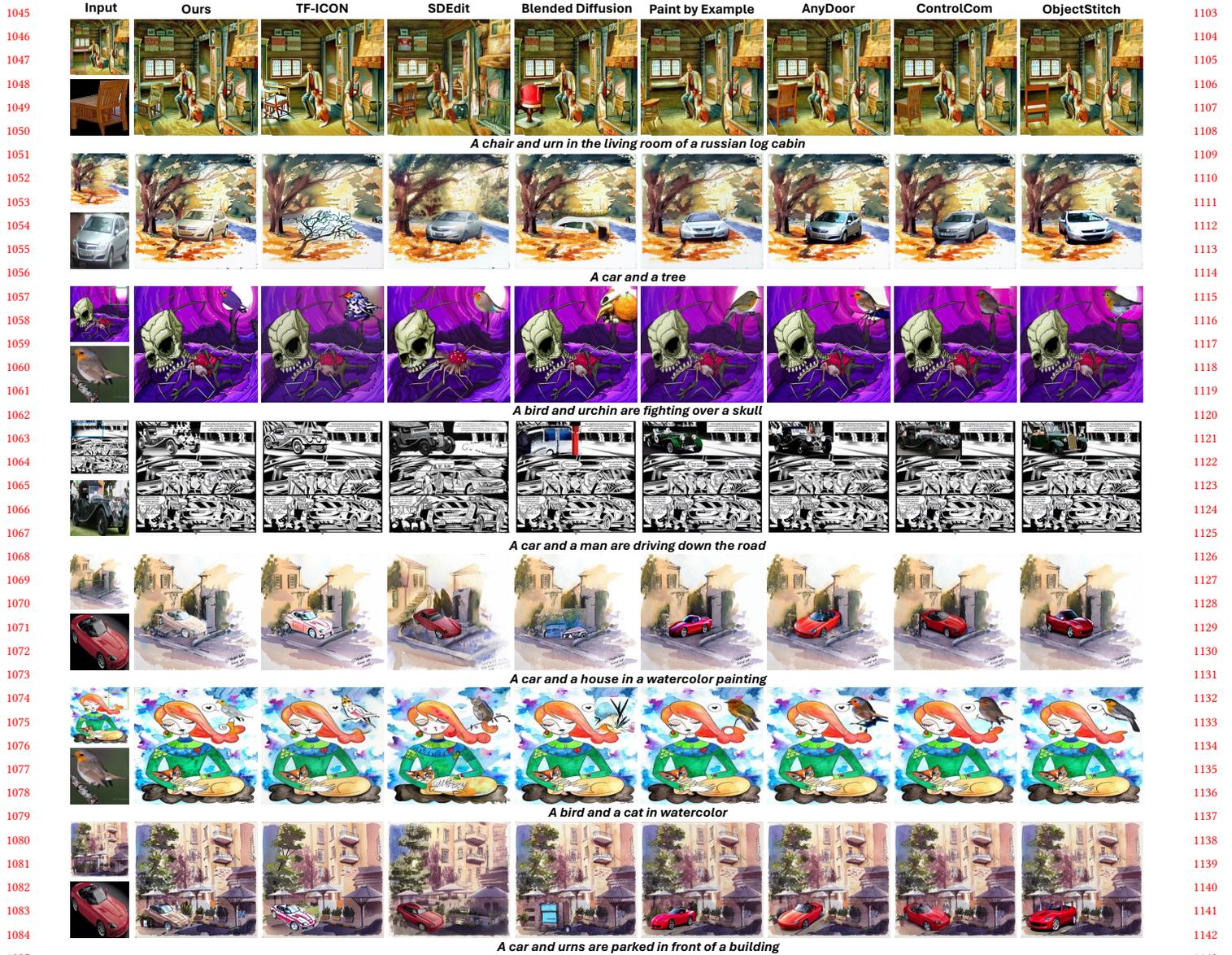


Figure 11: Qualitative comparison with prior SOTA and concurrent works in image composition for mixture of domains on extended dataset. Zoom-in for details.

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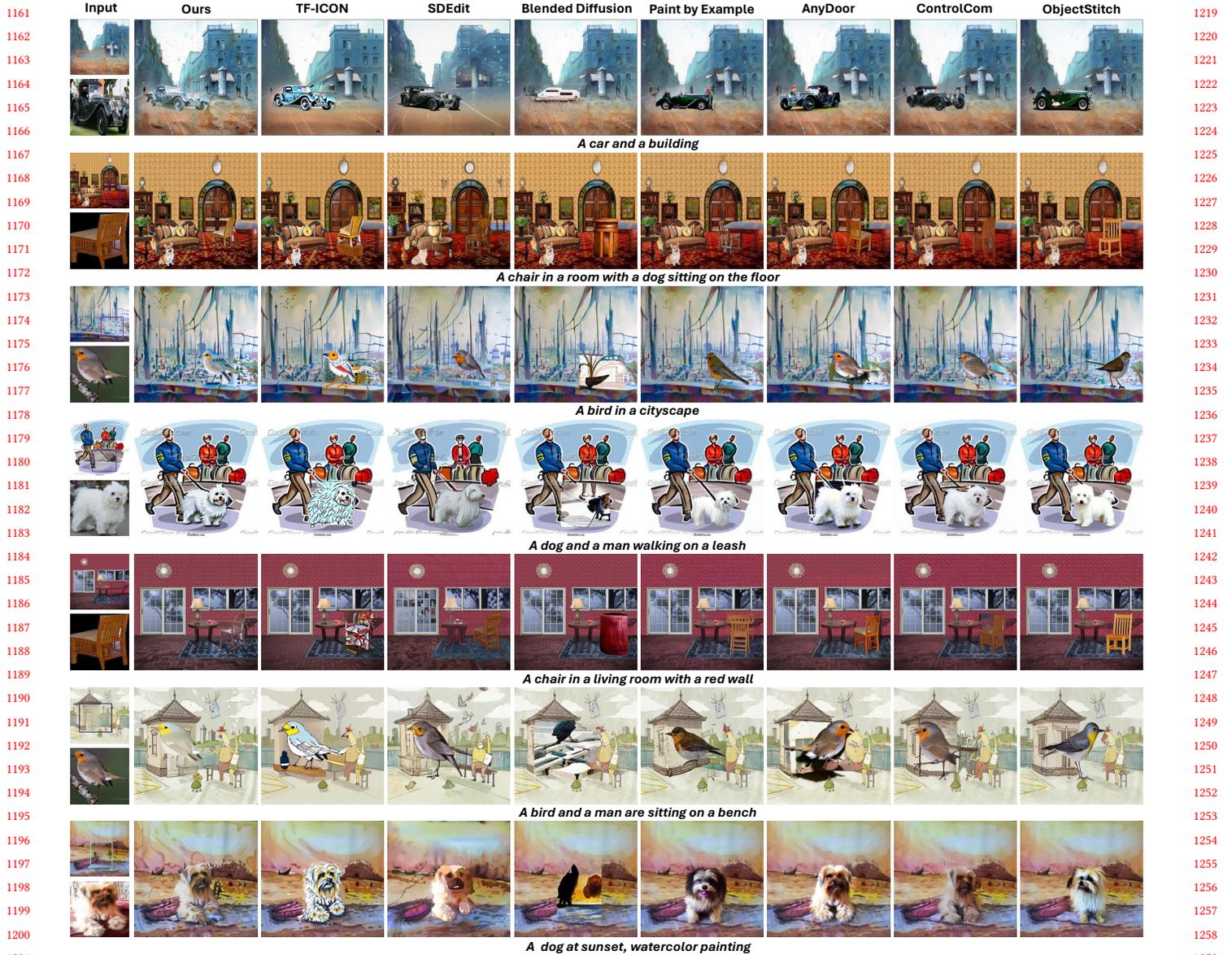


Figure 12: Qualitative comparison with prior SOTA and concurrent works in image composition for mixture of domains on extended dataset. Zoom-in for details.



Figure 13: Qualitative comparison with prior SOTA and concurrent works in image composition for mixture of domains on extended dataset. Zoom-in for details.