

# LAPIS: A novel dataset for personalized image aesthetic assessment

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## Abstract

001 We present the Large Art Personalized Image Set (LAPIS),  
002 a novel dataset for personalized image aesthetic assessment  
003 (PIAA). It is the first dataset with images of artworks that  
004 is suitable for PIAA. LAPIS consists of 11,723 images and  
005 was meticulously curated in collaboration with art histo-  
006 rians. Each image has an aesthetics score and a set of  
007 image attributes known to relate to aesthetic appreciation.  
008 Besides rich image attributes, LAPIS offers rich personal  
009 attributes of each annotator. We implemented two exist-  
010 ing state-of-the-art PIAA models and assessed their perfor-  
011 mance on LAPIS. We assess the contribution of personal at-  
012 tributes and image attributes through ablation studies and  
013 find that performance deteriorates when certain personal  
014 and image attributes are removed. An analysis of failure  
015 cases reveals that both existing models make similar incor-  
016 rect predictions, highlighting the need for improvements in  
017 artistic image aesthetic assessment.

## 018 1. Introduction

019 Computational aesthetics is a subfield of computer science  
020 that focuses on the automated aesthetic assessment of im-  
021 ages [16]. The current trend is to leverage deep learning to  
022 perform image aesthetic assessment (IAA). Although sev-  
023 eral IAA datasets [7, 9, 10, 21, 35, 37] were created in the  
024 last decade, existing datasets often come with limitations.  
025 Many of these datasets were created by scraping photogra-  
026 phy/art contest websites [15, 23, 37]. The aesthetic anno-  
027 tation is then derived from the number of likes or votes an  
028 image receives. This may introduce biases in the data, for  
029 example: (1) the images in these datasets are all highly aes-  
030 thetic because unaesthetic images will rarely be submitted  
031 to a contest, (2) the votes may be influenced by the amount  
032 of engagement (e.g. number of views or downloads). Those  
033 who vote may simply not see images that may be equally or  
034 more aesthetic. As a result, the aesthetic annotations may  
035 not span the entire spectrum of aesthetics and may not rep-  
036 resent aesthetic appreciation accurately.

037 Another limitation of many existing datasets is that they

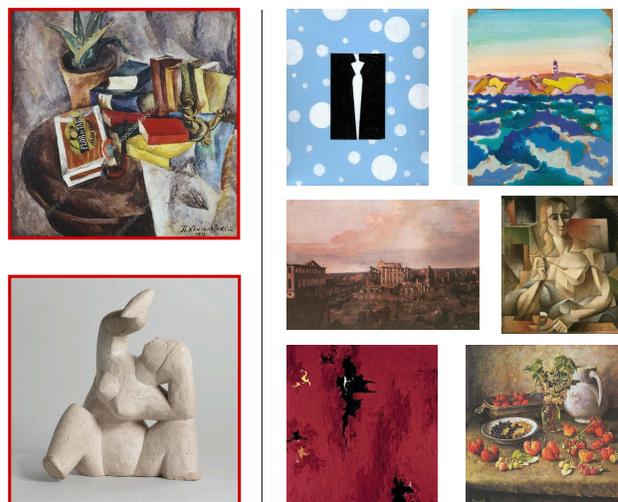


Figure 1. Illustration of the image selection. Images on the left were excluded during the quality check. The top left image contains a watermark and the bottom left image is a sculpture. The images on the right are example images in LAPIS.

average out individual differences [7, 10, 15, 37]. Aesthetic  
assessment is a rather subjective task, rendering it difficult  
to model and predict. Many existing datasets treat the indi-  
vidual variation as noise and compute an average aesthetic  
score for a given image. Predicting these average aesthetic  
scores using machine learning is referred to as generic im-  
age aesthetic assessment (GIAA). These datasets can ad-  
vance research to understand universal properties that drive  
aesthetic appreciation. However, given the subjective na-  
ture of aesthetic appreciation, personalized image aesthetic  
assessment (PIAA) may offer a more encompassing frame-  
work.

PIAA concerns the prediction of aesthetic scores for each  
annotator separately [21]. This is a very useful task from a  
marketing perspective, with applications like personalizing  
advertisements based on individuals' online presence (e.g.  
likes on social media). However, the current PIAA datasets  
all consist of natural images.

Art has been largely under-explored in computational

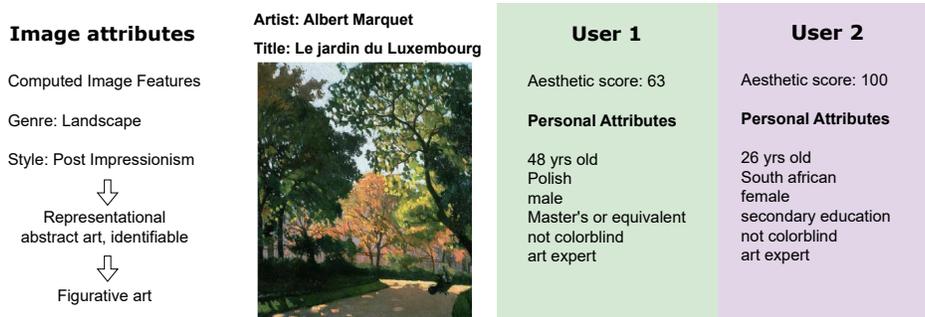


Figure 2. Visualisation of the types of data in LAPIS. All images have metadata (title, artist) and image attributes. Images are rated by multiple users on their aesthetic appeal. For each user, we have a set of personal attributes

057 aesthetics [37]. In fact, none of the existing PIAA datasets  
 058 include artistic images. Yet, previous research found that  
 059 individual differences in aesthetic appreciation are larger  
 060 for artistic images than photographs [29, 30]. Therefore,  
 061 an artistic dataset is more suited to tackle the problem  
 062 of PIAA. In addition, artistic image aesthetic assessment  
 063 (AIAA) presents a relevant challenge for computer vision  
 064 due to the complexity of artistic images and their need for  
 065 better pre-processing methods [27]. AIAA has relevant ap-  
 066 plications given the increase in online art trading [14] and  
 067 user-friendly technology such as DALL-E [3] which allows  
 068 almost anyone to generate artistic images. Our contribu-  
 069 tions are as follows:

- 070 • We present the first artistic dataset for PIAA, called the  
 071 Large Art Personalized Image Set (LAPIS). Each im-  
 072 age in LAPIS was rated by on average 24 annotators  
 073 and includes rich personal and image attributes to in-  
 074 form and improve personalized predictions.
- 075 • Our dataset establishes a new standard for data quality in  
 076 the field. LAPIS was meticulously curated in collabo-  
 077 ration with art historians and addresses the limitations  
 078 mentioned above that are present in many of the exist-  
 079 ing datasets.
- 080 • We analyze the data and perform experiments for both  
 081 GIAA and PIAA. We find that our data quality im-  
 082 proves GIAA and training with rich image and per-  
 083 sonal attributes improves PIAA.

084 **2. Related work**

085 **2.1. Art datasets**

086 There are a few well-curated datasets with art images and  
 087 aesthetic annotations from the field of empirical aesthet-  
 088 ics (VAPS [5], JenAesthetics [2]). Unfortunately, the num-  
 089 ber of images in these datasets is relatively small (999 and  
 090 1628 respectively), rendering them insufficient for machine  
 091 learning applications. On the other end of the spectrum

are the large artistic datasets without aesthetic annotation  
 [1, 22, 33]. More recently, datasets designed for IAA started  
 to include more artistic images [7, 37]. The BoldBrush  
 Artistic Image Dataset (BAID) [37] is the largest collec-  
 tion of artistic images with aesthetic annotations. It consists  
 of over 60K images of artworks. Images are sourced from  
 the website “BoldBrush”<sup>1</sup>, a platform that allows artists to  
 share their work online. BoldBrush hosts monthly art con-  
 tests, where users can vote for the artistic images they like.  
 The images in BAID received 360,000 votes in total. These  
 votes were then transferred into a score representing aesthet-  
 ics, where a higher number of votes translates into a  
 higher aesthetic score. As such, BAID offers a large dataset  
 for GIAA. However, it is not suitable for PIAA, given that  
 scores are obtained by counting votes. Additionally, these  
 votes may not represent aesthetics accurately, highlighting  
 the need for large, well-curated datasets that contain artistic  
 images.

110 **2.2. Datasets for personalized image aesthetic as-**  
 111 **essment (PIAA)**

Datasets for PIAA include a user ID which allows track-  
 ing of responses of a single annotator across different im-  
 ages. The FLICKR-AES [21] dataset was the first dataset  
 introduced for PIAA and consists of 40K images which are  
 scored by at least 5 annotators each. The images in the  
 dataset are photographs sourced from the photography web-  
 site FLICKR<sup>2</sup>. More recently, the Pairwise-Relabeled Aes-  
 thetic Attribute Dataset (PR-AADB) [6] was introduced as  
 a test set for PIAA. It is a relabeled version of the AADB  
 dataset [10] which is used for GIAA and contains rich im-  
 age attributes. 165 annotators judged the images in a pair-  
 wise preference task, resulting in 16k labeled image pairs.  
 The dataset was created to test for robustness in PIAA and  
 can be used for few-shot personalization.

The Explainable Visual Aesthetics dataset (EVA) [9]

<sup>1</sup><https://faso.com/boldbrush/popular>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.flickr.com/>

Figurative (7976)		Abstract (3747)	
Representational figurative art (5131)	Representational abstract art - identifiable (2845)	Non-representational abstract art - lyrical (3202)	Non-representational abstract art - geometric (545)
Early Renaissance (91)	Impressionism (499)	Abstract Expressionism (1839)	Minimalism (541)
High Renaissance (146)	Post-Impressionism (418)	Action Painting (92)	
Northern Renaissance (557)	Pointillism (281)	Color Field Painting (1274)	
Mannerism (Late Renaissance) (212)	Fauvism (442)		
Baroque (409)	Cubism (427)		
Rococo (435)	Synthetic Cubism (203)		
Romanticism (438)	Analytical Cubism (79)		
Realism (531)			
Art Nouveau (412)			
Symbolism (489)			
Pop Art (357)			
New Realism (152)			
Contemporary Realism (301)			
Naïve Art / Primitivism (602)			

Table 1. The styles represented in LAPIS at different granularity levels. The lowest level includes the 27 styles that were originally in WikiArt. The overarching styles were defined by art historians to indicate the level of abstractness of the styles for a non-expert audience. The number of images per style is indicated after each style label.

127 provides both image attributes and personal attributes. Al-  
128 though EVA is not typically used for PIAA, it does include  
129 demographic information about the annotators that allows  
130 for PIAA. It consists of 40K photographs with an average of  
131 30 annotators per image. The images were rated on various  
132 relevant attributes for aesthetics, alongside aesthetic appre-  
133 ciation itself. Participants were asked to indicate how much  
134 they liked the following attributes: light and color, composi-  
135 tion and depth, quality and semantics. Annotators were then  
136 asked to indicate for each image how much their aesthetic  
137 rating was influenced by each of the attributes. In terms  
138 of personal attributes, the dataset includes the age, gender,  
139 region and photographic level of the annotators.

140 The PARA [35] dataset similarly offers both image at-  
141 tributes and personal attributes. It consists of 30,000 im-  
142 ages annotated by 438 subjects with an average of 25 anno-  
143 tators per image. The images were sourced from Flickr and  
144 Unsplash<sup>3</sup>, as well as existing datasets with aesthetic anno-  
145 tations. These existing aesthetic annotations were used to  
146 sample images from all aesthetic levels to balance the aes-  
147 thetic score distribution. They used automated scene classi-  
148 fication to balance the images across content. Images were  
149 annotated on aesthetic appeal, quality and a set of image at-  
150 tributes (color, composition, depth of field, content, light,  
151 object emphasis). They additionally collected emotion at-  
152 tributes and content preferences, as well as demographic in-  
153 formation about the annotators. The demographic informa-  
154 tion includes age, gender, education level, artistic and pho-  
155 tographic experience and scores on the Big Five personality  
156 test [19]. As such, the PARA dataset is the first to offer rich  
157 attributes, both at the image level and the personal level.

<sup>3</sup><https://unsplash.com/>

### 2.3. Personalized image aesthetic assessment (PIAA) 158 159

160 Many research efforts in PIAA have been focused on pre-  
161 dicting an aesthetic score per annotator (usually referred  
162 to as 'user' in the context of PIAA) without informing  
163 this decision by personal attributes such as demographics  
164 [13, 18, 21, 31, 32, 36]. Rather, many works rely on image  
165 attributes to improve personalized predictions. One of the  
166 earliest works by Ren *et al.* [21] included image attributes  
167 to inform personalized aesthetic predictions. They created  
168 the FLICKR-AES dataset which had ratings of 5 different  
169 individuals for each image. In their pipeline, they predicted  
170 image attributes as well as a generic aesthetic score. These  
171 attribute predictions were then used to predict an offset from  
172 the generic aesthetic score, to obtain a personalized score  
173 for each of those 5 individuals. In a similar vein, more re-  
174 cent work [34, 41] leveraged image attributes to improve  
175 predictions in PIAA. Li *et al.* [11] shifted from this focus on  
176 image attributes to personality traits that may influence aes-  
177 thetic assessment. They trained a siamese network to jointly  
178 learn generic aesthetic scores and personality traits. These  
179 were then fused to predict a personalized aesthetic score  
180 given a personality trait. Zhu *et al.* [39] similarly lever-  
181 aged personality prediction to improve PIAA. Their model  
182 is informed by both image attributes and personal attributes.

183 Hou *et al.* [8] and Zhu *et al.* [40] extended this idea, by  
184 modeling *interactions* between image features and personal  
185 attributes. Hou *et al.* [8] used an interaction matrix in their  
186 pipeline to model interactions between image features and  
187 individual raters' preferences for these image features. Zhu  
188 *et al.* [40] consider interactions between demographic traits  
189 and learned image attributes. Their model, referred to as  
190 PIAA-MIR, is trained on the PARA dataset which is the

image dimensions	complexity/lightness/contrast	color	symmetry/balance	fractality/self-similarity	entropy/feature distribution
image size	RMS contrast	color entropy	<b>pixel-based:</b>	<b>Fourier spectrum:</b>	anisotropy
aspect ratio	lightness entropy	<b>channel means:</b>	mirror symmetry	slope	homogeneity
	complexity	RGB	DCM	sigma	<b>edge-orientation entropy:</b>
	edge density	lab	balance	<b>fractal dimension:</b>	1st order
		HSV	<b>CNN-feature-based:</b>	2-dimensional	2nd order
		<b>channel standard deviation:</b>	left-right	3-dimensional	<b>CNN feature variance:</b>
		RGB	up-down	<b>self-similarity:</b>	sparseness
		lab	left-right AND up-down	PHOG-based	variability
		HSV		CNN-based	

Table 2. Overview of the image attributes available in LAPIS, computed with the toolbox by Redies *et al.* [20]

191 only dataset rich in both image attributes and personal at-  
192 tributes.

193 Lastly, Shi *et al.* [24] extended this idea by consider-  
194 ing interactions both within and between these two types  
195 of attributes (personal and image attributes). They used  
196 graph neural networks to perform collaborative filtering on  
197 the PARA dataset. Their model is referred to as PIAA-ICI  
198 and achieves state-of-the-art performance, together with the  
199 model by Zhu *et al.* [40]. They are the only two models  
200 (to the best of our knowledge) that inform PIAA with rich  
201 personal and image attributes. Therefore, we implemented  
202 these two models to perform experiments on LAPIS (see  
203 section 5).

## 204 3. Methods

### 205 3.1. Image selection

206 Images were sourced from WikiArt<sup>4</sup>, an online archive of  
207 artworks that is constructed with the aid of galleries or mu-  
208 seums. Similarly as the better-known Wikipedia, gallery or  
209 museum curators could contribute to the archive by upload-  
210 ing images of their artworks alongside metadata. LAPIS  
211 is a selection of 11,723 images from the WikiArt paintings  
212 dataset, which comprises mostly paintings but additionally  
213 includes some sketches. LAPIS includes 26 styles (ranging  
214 from Renaissance to Minimalism) and 7 genres (abstract,  
215 cityscape, flower painting, landscape, nude painting, por-  
216 trait and still life). We selected images from those 7 genres,  
217 since they correspond well to the content that is displayed  
218 (as opposed to the remaining genres ‘religious painting’,  
219 ‘genre painting’ and ‘sketch and study’). We added hierar-  
220 chical style labels informed by art historians to provide clar-  
221 ity regarding which styles are closer in terms of abstractness  
222 (see Table 1). Given the interdisciplinary nature of compu-  
223 tational aesthetics, these labels provide contextual informa-  
224 tion for those without a background in art history.

225 When selecting images, we prioritized those with a  
226 higher resolution and a more balanced aspect ratio. The  
227 final selection is (largely) balanced<sup>5</sup> for genre when por-  
228 trait is combined with nude painting and flower painting is

<sup>4</sup><https://www.wikiart.org/>

<sup>5</sup>Further details regarding the distribution of LAPIS can be found in the supplementary material.

229 combined with still life. There are a larger number of fig-  
230 urative works (7976) as opposed to abstract works (3747)  
231 in LAPIS, as we tried to sample a representative number of  
232 works from each style with regards to the total number of  
233 works in the full WikiArt dataset.

234 As a quality check of the data, we manually checked  
235 each image in a first small selection of 1990 images. We  
236 saw that the dataset included some provocative images,  
237 sculptures, duplicates and images containing text (*e.g.*, from  
238 a watermark or copyright mark, see Figure 1). We manually  
239 removed these instances. Some images included the frame  
240 around the artwork, which we cropped manually. We no-  
241 ticed that the genre did not always describe the content of  
242 the image correctly. We added a content label and manually  
243 described what was most salient in the image (correspond-  
244 ing to one of the 7 genre categories). In addition, we noticed  
245 that some of the style labels in WikiArt were inaccurate. We  
246 manually adjusted them with the assistance of art historians  
247 in this smaller set. Based on this check, we automated the  
248 removal of duplicate images, frames of artworks and images  
249 containing text in the remainder of our image set (details  
250 can be found in the supplementary material). We manually  
251 checked the images in the style categories ‘abstract expres-  
252 sionism’ and ‘minimalism’ since these had the highest num-  
253 ber of sculptures in our smaller sample. We removed every  
254 instance that was not a painting or sketch in these two style  
255 categories. We had noticed that most of the inaccuracies in  
256 genre were the ‘flower painting’ label being used for other  
257 genres. Therefore, we manually checked all the images la-  
258 beled as ‘flower painting’ in the larger set and corrected the  
259 style label if needed.

### 260 3.2. Online study

261 We set up an online study to obtain aesthetic evaluations for  
262 the images in LAPIS. We recruited 552 participants through  
263 Prolific<sup>6</sup>, a UK based platform allowing workers to anony-  
264 mously participate in online studies. Prolific is known for  
265 having more reliable workers and more safeguards against  
266 bots, as well as providing fair payments to its workers. We  
267 obtained ethical approval for the study. Only those with  
268 achromatopsia (a condition that affects one’s ability to per-

<sup>6</sup><https://www.prolific.com/>

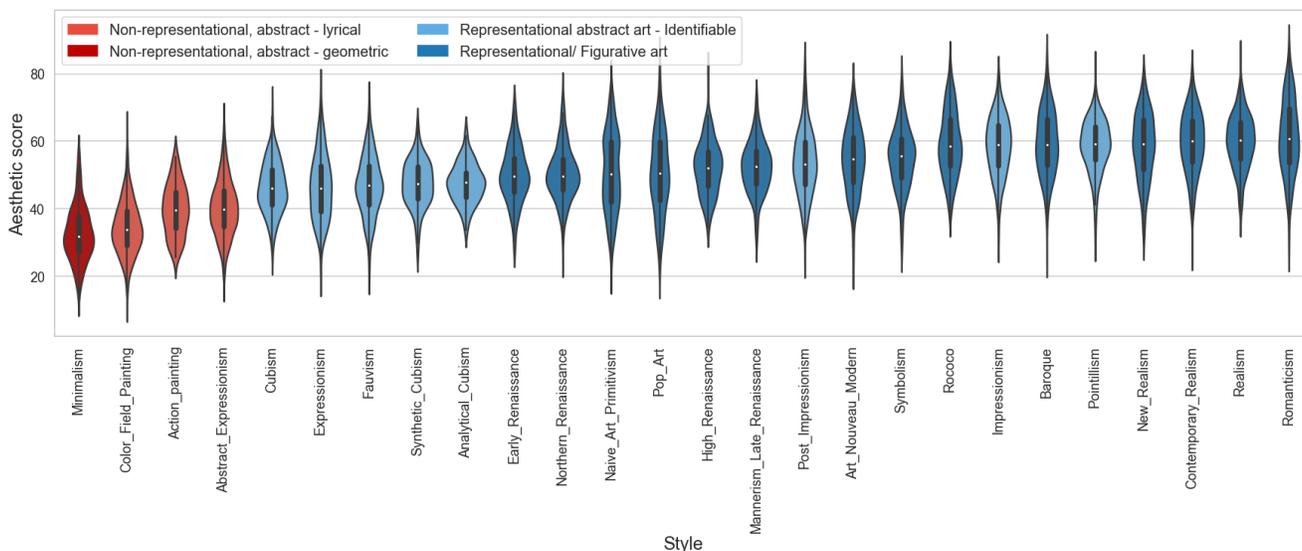


Figure 3. Violin plots of the data distribution per style. Violins are ordered from lowest median (top) to highest median aesthetic scores (bottom). The abstract and figurative styles are shown in different shades of red and blue respectively.

269 ceive colors) were excluded from participation. At the start  
 270 of the study, participants provided their informed consent  
 271 and answered demographic questions (see section 3.3). A  
 272 set of example images were shown to indicate what kind of  
 273 images to expect during the study. There was a practice trial  
 274 before the actual trials in which participants rated the aes-  
 275 thetic value of the displayed images. After rating a block of  
 276 images, participants were asked to indicate how many im-  
 277 ages they recognized. After removal of non-conscientious  
 278 participants, the average number of annotators per image  
 279 was 24. Further details regarding the annotation procedure  
 280 can be found in the supplementary material.

### 281 3.3. Attributes

282 Figure 2 shows an example image in LAPIS with all its  
 283 metadata and attributes. LAPIS includes both personal and  
 284 image attributes. In terms of personal attributes, each anno-  
 285 tator was assigned an ID and provided their age, national-  
 286 ity, gender and education level. We asked whether they are  
 287 colorblind and measured their art interest using the art in-  
 288 terest subscale of the VAIK [25, 26]. Art familiarity was  
 289 assessed by asking participants how many images they rec-  
 290 ognized after each block of approximately 250 images. An-  
 291 notators were divided into art experts and art novices based  
 292 on their art interest and art familiarity (see section 4.3)

293 The image attributes include metadata (style and genre)  
 294 and computed image attributes. We used the toolbox by  
 295 Redies *et al.* [20] to compute these attributes. It computes  
 296 31 image attributes that are known to matter for aesthetic  
 297 appreciation. Table 2 gives an overview of the image at-  
 298 tributes, ordered as in Redies *et al.* [20]. The attributes re-

late to the image dimensions, complexity, balance, color, 299  
 luminance, contrast, lightness, symmetry, fractality, self- 300  
 similarity, entropy and feature distribution. Some of the 301  
 attributes are related to multiple computed image *features*. 302  
 For example, the color channel means for the RGB color 303  
 spectrum computes 3 values, *i.e.* one mean value for each 304  
 channel. As such, there are 47 image features per image, 305  
 relating to 31 image attributes. For more detailed informa- 306  
 tion on specific features and their relevance for aesthetics, 307  
 we refer the reader to the original work by Redies *et al.* [20]. 308

## 309 4. Analysis of LAPIS

### 310 4.1. Personal attributes

311 We found a moderate correlation between aesthetic score and art interest ( $r = 0.35, p < 0.01$ ). Figure 4 shows the mean aesthetic rating given by a participant in function of their art interest score. Participants who scored higher on art interest rated the images higher on average. None of the other personal attributes revealed strong differences in aesthetic scores. 317

### 318 4.2. Image attributes

319 Figure 5 displays the histograms of aesthetic scores for fig-  
 320 urative and abstract works where scores are averaged per  
 321 image (as in GIAA). The data seem normally distributed,  
 322 with more images receiving a mean rating around the mid-  
 323 dle of the rating scale. This is a similar trend as in most IAA  
 324 datasets, and is partially due to people’s tendency to avoid  
 325 the extremes of rating scales [4] and set effects [12, 17, 28].  
 326 We also see a clear trend of preferences towards more figu-

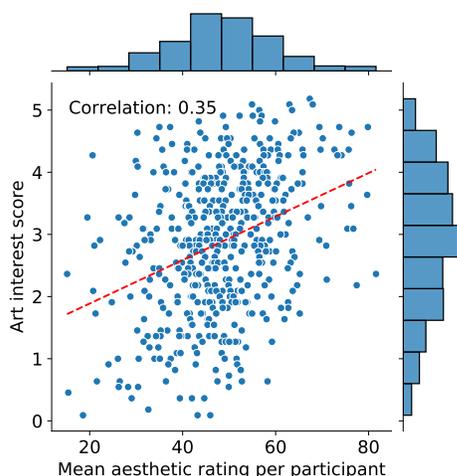


Figure 4. Scatter plot of the mean aesthetic rating given by an annotator in function of their art interest score (as measured with the VAIKAK familiarity questionnaire [25, 26]). The marginal distributions for both art interest and aesthetic scores are shown on the side. We found a correlation between art interest and aesthetic scores ( $r = 0.35$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ).

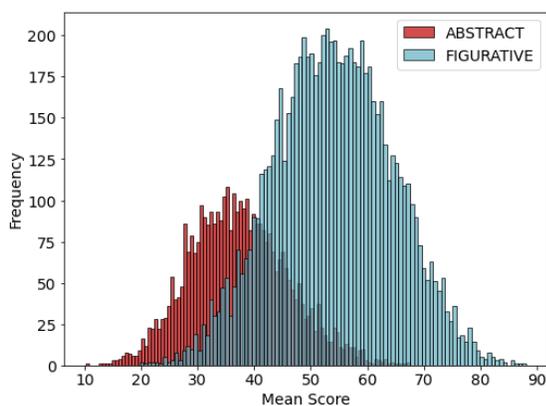


Figure 5. Histogram of the aesthetic scores averaged per image. Data corresponding to abstract and figurative works is shown in red and blue respectively. We observe a trend towards preferences for figurative works.

327 rative works. This is further highlighted in Figure 3, showing  
328 the score distribution for each style. The styles are ordered  
329 from lowest median score to highest median score.  
330 We observe that the four abstract styles received the lowest  
331 median scores, whereas the highest scoring styles are among  
332 the most figurative styles (e.g. Realism). To assess the  
333 robustness of this trend, we looked at agreement between  
334 annotators per image. Figure 6 shows the distribution of  
335 standard deviations in scores per image in function of the  
336 mean score of that image. In general, we can see that  
337 images with a mean score that is at the end of the rating

338 scale (either highly aesthetic or unaesthetic) tend to have  
339 lower standard deviations, meaning raters agree more on  
340 their evaluation of these images (in line with previous work  
341 [15]). Strikingly, all the images with a low average score  
342 are abstract works, whereas all the images with high average  
343 scores are figurative works. There is a small trend towards  
344 higher standard deviations for abstract works, meaning  
345 annotators disagreed more when judging those works.  
346 We saw a similar trend of preferences for certain genres.  
347 Abstract works were judged more negatively, while land-  
348 scapes and cityscapes tend to receive higher ratings (Figure  
349 s18). Lastly, we found that luminance entropy and edge ori-  
350 entation entropy correlate positively with aesthetic scores  
351 ( $r = 0.47$ ;  $r = 0.45$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), while sparseness and  
352 CNN symmetry correlate negatively with aesthetic scores  
353 ( $r = -0.40$ ;  $r = -0.48$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) (Figure s19). This sug-  
354 gests that annotators preferred more complex works with  
355 higher levels of entropy and less symmetry over more simple  
356 works. In terms of color, we found that color channel  
357 means tend to correlate negatively with aesthetic scores  
358 while color channel standard deviations correlate positively  
359 with aesthetic scores. This indicates that annotators rated  
360 colorful works higher than those with more uniform colors.

### 4.3. Personal x Image attributes

361 We looked at possible interactions between personal and  
362 image attributes. Art interest was the only personal attribute  
363 that correlated with aesthetic scores. We found that none of  
364 the computed image attributes correlated with art interest.  
365 When looking at image style and genre, we found that art  
366 interest relates to the difference in aesthetic scores for  
367 abstract works (Figure s17). We divided the data into a group  
368 of novices and experts using a median split based on their  
369 scores on art interest as primary variable and the amount of  
370 images they recognized as secondary variable. We observe  
371 that novices tend to score abstract works consistently lower,  
372 whereas this is less apparent for experts.  
373

## 5. Experiments

### 5.1. GIAA

374 We divided LAPIS into a train, validation and test set using  
375 a 70/10/20 split. We used stratified sampling based on  
376 aesthetic score and style to ensure that the test set is repre-  
377 sentative of the training set. Both the test and validation set  
378 resemble the distribution of the training set well in terms of  
379 aesthetic score, style and genre (more details can be found  
380 in the supplementary material).  
381

382 A representative test set is important to accurately assess  
383 a model’s performance. Given that the data is normally  
384 distributed, a model that predicts scores around the mean  
385 would still achieve decent performance. As a result,  
386 a test set that is not representative may lead to misleading  
387

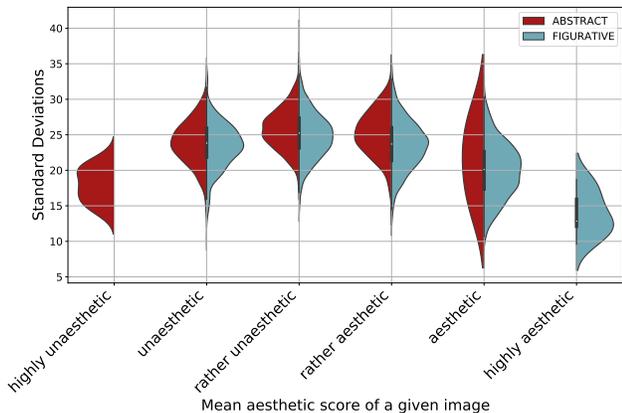


Figure 6. The distributions of standard deviations per image across the rating scale. Results are shown in red for abstract works and in blue for figurative works.

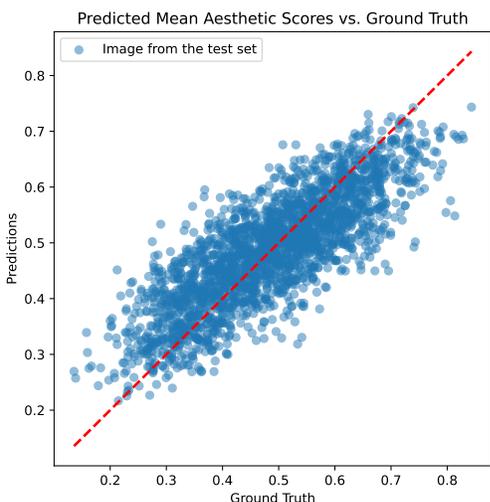


Figure 7. Test set predictions of ResNet50 trained on LAPIS.

388 interpretations of the performance metrics. By using strati-  
 389 fied sampling, we ensure that the test set in LAPIS spans  
 390 the entire range of scores and does not contain an over-  
 391 representation of styles that may be easier to predict. Fig-  
 392 ure 7 shows predictions on the test set of ResNet50 trained  
 393 on LAPIS. We can see that the model predicts scores well  
 394 across the full range of possible scores.

### 395 5.2. PIAA

396 We implemented both PIAA-MIR [38] and PIAA-ICI [24]  
 397 and trained them on LAPIS. Our implementation is as close  
 398 to the original work as possible, however, the personal and  
 399 image attributes are replaced with the attributes in LAPIS.  
 400 Rather than evaluating a single user (as in all previous PIAA

PARA	single user evaluation scheme	
PIAA-MIR	0.716 ± 0.0008	
PIAA-ICI	0.739 ± 0.0011	
LAPIS	traditional train/test split	4-fold cross-validation
PIAA-MIR	0.6958	0.2793 ± .0215
PIAA-ICI	0.6941	0.2773 ± .0235

Table 3. Comparison of the state-of-the-art models on LAPIS vs PARA. The top rows are the results reported in [24, 40]. The bottom rows are the results on LAPIS. The left column are results obtained by using a traditional evaluation scheme with a train, validation and test split of the images. The right column reports the results of a 4-fold cross-validation scheme where there is no overlap of users in test and train data.

works), we predict a score for a given combination of demog-  
 ramics. The aim of this evaluation scheme is to assess the  
 models’ ability to inform predictions by a set of personal  
 and image attributes only, without knowledge of other scores  
 given by the same annotator. The goal is to create models  
 that make more general predictions and predict scores for  
 unseen users better. Similarly as in GIAA, we divide the  
 data into train, validation and test sets. We train on the  
 full training set without training per annotator, implying  
 that there is overlap in annotators between the train and  
 test set. When evaluating the models, we assess performance  
 on the full test set. One could argue that this is an unfair  
 evaluation, given that the model is not tested on a set of  
 unseen users (solely unseen images). Therefore, we consider  
 an alternative evaluation scheme where we introduce 4-fold  
 cross-validation to select separate train and test annotators.  
 Specifically, the train set consists of (training images, train  
 users), the validation set of (validation images, train users),  
 and the test set of (test images, test users). Table 3 shows  
 the results. The results using our naive evaluation scheme  
 are close to results obtained on the PARA dataset in the  
 original work by Zhu *et al.* [38] and Shi *et al.* [24].  
 This minor difference in performance may relate to the fact  
 that art images are more challenging for PIAA due to the  
 higher subjectivity of the ratings [29, 30]. When we use  
 the 4-fold cross-validation, performance drops significantly.  
 This suggests that the model overfits on training users using  
 the naive evaluation scheme. It highlights the need for better  
 methods to create models that generalize well to unseen  
 data.

### 5.3. Ablation of attributes

To further understand how the image attributes and personal  
 attributes contribute to the predictions, we perform ablation  
 studies by removing an attribute as input during training.  
 The results are shown in Table 4. In terms of personal  
 attributes, we performed the ablation study only with art  
 interest and age, given that these were the personal attributes

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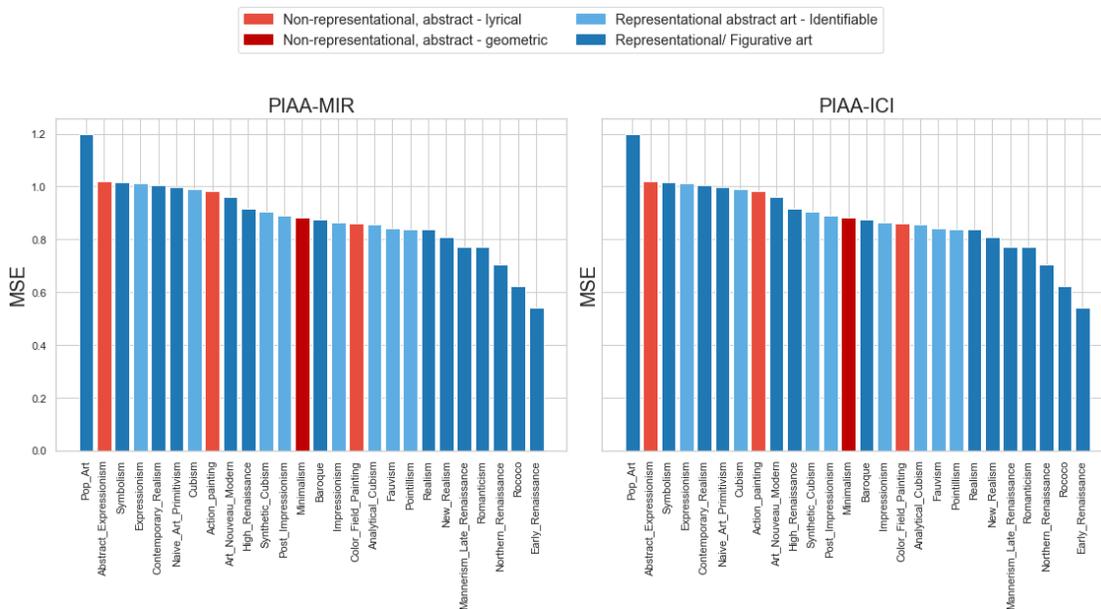


Figure 8. Barplot displaying the mean MSE per style for PIAA-MIR [40] and PIAA-ICI [24] trained on LAPIS. The styles are color coded based on our style division of four styles ranging from fully figurative (blue) to fully abstract (red).

438 that correlated the most with aesthetic scores in LAPIS. We  
 439 observe that the omission of art interest deteriorates perform-  
 440 ance, indicating that this attribute informs the predictions  
 441 of the model. We do not see such an effect for age. In terms  
 442 of image attributes, we observe that the omission of style  
 443 and genre labels deteriorates performance, indicating their  
 444 importance for aesthetic evaluation. Interestingly, we do  
 445 not see a decrease in performance when the objective image  
 446 features that are known to relate to aesthetics are removed as  
 447 inputs. We hypothesize that this may be due to the backbone  
 448 already extracting these features (or correlated features) in  
 449 its convolutional layers.

#### 450 5.4. Analysis of failure cases

451 Lastly, we checked for which image and personal attributes  
 452 the models struggle to predict aesthetic scores accurately.  
 453 Figure 8 shows the mean MSE of the images in the test set  
 454 per style. Although the challenging styles include both fig-  
 455 urative and abstract styles, the top-5 best-predicted styles  
 456 are all representational figurative art. Prediction errors are  
 457 higher for disliked genres and lower for liked genres (Ta-  
 458 ble s5). In terms of personal attributes, we do not find a  
 459 correlation between the MSE of predictions and art inter-  
 460 est. We do, however, find a negative correlation between  
 461 prediction errors and age ( $r = -0.33, p < 0.01$  for PIAA-  
 462 ICI and  $r = -0.40, p < 0.01$  for PIAA-MIR), indicating  
 463 that the models make more prediction errors for older users.  
 464 This can be in part explained by the over-representation of  
 465 younger annotators in LAPIS.

Ablation	SROCC
Baseline	0.69583
Art interest	<b>0.55155</b>
Age	0.68978
Style and genre	<b>0.55851</b>
Objective image attributes	0.70118

Table 4. Results of our ablation studies. The left column indicates which attribute is removed. The right column shows the SROCC for the given ablation. We observe that performance deteriorates when we remove art interest of the personal attributes and style and genre of the image attributes.

## 6. Conclusion

466 We present a novel dataset with artistic images for PIAA,  
 467 which is the first of its kind. We created LAPIS with art  
 468 images which is more suited for PIAA given the larger in-  
 469 dividual differences in the assessment of artistic images.  
 470 LAPIS is well-curated and contains rich personal and image  
 471 attributes. We show that the high-quality data in LAPIS re-  
 472 sult in good performance on GIAA using a simple resnet50.  
 473 PIAA presents a much more challenging task. Our exper-  
 474 iments show that the inclusion of rich personal and image  
 475 attributes improve predictions in PIAA. However, we find  
 476 that existing models fail on unseen users and images, indi-  
 477 cating that PIAA remains a challenging task.  
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**References**

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