Speech on AI and the Arts
TUC Congress 2025
Loraine Monk - Artists' Union England, supporting Motion 67
Composite 10

Never in Human history has a technology emerged so fast, so quickly and so unaccountable. Global capitalism and totalitarian states have seen AI's potential - greed for money and power. Irresistible!

Of course, like the invention of the wheel, steam power, and electricity, all had potential for good and evil, depending on how that power was controlled. This time, the money spent on advertising - and the media manipulation that sells it as a golden money tree while making criticism look out of touch

In three hundred years of union history we have always demanded legislation to protect our rights. Its never been a more important time to make a stand.

Unions representing creative workers are still waiting for the government to publish the response to their consultation on copyright and AI, which closed in March 2025.

We are certain creative workers said no. You have no right to steal our work!

Because it wasn't the answer the government wanted, they have still not declared the result. Instead, they have proposed more talks—mainly with AI companies. Creative workers don't need more talks. We want the government to listen. What a disgrace—for a Labour government to try to rig it, and then bury it!

But this is just one more example of the government dragging their feet, failing to deliver a bill to regulate AI promised a year ago, refusing to sign a global agreement agreed by 58 countries, opposing an amendment to the DATA bill to protect creative work.

This is shameful.

Our government giving in to the interests of large corporate companies, against the interests of ordinary workers.

Our Union movement began by workers demanding laws to control working conditions. How is it a Labour government is so obdurate about this? Doing Trumps bidding? Seeking investment at any cost!

I urge the TUC and the government to ask these questions of tech companies using AI:

What power have you got?

Where did you get it from?

In whose interests do you exercise it?

And to whom are you accountable?