

30
YEARS

FOTOSEPTIEMBRE

2024 MONOGRAPH



MICHAEL MEHL
PRIMATE SEE PRIMATE DO

AI GENERATED IMAGE SERIES

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AI Generated Images From Text Prompts By Michael Mehl

As a freelance copywriter and creative director I had been writing prompts for decades. Print ads, radio spots, TV commercials, etc. would flow from the words I wrote –the prompts I generated– back in the stone age. Fast forward to the 21st Century, and this thing called Generative AI came around. I was attuned to the development of AI imaging since its earlier inceptions, but had not given it much thought. When the quality of text-prompted images improved a few years ago, the possibilities became enticing and I began experimenting with the available tools to create my own series of AI images.

I used to call myself a musician, a composer, a photographer, a digital artist, a writer. That seems quaint now, since AI can do everything I can do, better. In light of this, I prefer to think of myself as a music maker, an image maker, a wordsmith. I'm a craftsman –a maker, a maker– in the traditional sense of the word. The artistry has been taken over by the machine. But the craft is still mine.

I'm not informed enough to know the existential consequences of General AI, but I'm pretty sure that at some point the machines will take over. If the Singularity is achieved in my lifetime, I'll be heading for the hills and will try to sidestep every cyborg that may come my way. For now, prompting images from my narrative descriptions is much fun, but I'm aware that ultimately what the machine wants is for me not to think about what the machine wants.

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Primate See Primate Do is a series I created specifically for FOTOSEPTIEMBRE 2024, our 30th year of producing and presenting photographic exhibits in San Antonio and the Texas Hill Country. The images are self-explanatory: primates are copycats. We can't help it. We salivate when we see the shiny new toys acquired, and activities engaged, by friends, neighbors, and more significantly, by so-called influencers. Me wants it too! Gimme Now!

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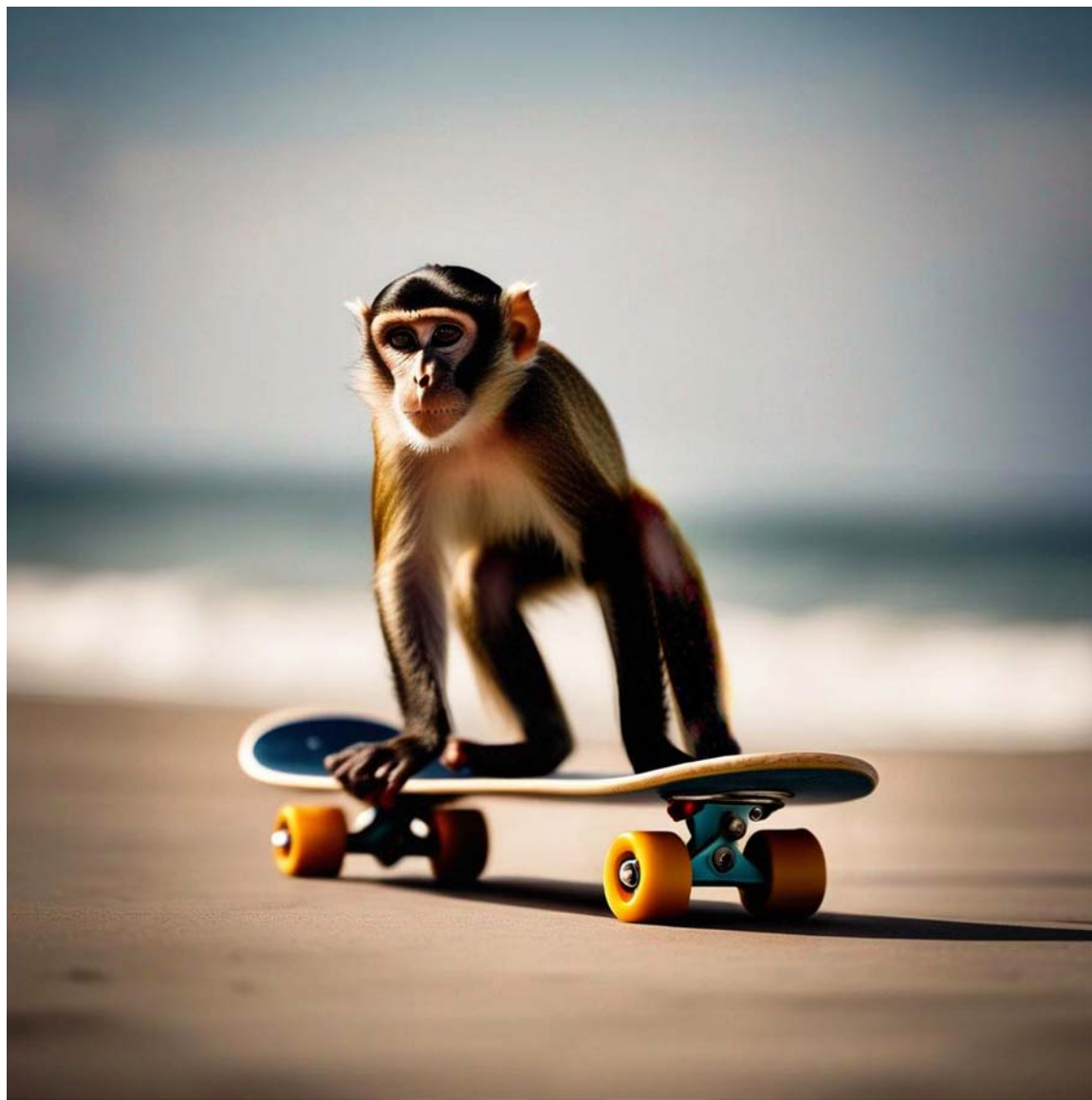
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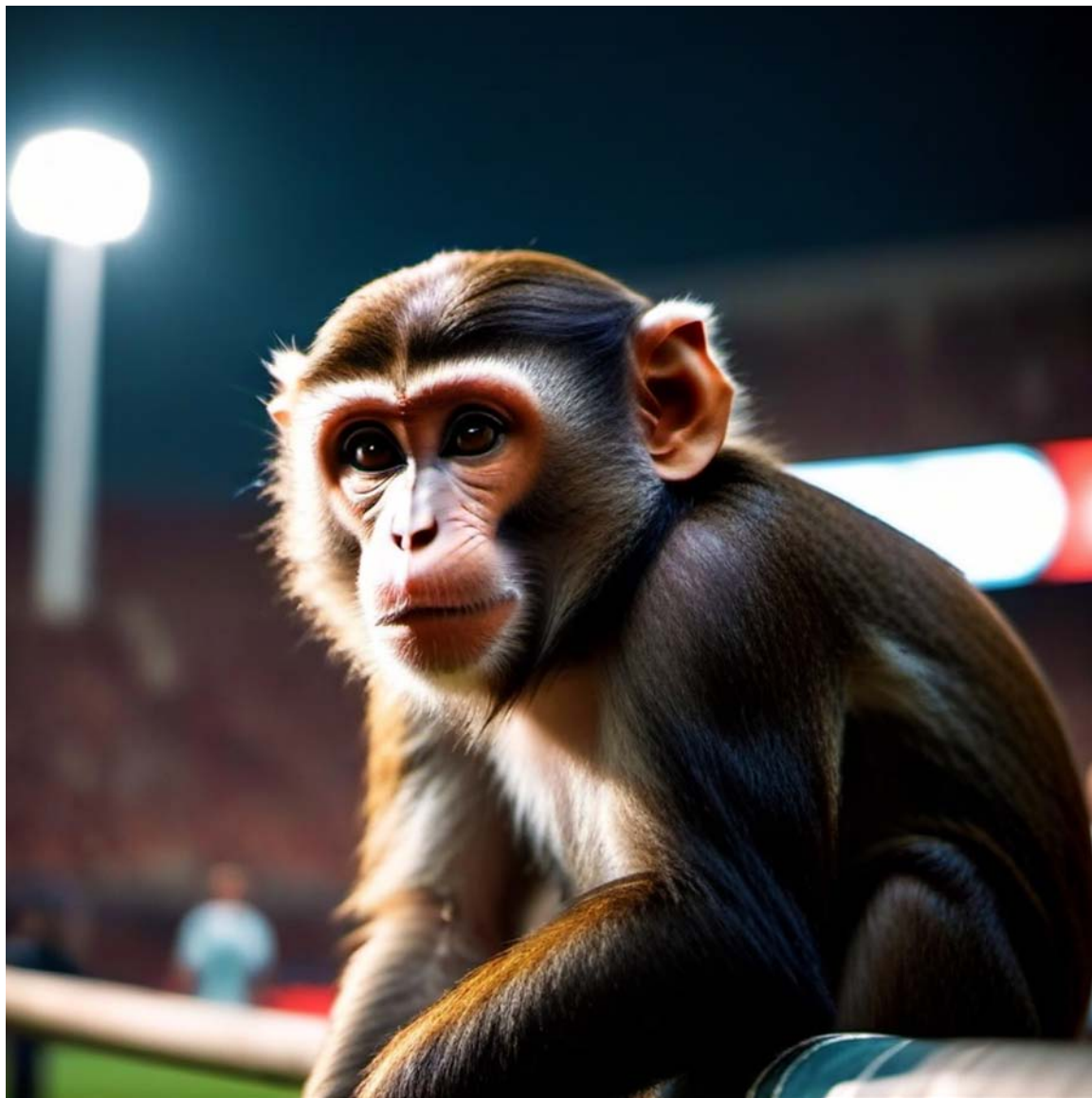
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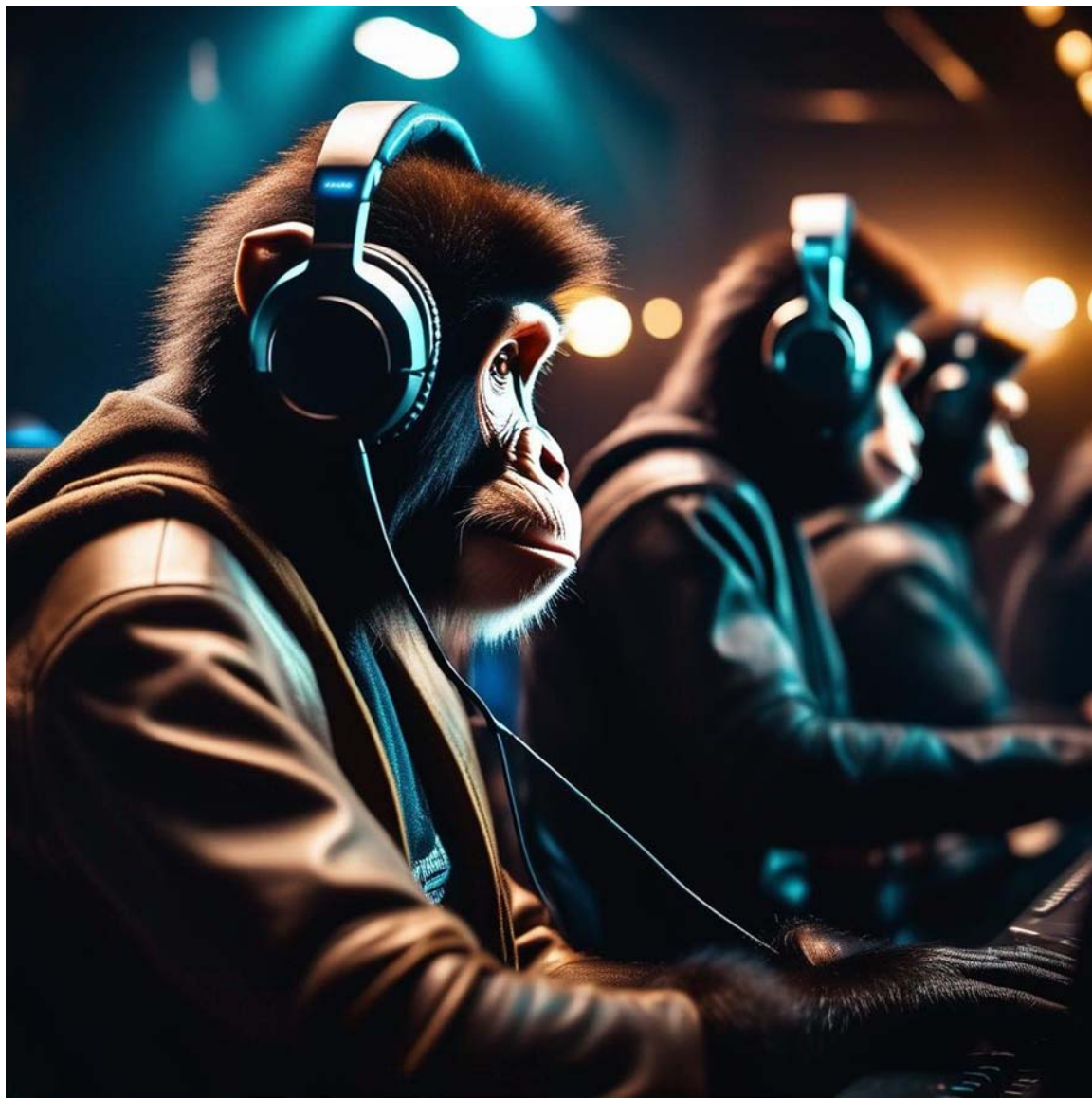
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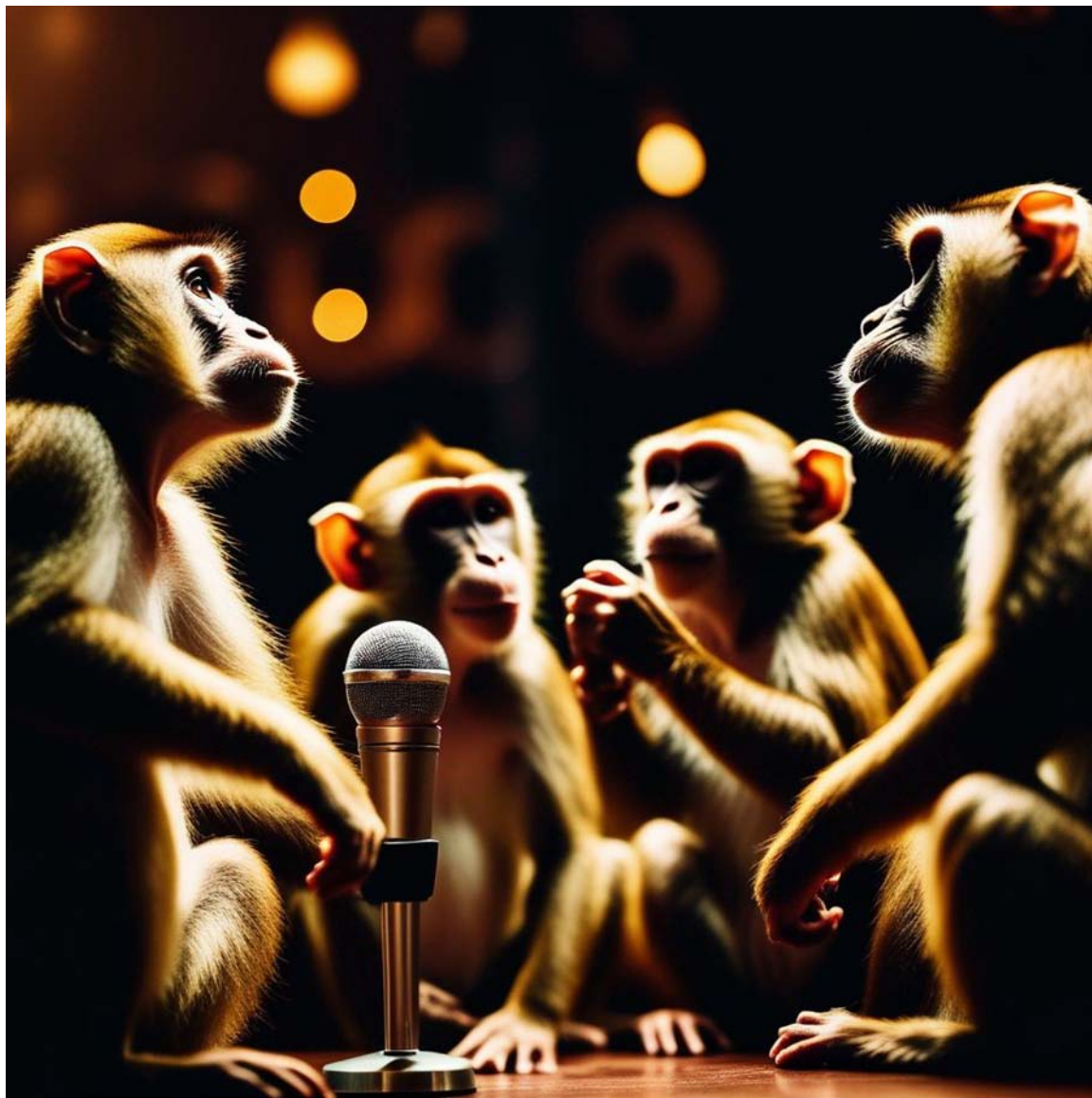
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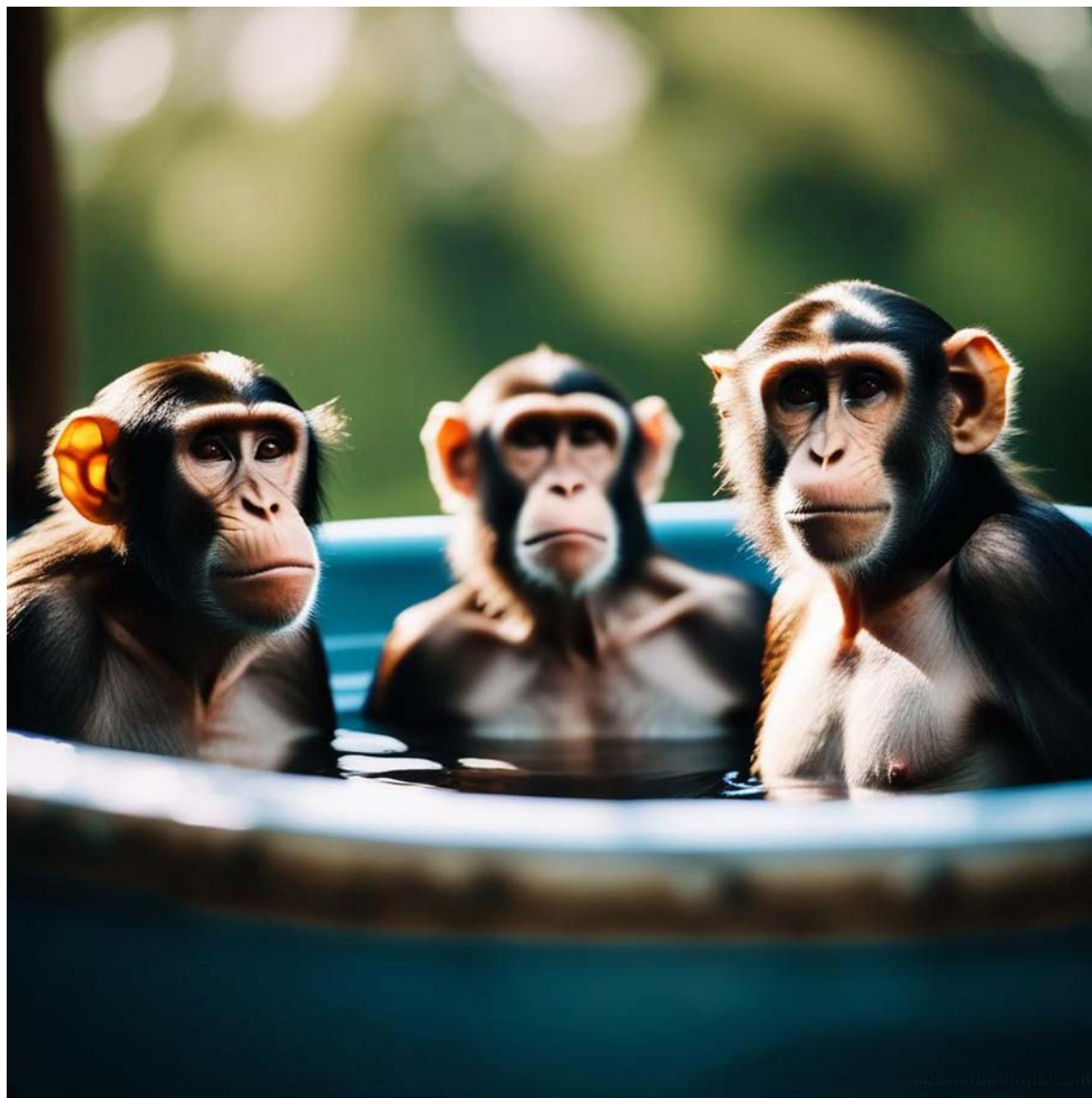
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