



Pinpointing Style

Mathematics is not just numbers and brute force calculation—there is considerable art and elegance to the subject. So it is natural that mathematics is now being used to analyze artists' styles and to help determine the identities of the creators of disputed works. Attempts at measuring style began with literature—based on statistics of word use—and have successfully identified disputed works such as some of *The Federalist Papers*. But drawings and paintings resisted quantification until very recently. In the case of Jackson Pollock, his paintings have a demonstrated complexity to them (corresponding to a fractal dimension between 1 and 2) that distinguishes them from simple random drips.



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