



ROBERTO ROSSI

BLOOD IN THE DESERT: MYSTERY ON ROUTE 66

AN ARTIFICIAL WRITING EXPERIMENT

BLOOD IN THE DESERT: MYSTERY ON ROUTE 66 – CHAPTER 1



The motel was there, on Route 66, in the middle of the desert, with its rusty sign creaking in the wind. It was a mysterious place, abandoned for years, but still alive in the memory of anyone who had traveled in that area. Reporter Jack Cooper had arrived there to investigate the disappearance of a couple of lovers, last seen there three weeks before. He had been commissioned by his editor to write an article about the mysterious disappearance, and had decided to start from the abandoned motel. He entered the building through the main door, which creaked loudly. The floor was dusty and the wood of the walls had deteriorated over time. Jack felt as if he were walking inside a tomb. He wondered how it could ever have been a welcoming place for travelers who stopped there. He climbed the stairs and ventured into one of the rooms. It was empty, except for an old bed and a broken bedside table. Jack took a deep breath and began to explore the rest of the building. There was an air of abandonment and loneliness in every room, and it seemed to have been abandoned for a long time. As he wandered around the motel, Jack noticed traces of blood on the wall of one of the rooms. He couldn't tell if they were real or if someone had painted them with their hands, as they almost looked like drawings. But something unsettled him...



BLOOD IN THE DESERT: MYSTERY ON ROUTE 66 – CHAPTER 2



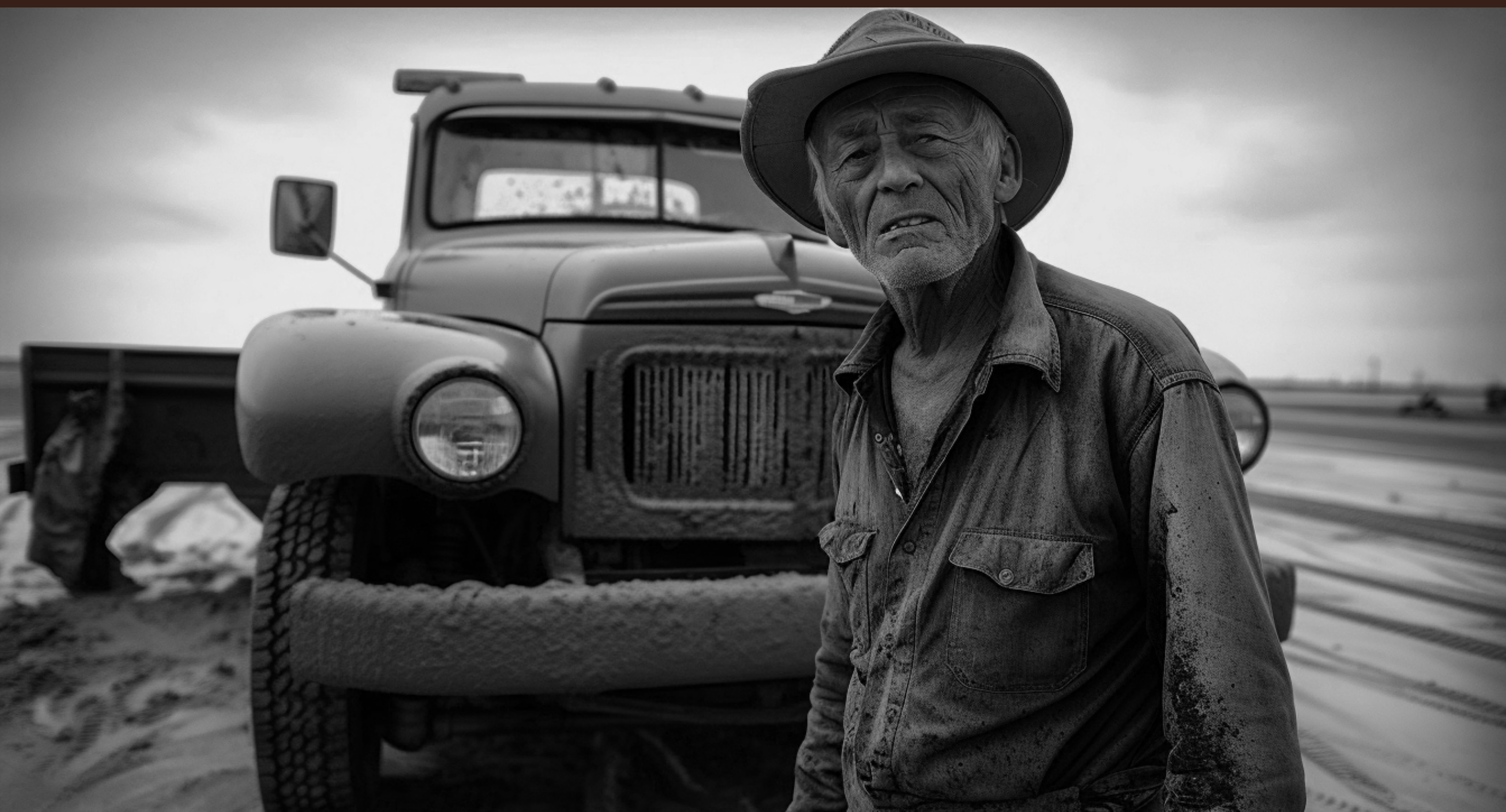
Jack decided to leave the motel and continue investigating the disappearance of the couple. Outside, the road was deserted. The dust and heat made everything seem even more eerie. On the edge of the road, he saw an old truck parked. He approached and noticed tire tracks and mud on the sand. Perhaps the truck had been there since the night the couple disappeared. Suddenly, a voice made him jump. He turned and saw an old man who seemed to belong to the place. He was dressed in worn clothes and had a cowboy hat on his head.

"Who are you and what are you doing here?" the man asked, looking at Jack with scrutinizing eyes.

"My name is Jack Cooper and I'm a reporter. I'm investigating the disappearance of a couple who were last seen here three weeks ago," Jack replied.

The man rubbed his chin, then said, "I don't know anything about a couple, but if you want to find some clues, you should go to the abandoned mine to the north. There's an old friend of mine there who might tell you something useful."

Jack thanked the man and got into his car. He was curious to see what he would find at the abandoned mine...



BLOOD IN THE DESERT: MYSTERY ON ROUTE 66 – CHAPTER 3



The abandoned mine was located about an hour's drive from the motel. Jack stopped in front of the old, run-down structure and got out of the car. The place seemed deserted, but it still had its charm.

As Jack explored the area, he saw a man working on a rusty machine. He was dressed in work overalls and had a white, unkempt beard. Jack approached the man and asked if he had seen the missing couple of lovers, showing him a photo he kept in his pants pocket.

The man looked at him carefully and then said, "I know nothing about the couple of lovers, but I can tell you that this mine has a dark history. It was once owned by a wealthy magnate who managed both this mine and the old abandoned motel, but then disappeared into thin air along with his entire family. It is said that there is still a hidden treasure inside the structure, but no one has ever found it."

Jack was impressed by the story and decided to enter the mine. He crossed the dark corridors and smelled the classic scent of dust and rust. As he ventured further into the tunnel, he noticed traces of blood on the floor. It was similar to what he had seen at the motel, with the same strange drawings. Suddenly, he heard a dull noise coming from one of the side galleries. He approached and saw that the only door present was closed. He tried to open it by giving it powerful blows, but it was blocked. He decided to force it and, when he finally managed to open it, he was shocked by the scene that lay before his eyes...



BLOOD IN THE DESERT: MYSTERY ON ROUTE 66 – CHAPTER 4



Behind the door, there was a secret room; dark and worn, it smelled of mold. In the center of the room, there was a table and on it a wooden box. Jack approached it slowly, opened it, and saw a series of objects: photos, ID cards of the two missing lovers, wallets, and a blood-stained knife.

He realized he had found the proof he was looking for; the couple of lovers had probably been killed there and their bodies hidden somewhere. It was lucky that he had found that room.

However, he noticed he wasn't the only person in the room. Suddenly, he felt someone approaching him from behind. It was the man from the rusty machine. Jack quickly realized that he was the culprit.

The man threw a heavy wrench at him and the two started to fight. Jack was a former boxer and managed to disarm the man without much difficulty. He made him fall to the ground and immobilized him with an old rope found on the floor. He quickly exited the mine and called the police. When the officers arrived, he handed over the suspected culprit and the evidence he had found. The truth about the disappearance of the couple of lovers had finally been revealed, but their bodies were still missing...



BLOOD IN THE DESERT: MYSTERY ON ROUTE 66 – CHAPTER 5



After leaving the abandoned mine, Jack returned to the motel where it all started. The sun had already set and the twilight illuminated the abandoned building. Looking back on his adventure, Jack realized that he had experienced something incredible; he had found the truth about the disappearance of the couple and had thwarted another possible crime. But he had also uncovered a dark and mysterious story about Route 66. As he approached his car, he saw a dark figure in the distance. He approached and realized it was a woman; the same woman he had glimpsed at the abandoned motel on the day of his arrival.

"Who are you?" Jack asked.

"I'm Mary," the woman replied. "I heard you found the proof of the couple's disappearance. Thanks to you, the truth has been revealed."

Jack looked at the woman carefully. She was beautiful, with long blonde hair and blue eyes. But there was something strange about her.

"You don't seem surprised," Jack said. "You already knew the truth, didn't you?"

Mary nodded. "Yes, I suspected it. And I also know that there are other mysteries on this road. If you want, I can take you and show you the most interesting and mysterious places on the old Route 66."

Jack accepted Mary's invitation, and together they set out to discover the Mother Road. They discovered old abandoned motels, ancient churches, and spooky cemeteries. Each place had a story and a mystery to unravel, and Mary seemed to know many of them. Jack and Mary became friends and continued to explore Route 66 for many years. Their adventure led them to discover many secrets but also to find the beauty and poetry of the road. And so, the abandoned motel on Route 66 was no longer a mysterious and frightening place but became a starting point for Jack and Mary's great adventure. But despite their adventures, no one had yet found the bodies of the two missing lovers in the old abandoned motel...



BLOOD IN THE DESERT: MYSTERY ON ROUTE 66 – CHAPTER 6



Jack had been working for years at a small local newspaper in Tucumcari, and he had aged there. Mary had become his best friend, even though Jack hoped for something more, she never made a move and he, out of fear of being disappointed, always avoided the topic. Mary had always been an adventurer who loved to travel and discover new things. One day, while they were discussing what to do on the weekend, Mary suggested taking a long trip on Route 66.

Jack was not very convinced at first; it would take many days, and he didn't have them, but when he remembered the story of the couple of lovers who disappeared on Route 66 years before, he decided that it could be the perfect story for his newspaper if they managed to find the bodies. With Mary's help, they set out on a journey along Route 66 to discover what happened to the two missing people...



BLOOD IN THE DESERT: MYSTERY ON ROUTE 66 – CHAPTER 7



During their journey, Jack and Mary meet many strange and interesting characters, but no one seems to know the truth about the missing couple. They are almost ready to give up when they receive a mysterious phone call from a man who introduces himself as an old friend of the two missing persons. The man says he has information about their disappearance and invites them to meet at a motel along the road, that very same motel...



BLOOD IN THE DESERT: MYSTERY ON ROUTE 66 – CHAPTER 8



During their trip, Jack and Mary meet many strange and interesting characters, but no one seems to know the truth about the missing couple. They are about to give up when they receive a mysterious phone call from a man who introduces himself as an old friend of the two missing persons. The man says he has information about their disappearance and invites them to meet at a motel along the road, which happens to be that very same motel...

Jack and Mary accept the invitation and go to the motel, where they meet the man. He reveals to them that the two friends were killed by a group of bikers who run a drug trafficking operation along Route 66, and that one of them had been arrested months ago at the old mine and found dead in his cell a few days later under mysterious circumstances. The man says he has been trying to find justice for that kind couple of lovers who he had helped along Route 66 when their car broke down. Determined to find the truth, Jack and Mary set out to find the bikers. After several investigations, they manage to identify the biker gang that gathered every evening at an old café in the town of Bagdad. While they were getting drunk, Jack and Mary returned to the old mine, now it was night, but they managed to uncover the truth about the disappearance of the two missing lovers. Thanks to their work, the culprits are arrested and convicted of murder. The bodies of the two lovers had been dissolved in acid inside some old gasoline drums abandoned behind the bikers' club house, located next to the mine. Jack and Mary's story becomes the main news of the newspaper and makes them famous in the town. Tucumcari dedicates a square in honor of their commitment, and the news goes around the world. Route 66 comes back into the spotlight. Thousands of tourists from all over the world nurture the desire to travel it and live exciting adventures like Jack and Mary's.



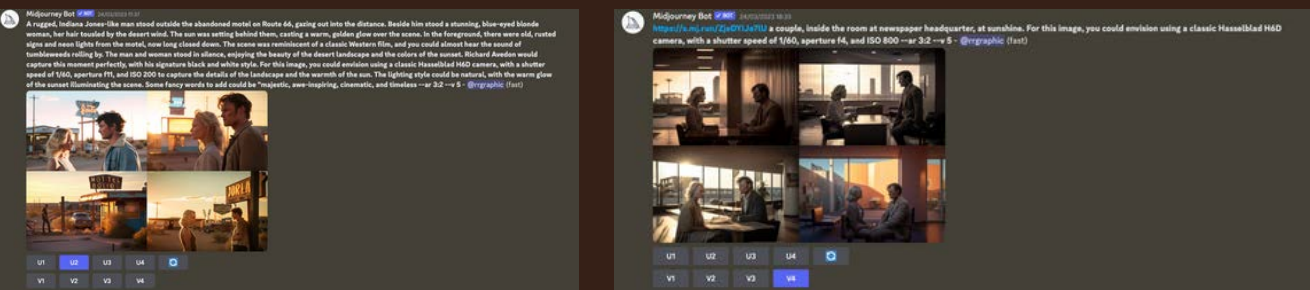
BLOOD IN THE DESERT: MYSTERY ON ROUTE 66 – TECHNICAL INFORMATION



What you have just read and admired is an experiment born out of my imagination, but above all of ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. Thanks to this new technology, I was able to ask ChatGPT to invent a story set on Route 66, in an undefined area of Arizona, with some simple information that the artificial intelligence used to write this story almost from scratch.

The images were generated with MidJourney; another type of artificial intelligence capable of generating images with visual, colorimetric, and compositional characteristics by exploiting inputs, called prompts, with which I instructed it to generate the images, in some cases photorealistic, that I had in mind. A system that opens up many possibilities and many discussions, in a world, that of creative writing and imagery, truly unpredictable in the coming years. Below, I briefly explain what it is about.

Let me know what you think of this experiment by writing to me at roberto@robertorossi.name



ChatGPT is a language model based on the Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT) architecture, developed by OpenAI. It has been trained on a vast corpus of text in different languages, including books, newspaper articles, web pages, and more. In practice, its training has allowed it to acquire extensive knowledge of natural language and its grammatical rules, as well as a good understanding of the meaning of words and phrases.

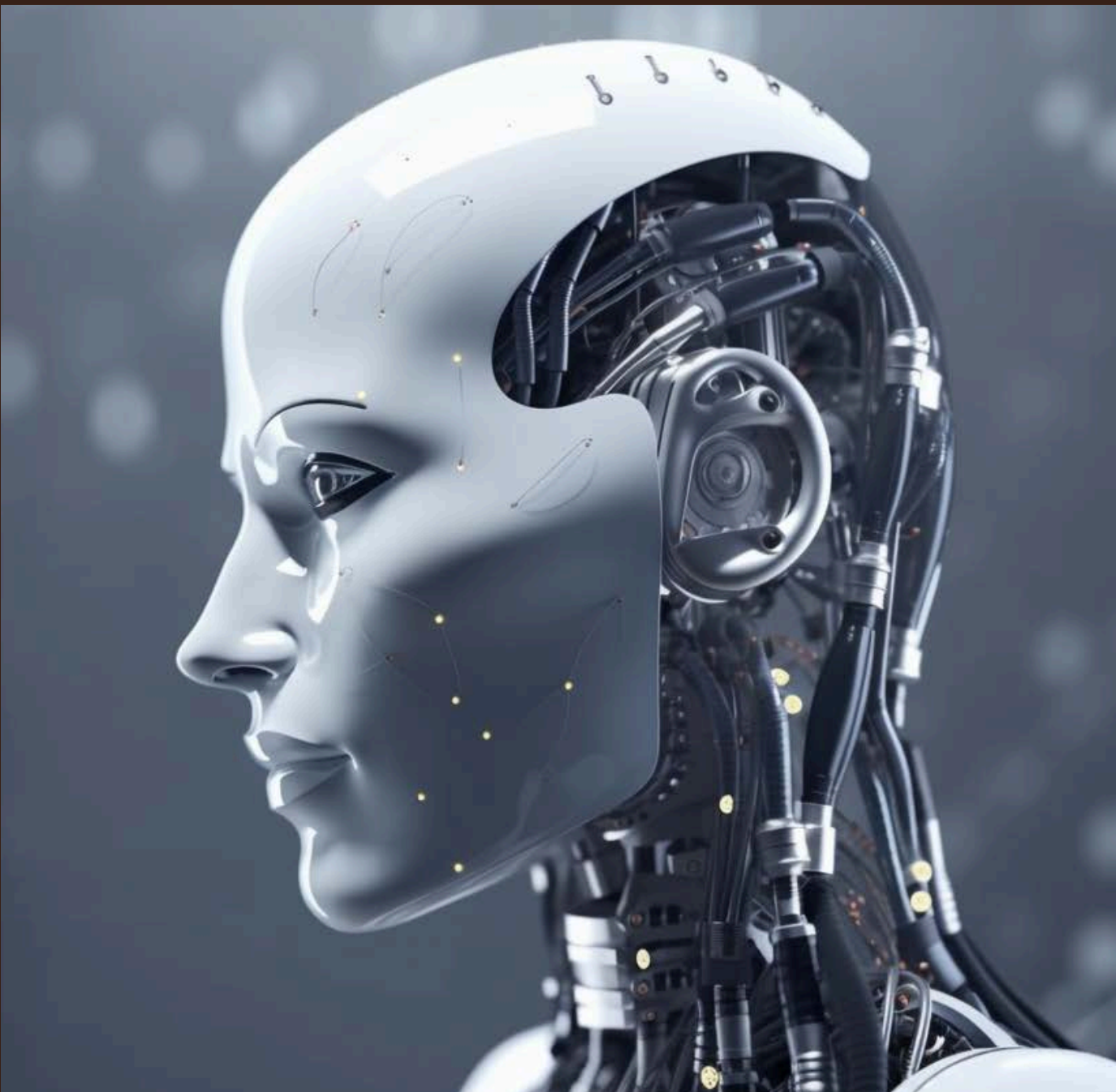
Thanks to its natural language processing capabilities, it can perform various tasks, such as text generation, automatic translation, answering questions, and sentiment analysis of text. However, it should be noted that it does not have its own thinking or consciousness, but is limited to processing and generating text based on the information it receives.

In general, artificial intelligence (AI) is a field of science and technology that deals with creating systems and programs capable of performing tasks that require human intelligence. In other words, the goal of AI is to develop algorithms and models that can imitate some of the human cognitive abilities, such as perception, reasoning, problem-solving, and the ability to learn.

Artificial intelligence can be divided into different categories, based on the techniques and methods used to create intelligent systems. For example, there are artificial neural networks, which are mathematical models inspired by the functioning of the human brain, and machine learning systems, which are capable of improving their performance thanks to accumulated experience.

Artificial intelligence has many practical applications in different sectors, such as medicine, industry, automation, finance, e-commerce, cybersecurity, and many others. Among the most common applications of AI are chatbots, voice assistants, intelligent search engines, theft and fraud detection systems, autonomous vehicles, and industrial robots.

Artificial intelligence is a constantly evolving field and is revolutionizing many aspects of our daily life, bringing benefits but also some concerns regarding the ethics and security of intelligent systems.



Artificial intelligence that generates images like MidJourney is a subcategory of artificial intelligence that deals with generating artificial images using algorithms and machine learning models. These algorithms use a vast amount of image data to learn the features of real images, such as colors, shapes, and textures, and use this information to generate completely new images.

There are various techniques used by artificial intelligence to generate images. One of these techniques is the use of generative neural networks (GANs), which consist of two parts: a generator and a discriminator. The generator uses a random input distribution to generate artificial images, while the discriminator evaluates the images generated by the generator and determines whether they are real or fake. The generator is then trained to generate increasingly realistic images until the discriminator can no longer distinguish between the artificial and real images.

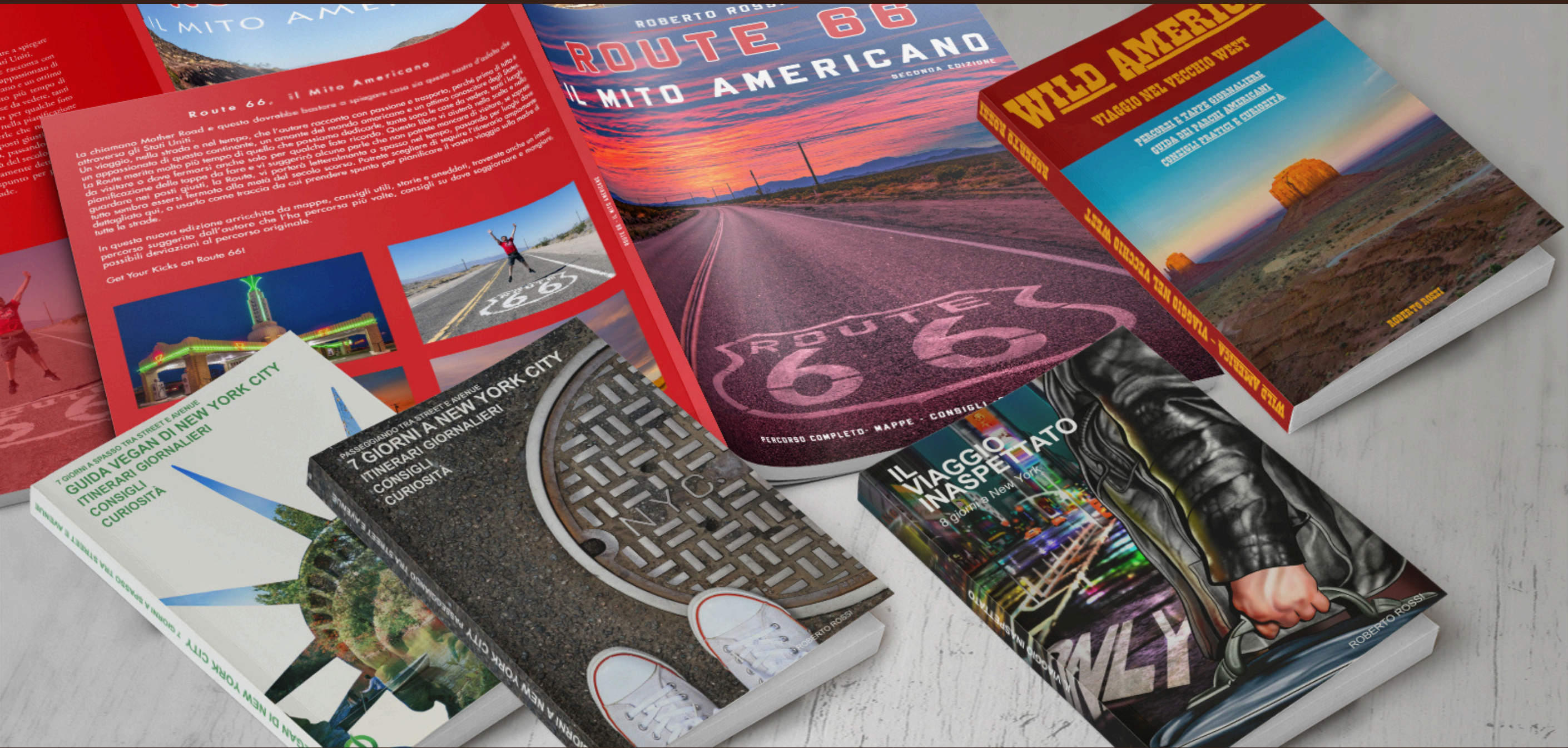
Artificial intelligence that generates images has many applications, such as high-resolution image generation, creating realistic images of objects or people that do not exist in reality, creating virtual environments for video games, and simulating complex scientific processes.

However, it is important to note that the use of artificial intelligence to generate images can raise ethical concerns, such as the creation of misleading images or copyright infringement. For this reason, it is important to use these technologies in a responsible and aware manner.

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Here I am, let me introduce myself; I started my career as a photographer and videomaker, and then developed my skills in the field of 3D graphics and compositing, working for important productions such as RAI, Sesame Street, Sony Picture, General Electric, ABB, and others.

Ever since I was young, I have been passionate about travel and writing. In 2017, I published my first book, born from a trip along the legendary Route 66, which drastically changed my professional prospects. The following year, I created the blog "Vegans on the Go" and published my second book dedicated to my beloved New York City, which was released in two versions (regular and vegan).

In 2019, I presented my fourth book, a novel set in Manhattan titled "The Unexpected Journey". In 2020, I published "Wild America, Journey through the Old West," a guide to the region known as the Real America, where Native Americans and cowboys clashed in epic battles.

During this time, my life underwent an important change. I began to focus on the world of travel, thanks to my blog, books, and my unbridled passion for the USA. I seized the opportunity to collaborate with Tour Operator Reporter Live as a Tour Leader and consultant, accompanying tourists around the world, producing photos, videos, and content, and carrying out special projects in the tourism industry.

In 2021, I became a USA AMBASSADOR, a specialist of the United States of America, a precious recognition from Visit USA Italy. I explore cities around the world, unusual places, and all kinds of adventures that I share on my blog "Vegans on the Go" and often turn into books or articles for industry magazines.

My passion for the visual arts has deep roots, passed down from my father, an established photographer who taught me a lot. On the other hand, my passion for travel was already present in me since childhood, when I used to go to the travel agency in my town to pick up brochures, dreaming of exploring the world as soon as I had the opportunity.

Route 66, its essence, its dusty asphalt ribbon, and the USA in general are my greatest passion, a passion that has led me to discover a new part of myself, the creative, passionate, and romantic part. New journeys around the world, new experiences in graphics with an important production about to start, and of course, a great desire to explore the world, capture it through photography, and convey its beauty.

The passion for photography, travel, and graphics always blends together in a functional mix in every work I produce. I often like to conclude my written or narrated stories with a phrase that expresses my passion for life and adventures around the world:
"Safe travels wherever life takes you!"



ROBERTO  ROSSI

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ROUTE 66 IL MITO AMERICANO
GUIDA DI NEW YORK CITY
GUIDA VEGAN DI NEW YORK CITY
WILD AMERICA, VIAGGIO NEL VECCHIO WEST
IL VIAGGIO INASPETTATO

