

The AI Launches of 2025

Video Generation Models

Runway Gen-4.5: State-of-the-art motion quality and visual fidelity.

Google Veo 3.1: Native audio generation, multi-shot sequencing.

Kling 2.6: Advanced motion control, native audio synthesis, faster generation.

LTX-2: 20 seconds of continuous video. Finally - longer form content!

Luma Ray3: First model with native HDR support.

Sora 2: Improved motion quality and visual fidelity. Community-driven developments.

PixVerse V5: Advanced visual effects and motion control.

Hailuo 02: High-quality video with improved consistency.

Seedance 1.0: Multi-shot video generation from text and image.

Wan 2.6: Multimodal video model (text, image, audio). 1080p output, native audio, multilingual.

Wan 2.2: Open-source model. Consumer GPU support (8.19 GB VRAM).

Image Generation Models

Nano Banana Pro: Reasoning-based image generation. Multi-reference support. You can actually talk to it like an LLM.

FLUX.2: Improved prompt adherence, text rendering, realism.

Adobe Firefly Image 5: Better precision, prompt adherence, realistic images. Creative Suite integration.

Reve Image: Came out of nowhere in March 2025 and instantly topped the leaderboards.

ChatGPT Images: New and improved version (December 2025). Tighter integration with ChatGPT.

Leonardo AI: Continued evolution with improved style control and speed.

Ideogram 3.0: Best-in-class text rendering. Typography that actually works!

Midjourney v7: Continued refinements and style consistency improvements. Still my personal favorite.

Imagen 4 Ultra: High-fidelity image generation with advanced editing capabilities.

Freepik Spaces: Preset workflows and collaborative canvas for node-based creation.

Krea Nodes: Nodal workflows for automated tasks (product placement, multi-angle generation).

Large Language Models (LLMs)

GPT-5.2: Latest flagship model with enhanced context handling, real-time routing, and advanced reasoning. Integrated into Microsoft Copilot.

Claude Opus 4.5: Released December 2025. Enterprise accuracy and reasoning.

Gemini 3 Pro: Surprise leader for coding and complex reasoning.

Manus 1.6: Multi-modal creative AI with deep research, visual generation, slide/PowerPoint creation and web development.

DeepSeek R1: Inference-time scaling. Open-source innovation.

Qwen 3: 235B-A22B. Advanced reasoning and multilingual support.

Llama 4: Scout/Maverick variants. Open-source powerhouse.

Grok 3: Released February 2025. Real-time reasoning and web integration.

Summary of 2025 Releases

Video models like Kling 2.6 and Veo 3.1 gave us unprecedented control over motion, lighting, and character consistency.

Image models like Nano Banana Pro started reasoning about images instead of just generating from prompts and changed the entire game.

And LLMs matured into specialized tools. GPT-5.2, Claude Opus 4.5, and Gemini 3 Pro each excelling at different tasks. It's not about which one is best overall, but which one is best at a specific task.

My Top 3 2025 Tool Picks

Shoutout to three of my personal top favorites of 2025!

Image: **Midjourney** | Midjourney will always hold a place in my heart for it's effect on the AI community and the uniqueness of it's images. I don't think anyone expected a Nano Banana Pro impact coming quite like it did and without doubt it has the most use cases; but Midjourney remains my personal favorite.

Video: **Kling** | Pound for pound Kling has always been near the top. With each tool gravitating towards different strengths, Kling will still be the first tab I open to test new ideas or prompts; especially after 2.6.

LLM: **Manus** | A lot less known... but wow. Deep research capabilities, seamless integration with Nano Banana Pro and Veo models, slide and PowerPoint generation, web development, video editing; it's like having an entire creative studio in one tool. The speed is insanely fast, and it actually understands the full creative workflow from concept to execution.