What is claimed is:

1. A method for generating thumbnail images from video signals, comprising:

receiving a sequence of images in an input video signal;

detecting a subset of images each depicting one or more character faces in the sequence of images;

applying one or more auto clustering algorithms to the subset of images to generate a plurality of image clusters;

determining a cluster distance for each image in each image cluster in the plurality of image clusters;

determining a quality metric for each image in each image cluster in the plurality of image clusters;

assigning a weighted score to each image in each image cluster in the plurality of image clusters, based on an individual cluster distance for each such image and an individual quality metric for each such image;

based on an individual weighted score for each image in each image cluster in the plurality of image clusters, selecting a subset of image clusters from the plurality of image clusters;

causing one or more thumbnail images generated from one or more images in the subset of image clusters to be rendered on a display device to a viewer.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sequence of images represents one or more of: a series of video images, a plurality of still photographic images, a plurality of computer-rendered images, or a combination of video images and still photographic images.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the sequence of images represents a media content item offered for access to at least one population of media content consumers, and wherein at least one of the one or more thumbnail images is selectable by a media content consumer to access the media content item.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the subset of images is automatically clustered into the plurality of image clusters based on feature vectors comprising flow values in relation to low-level or high-level features extracted from the subset of images.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the low-level or high-level features extracted from the subset of images comprise one or more weighted combinations of: local binary patterns (LBPs), deep neural network (DNN) features, convolutional neural network (CNN) features,

or Haar-like features.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the subset of images is identified from the sequence of images based on a face detection method comprising one or more of: edge detection algorithms, object recognition and segmentation algorithms, or image morphological operations.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the subset of images is identified from the sequence of images based on one or more of: image content analyses, audio content analyses, or analyzing metadata related to the sequence of images.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more thumbnail images-comprise at least an image of a specific aspect ratio.

9. A system for generating thumbnail images from video signals, comprising:
one or more computing processors;
a non-transitory computer readable medium that stores computer instructions which, when executed by the one or more computing processors, cause the one or more computing processors to perform the method of claim 1.

10. A system for generating thumbnail images from video signals, comprising:
one or more computing processors;
a non-transitory computer readable medium that stores computer instructions which, when executed by the one or more computing processors, cause the one or more computing processors to perform the method of claim 2.

11. A system for generating thumbnail images from video signals, comprising:
one or more computing processors;
a non-transitory computer readable medium that stores computer instructions which, when executed by the one or more computing processors, cause the one or more computing processors to perform the method of claim 3.

12. A system for generating thumbnail images from video signals, comprising:
one or more computing processors;
a non-transitory computer readable medium that stores computer instructions which, when executed by the one or more computing processors, cause the one or more computing

processors to perform the method of claim 4.

13. A system for generating thumbnail images from video signals, comprising:

one or more computing processors;

a non-transitory computer readable medium that stores computer instructions which, when executed by the one or more computing processors, cause the one or more computing processors to perform the method of claim 5.

14. A system for generating thumbnail images from video signals, comprising:

one or more computing processors;

a non-transitory computer readable medium that stores computer instructions which, when executed by the one or more computing processors, cause the one or more computing processors to perform the method of claim 6.

15. A system for generating thumbnail images from video signals, comprising:

one or more computing processors;

a non-transitory computer readable medium that stores computer instructions which, when executed by the one or more computing processors, cause the one or more computing processors to perform the method of claim 7.

16. A system for generating thumbnail images from video signals, comprising:

one or more computing processors;

a non-transitory computer readable medium that stores computer instructions which, when executed by the one or more computing processors, cause the one or more computing processors to perform the method of claim 8.

17. A non-transitory computer readable medium that stores computer instructions which, when executed by one or more computing processors, cause the one or more computing processors to perform the method of claim 1.

18. A non-transitory computer readable medium that stores computer instructions which, when executed by one or more computing processors, cause the one or more computing processors to perform the method of claim 2.

19. A non-transitory computer readable medium that stores computer instructions which, when executed by one or more computing processors, cause the one or more computing processors to perform the method of claim 3.

20. A non-transitory computer readable medium that stores computer instructions which, when executed by one or more computing processors, cause the one or more computing processors to perform the method of claim 4.