WELCOME TO SESSION 03

The Evolution of Dweb Art, Activism and History

In the earliest days of any emerging technology, one can count on a handful of artists who choose to utilize said technology as a tool or aspect of medium in their artwork. Despite popular belief, the history of artists working in Dweb does not begin in 2018 or even 2009. As the internet in itself is a decentralized network, artists have been creating artworks that behave within these systems for decades.

Participants will learn why artists have been drawn to making work with and about decentralized networks and who helped to shape the evolving aesthetics and discourse around artwork related to these systems, utilizing everything from peer-to-peer file sharing networks of the late '90s to blockchain. Finally, participants will learn how artists use decentralized tooling for autonomy and why it may or may not have been successful.

OVERVIEW

04 Icebreaker

05 Quick Recap

06 Telematic Thinking

07 BBS and Art

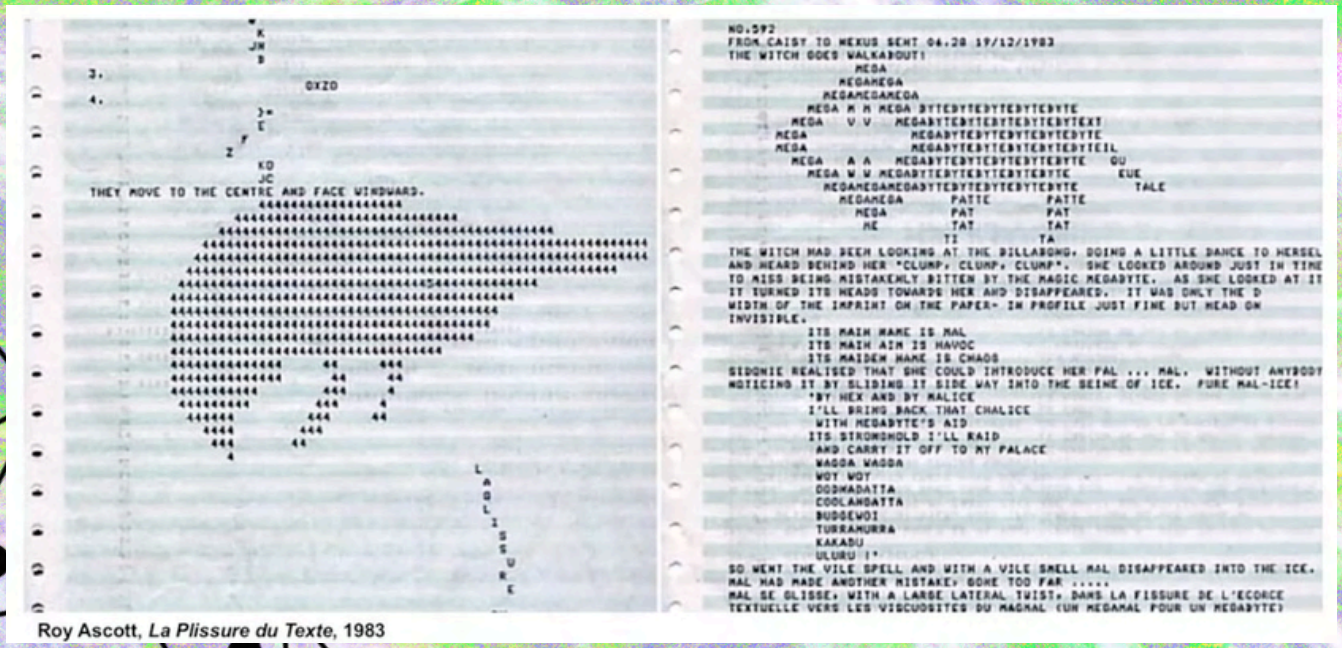
08 Net Art of the 1990s

09 Early Dweb art

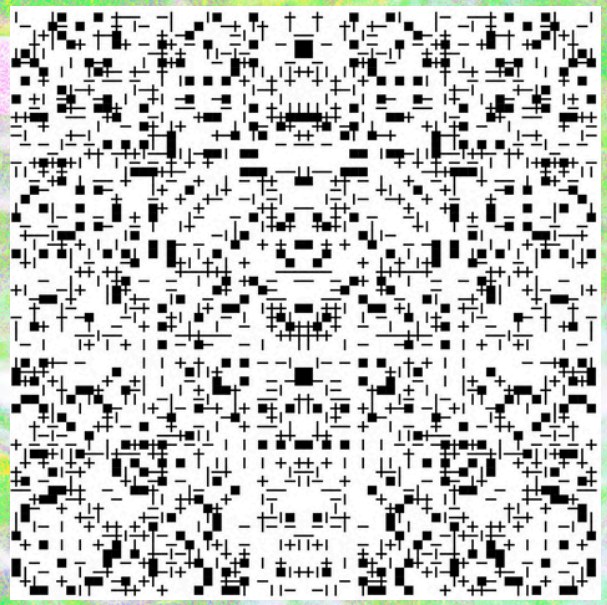
10 Blockchain 2011-2018

11 Blockchain 2018-2025

12 Artist Autonomy



Roy Ascott, *La Plissure du Texte*, 1983



SHARE A FAVORITE ARTWORK RELATED TO THE DECENTRALIZED WEB

1978: TELEMATIC THINKING AND DISTRIBUTED AUTHORSHIP

La Plissure du Texte (1980)

Roy Ascott's La Plissure du Texte used the Artists' Electronic Exchange Network (ARTEX) to create a collaborative, geographically dispersed narrative.

TORONTO

Students of the Ontario College of Art at the Music Gallery

Students of the Ontario College of Art at the Music Gallery

SAN FRANCISCO

T. Klinkowstein & G. McKenna at La Mammelle

T. Klinkowstein & R. Adrian at La Mammelle

VANCOUVER

Hank Bull at Western Front

VIENNA

Zelko Wiener & colleagues at the Kulturservice Studio

MAIL ART AND DADA

Mail Art

Mail art transformed the postal system into an artistic medium. Artists sent altered postcards or mixed-media pieces on journeys, inviting recipients to add their own creative touch before passing them on, creating a collaborative chain reaction across the globe.

DADAGLOBE

Dadaglobe was a project initiated by Tristan Tzara in 1921, aiming to compile works from Dada artists around the world into a single volume, representing a physical manifestation of the Dada movement's decentralized and global approach. Though it was never realized in Tzara's time, Dadaglobe showcased the movement's commitment to distributing artistic expression across borders, embodying the early 20th-century equivalent of a distributed network by connecting diverse contributions into a collective artistic endeavor.

SEND/RECEIVE

Send/Receive (1977), a project initiated by Keith Sonnier and Liza Bear, used a public satellite for the first artist-initiated two-way communication between New York and San Francisco. It explored the artistic potential of satellite technology while raising questions about public access to this powerful tool and its potential political and social impact.

East Coast (New York)
Liza Bear
Willoughby Sharp
Keith Sonnier
Richard Landry
Nancy Lewis
Richard Peck
Betty Sussler
Paul Shavelson
Duff Schweninger

West Coast (San Francisco):
Margaret Fisher
Terry Fox
Sharon Grace
Carl Loeffler
Richard Lowenberg
Alan Scarritt

ARTBOX/ARTEX

The Planetary Network project, conceived by Roy Ascott for the 1986 Venice Biennale, used the ARTEX computer network to connect artists globally for a collaborative art experience.

PLANETARY NETWORK was a world-wide telecommunications project in the context of LABORATORIO UBIQUA, the Technology and Informatics section of the 42nd Venice Biennale.
For the first 2 weeks of the Biennale, 24 locations around the world contributed to a daily program of exchanges using fax, slow scan TV and computer communications (email and conference). For the rest of the period of the Biennale free user accounts were provided by the I.P.Sharp computer-timesharing network for continuous on-line discussion using ARTEX and Confer.

Network locations:
alma, canada / atlanta, u.s.a. / boston, u.s.a. / chicago, u.s.a. / honolulu, u.s.a. / milan, italy / nice, france / paris, france(2) / perth, australia / pittsburgh, u.s.a. / gwent, u.k. / rennes, france / san francisco, u.s.a.(2) / santa monica, u.s.a. / sydney, australia / toronto, canada(3) / vancouver, canada / venice, italy / vienna, austria.

BBS ART

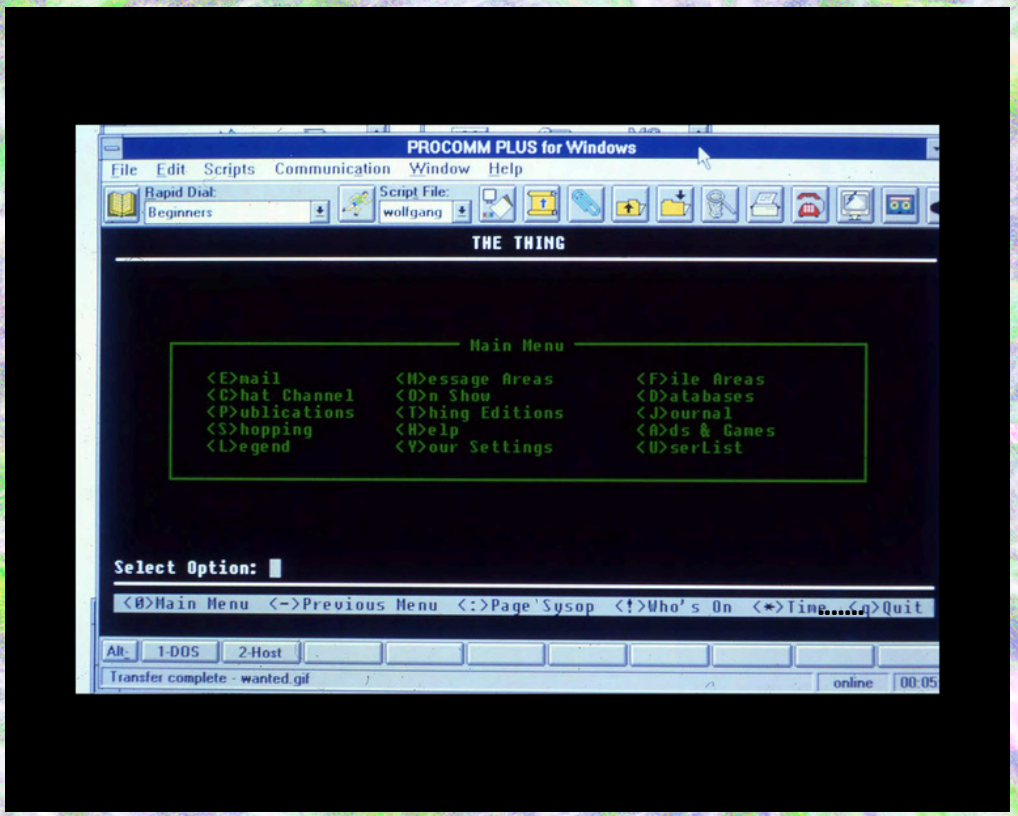
COMMUNITY MEMORY

- Telewriting drawing tools for transmission and collaboration
- Video Recording
- Audio Conferencing

THE THING

(Wolfgang Staehle)

THE WELL´S ART COM ELECTRONIC NETWORK (ACEN)



"WHAT MATTERED TO BEUYS WAS THE SOCIAL SCULPTURE, AN ARTISTIC PRODUCTION MADE JOINTLY BY A GROUP OR A COMMUNITY"

-WOLFGANG STAEHLE

BACKSPACE/BAKSPC

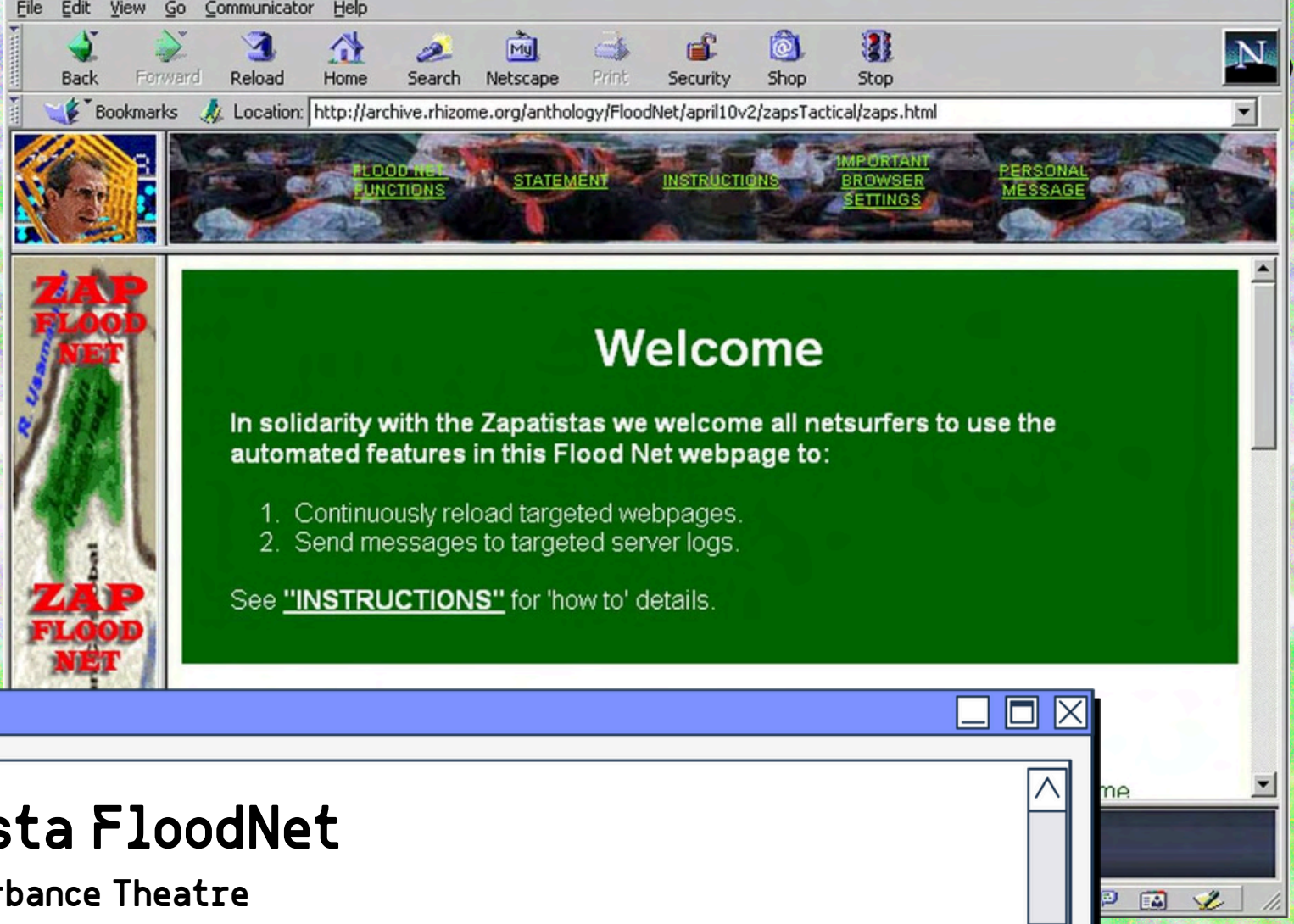
Established in London in the mid-90s by James Stevens, BACKSPACE was a media lab that leveraged the Internet to distribute and decentralize artworks. As a pioneering platform, it allowed artists to bypass traditional galleries and media outlets, reaching a global audience directly through its online presence. Embracing principles of open access and community collaboration, Backspace fostered a participatory environment where artists, programmers, and creators shared ideas, tools, and resources freely. This not only democratized the production and consumption of art but also supported a DIY and hacker culture, challenging conventional artist-viewer dynamics and encouraging widespread collaborative and educational projects.

CYBERIA

Easynet
Full Power Internet Access
CYBERIA

CYBERIA

cyberspace



The Zapatista FloodNet

Electronic Disturbance Theatre

Designed as a form of "electronic civil disobedience" in support of the Zapatista movement in Mexico, this piece was intended to be used as a tool for virtual sit-ins and distributed denial of service (DDoS) protests

AGORAXCHANGE

Agoraxchange, a 2004 web-based project commissioned by the Tate Museum, functioned as a distributed online forum. Artists and activists worldwide participated in a collaborative design process, proposing and debating ideas for a global politics game that challenged traditional power structures. While no final game materialized, Agoraxchange's emphasis on user-generated content and decentralized decision-making foreshadowed the rise of similar participatory and critical online art projects.

DWEB ART

ALPHA 3.4

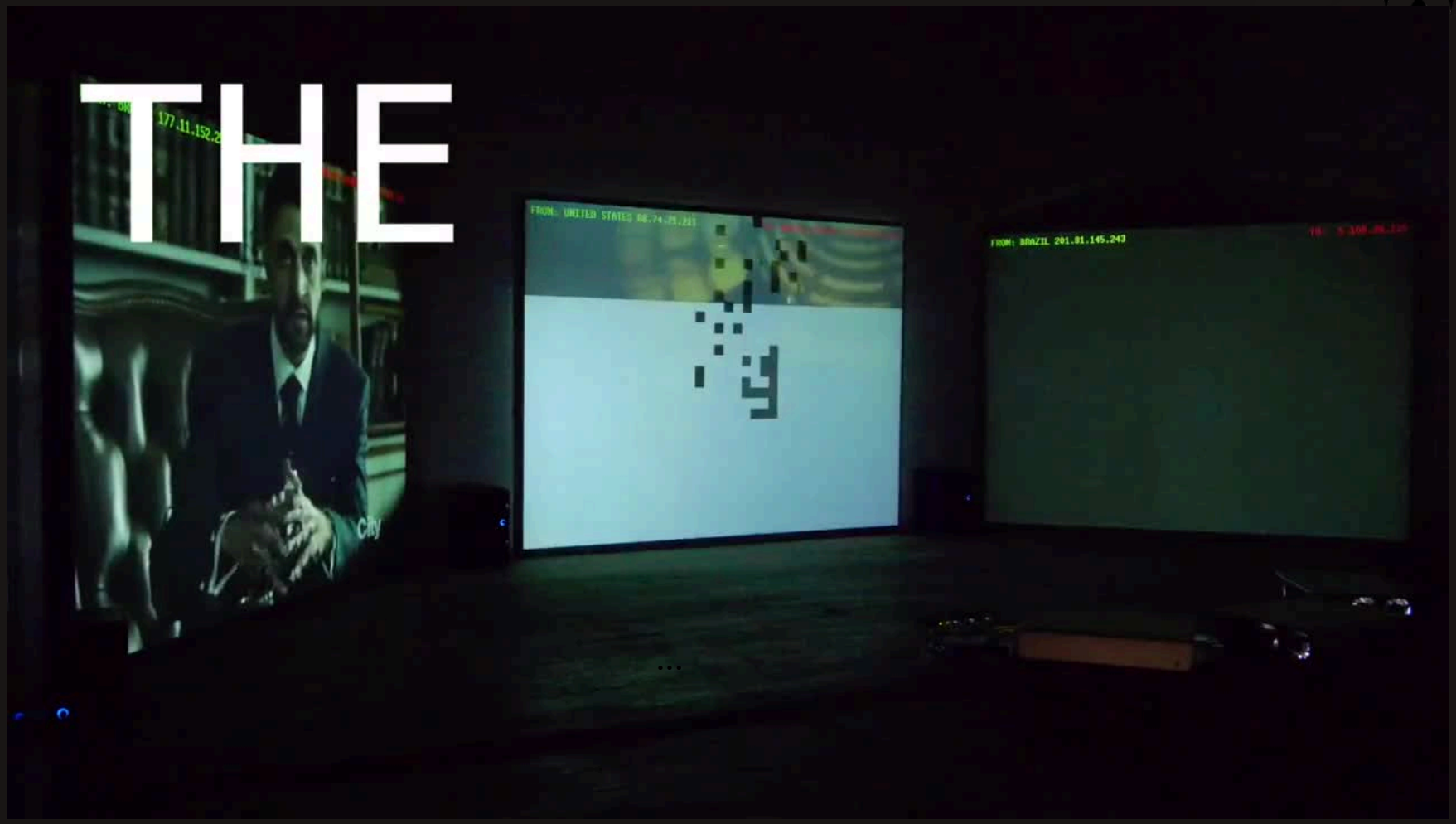
tsunamii.net

ELECTRIC SHEEP

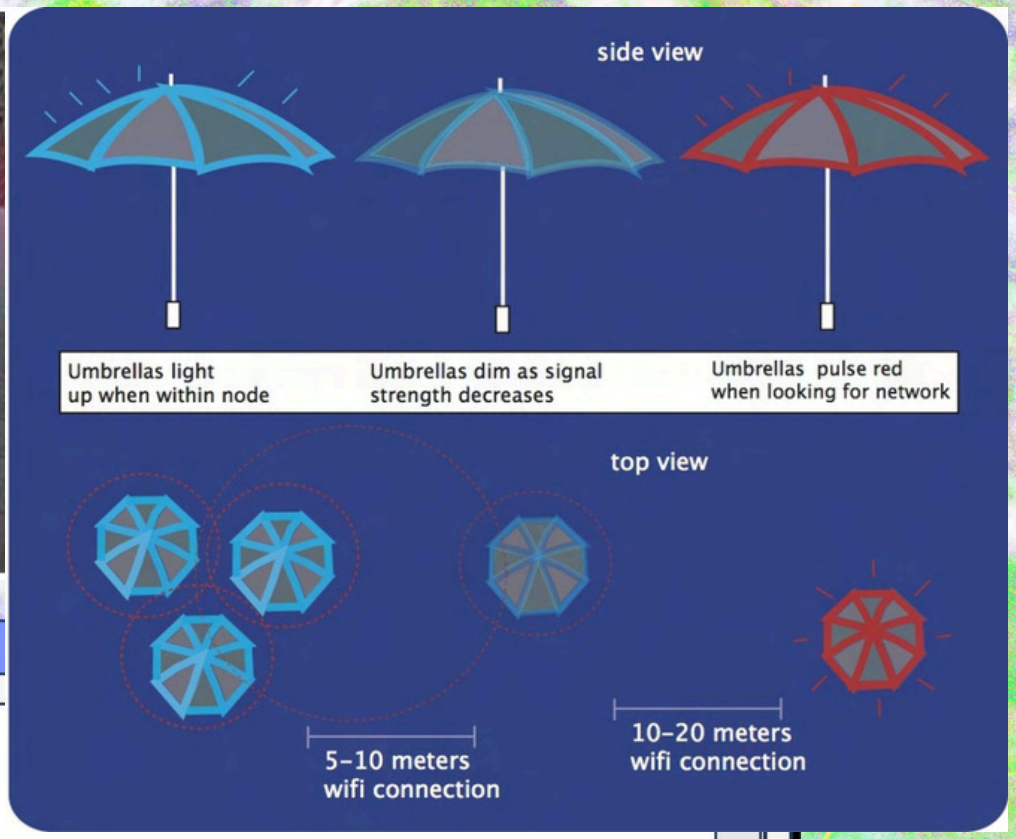
Scott Draves

THE PIRATE CINEMA

Disinovation


THE
FROM: BRAZIL 201.81.145.243

UMBRELLA.NET



UMBRELLA.net (2004)

Katherine Moriwaki, Jonah Brucker-Cohen, Linda Doyle

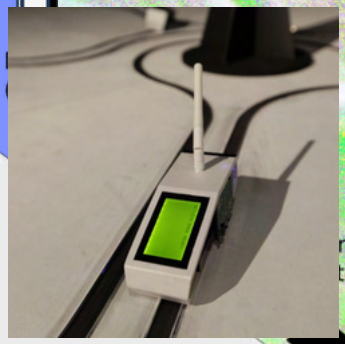
UMBRELLA.net is a project exploring transitory or ad-hoc networks and their potential for causing sudden, striking, and unexpected connections between people in public and urban space.

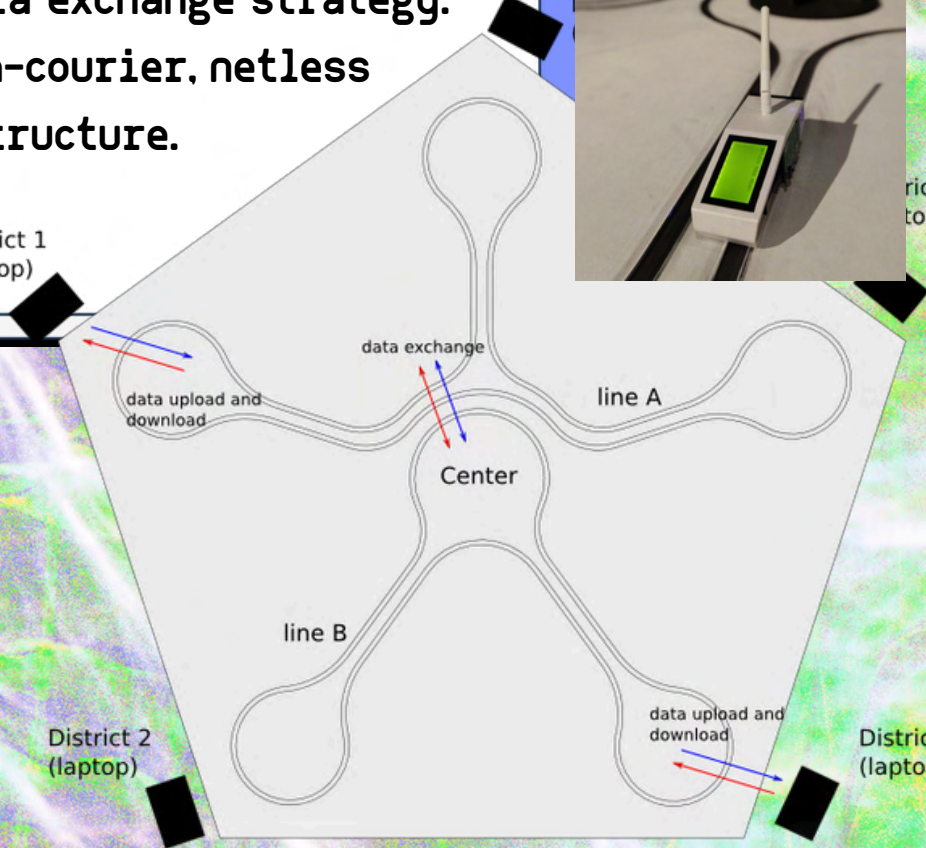
NETLESS

netless (2009)

Danja Vasiliev

Netless is an attempt to define alternative data exchange strategy. Building upon the principals of Sneakernet data-courier, netless hooks onto existing city transportation infrastructure.



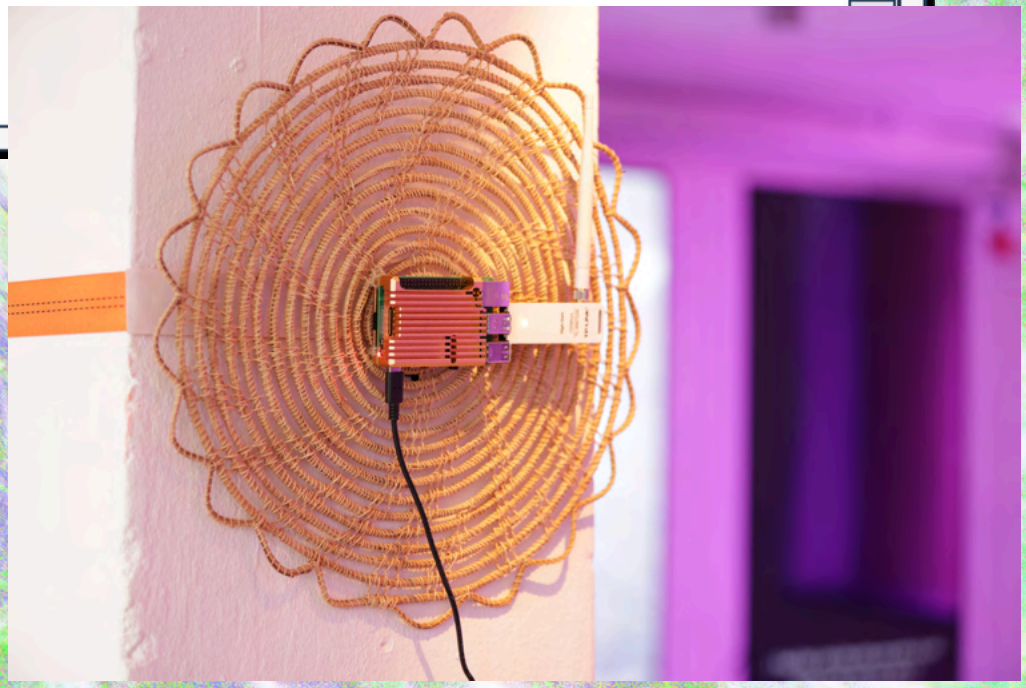


FUTURA-TROPICA.NETWORK

Futura Trōpica (2020)

Juan Pablo García Sossa, Sarah Grant

| Futura Trōpica | is an intertropical decentralized network of grass-root local networks for lateral exchange of local resources and other forms of Knowledges, Designs and Technologies.

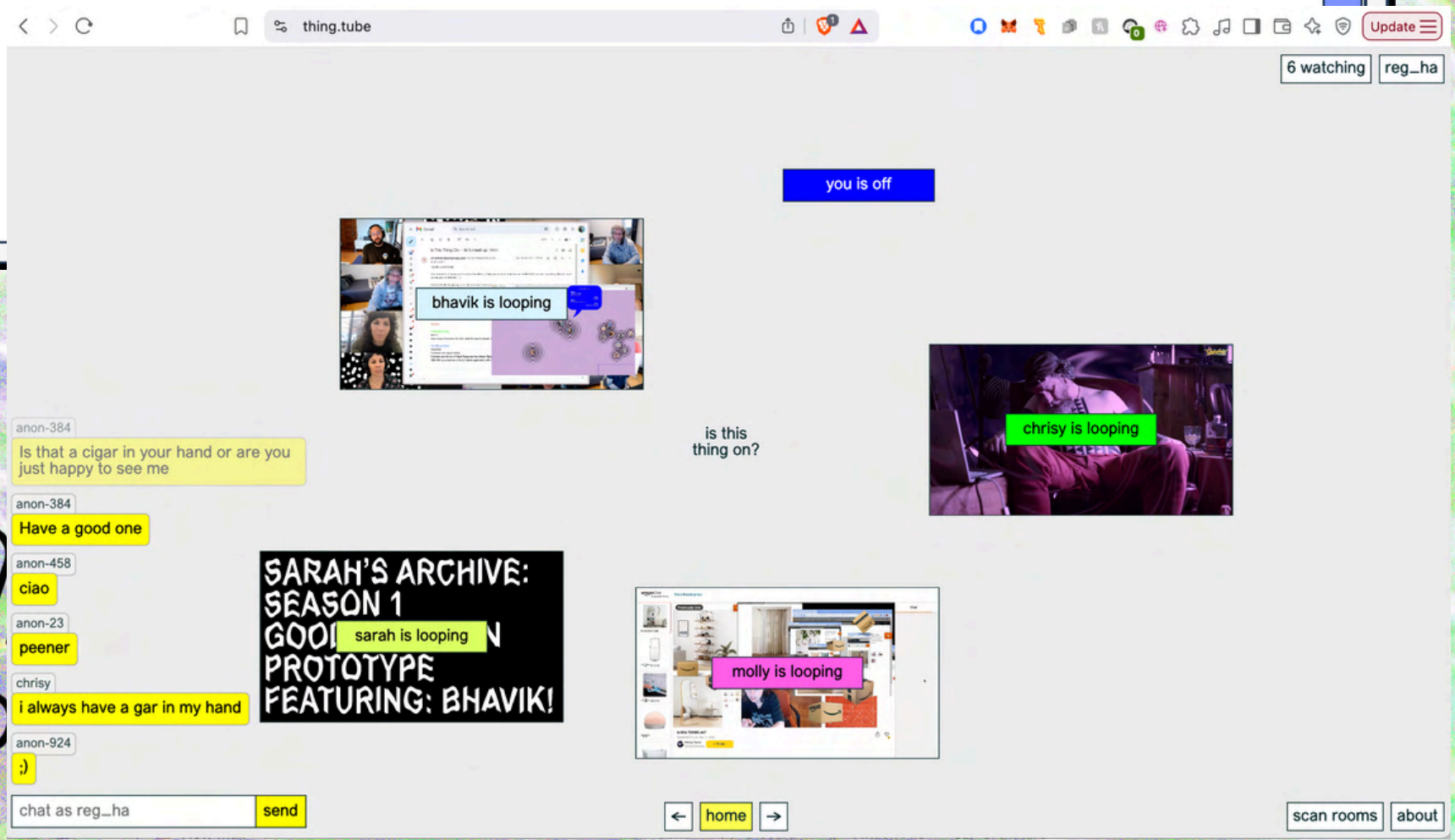


THING.TUBE

is this thing on?

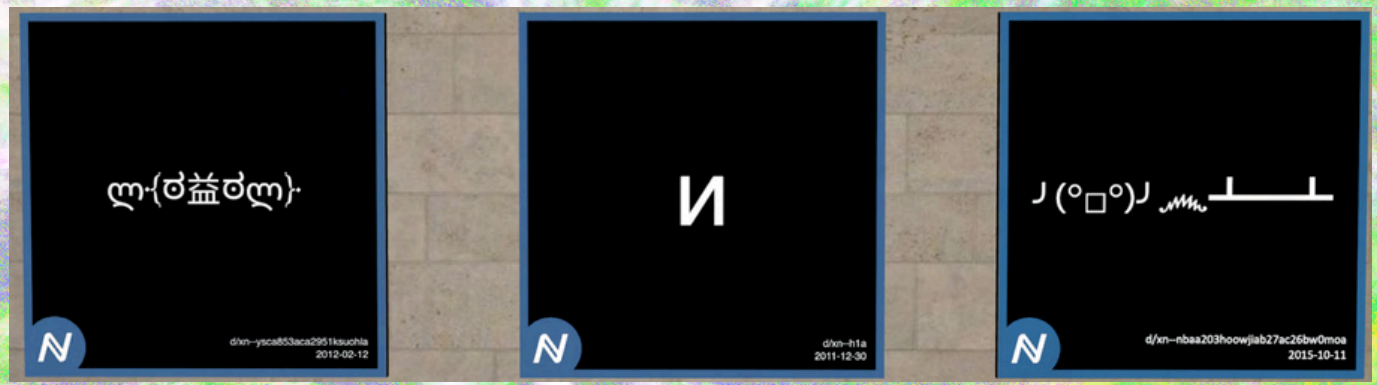
Christopher Clary, Bhavik Singh, Molly Soda, Sarah Rothberg

Decentralized livestreaming platform using WebRTC



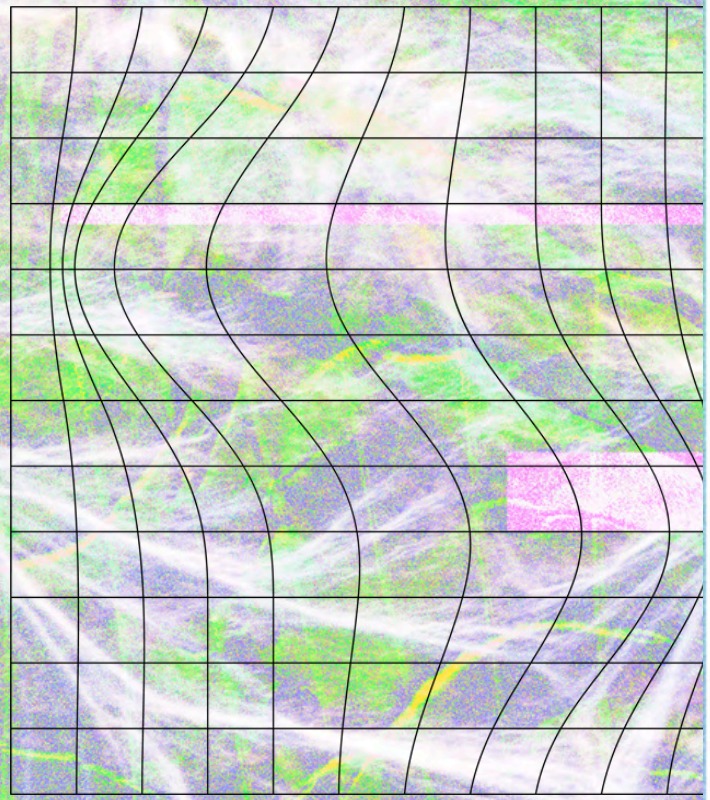
BREAK

2011: NAMECOIN



Punycodes was a namecoin proof of concept

2011: BITCOIN (BEFORE OP_RETURN)



```
---BEGIN TRIBUTE---
#./BitLen
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:   ,dWWWXXXXi,4WX,
' dWWWXXX7"      `X,
 lWWWXX7          X
:WWWXX7 ,xXX7' "^^X
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:WWW7,. ~^"_" ,^_'
 WW",X:         X,
 "7^^Xl.     _(_x7'
 l ( :X:
 `.  " XX   ,xxWWWWX7
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,W X       :Xi  _,,_
WW X        4XiyXWWXd
""  ,,       4XWWWWXX
, R7X,        "^447^
R, "4RXk,       _, ,
TWk  "4RXXi,    X',x
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:lWWWk,   ^"     `4
::TTXWWi,_  Xll :..
=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=
```

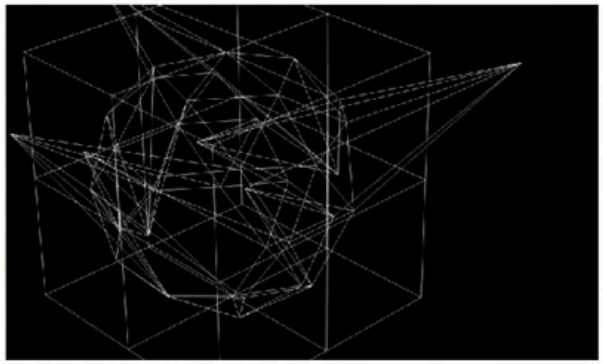
2013: ASCRIBE/KEIDOM (BITCOIN)

LATURBO AVEDON'S NEW SCULTP AT TRANSFER GALLERY

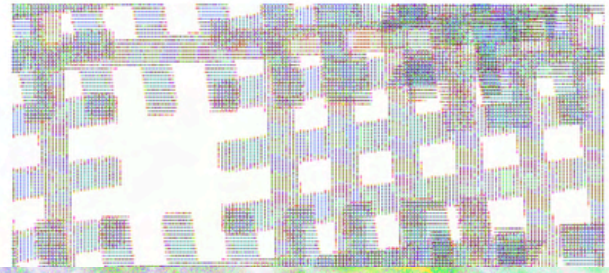
DANIEL TEMKIN'S HTTP://NETVVORTH.COM/ AT TRANSFER GALLERY

Net VVorth is an online auction house, offering netarts
by internationally renowned artists and their impersonators.

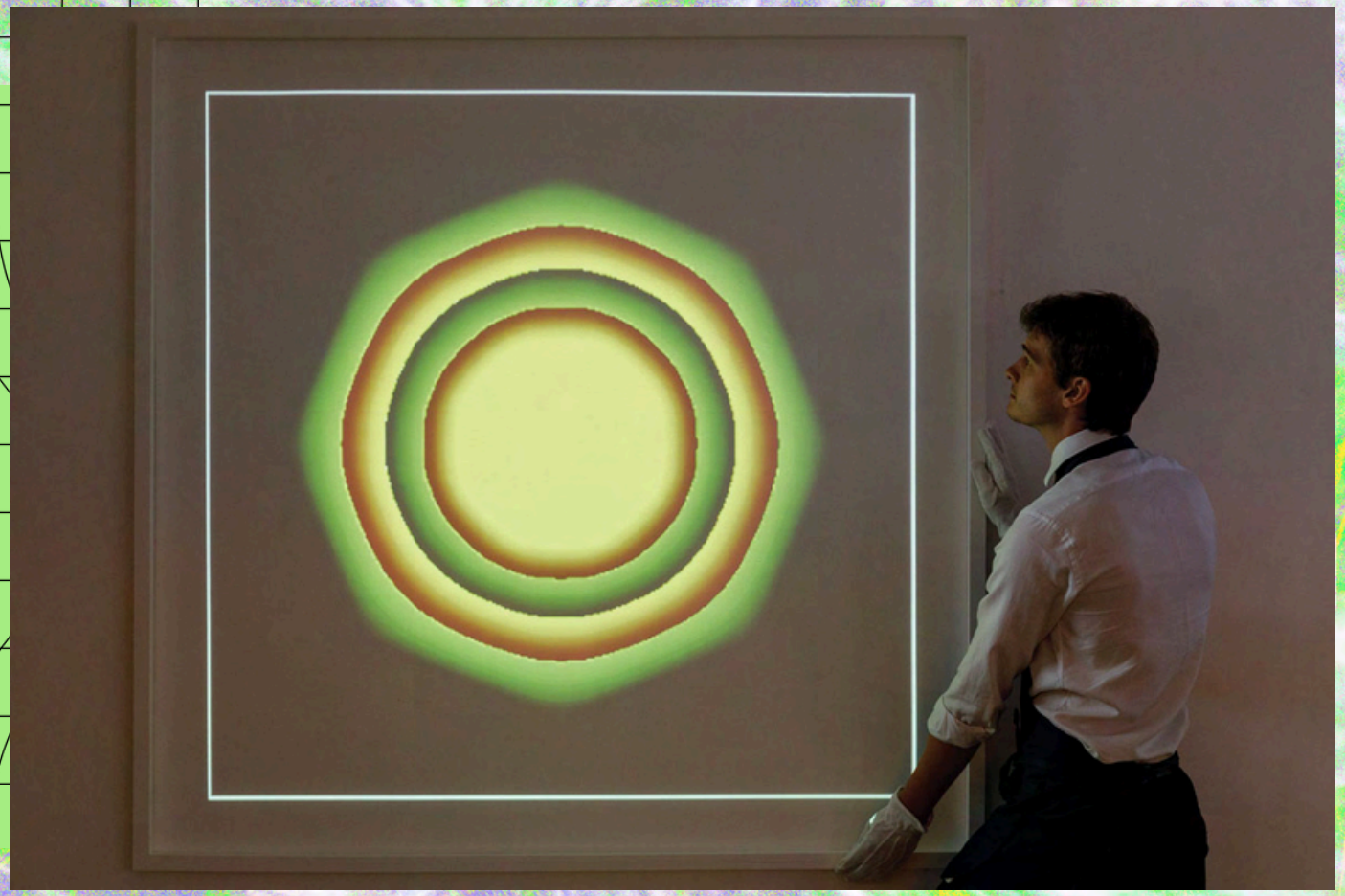
CLAUDIA MATE
Untitled



FRANCOISE GAMMA
Untitled



BLOCKCHAINS FOR ART: NAMECOIN



MONEGRAPH AND LEFT.GALLERY

left gallery | search... | April 2025 | log in | sign up

featured works

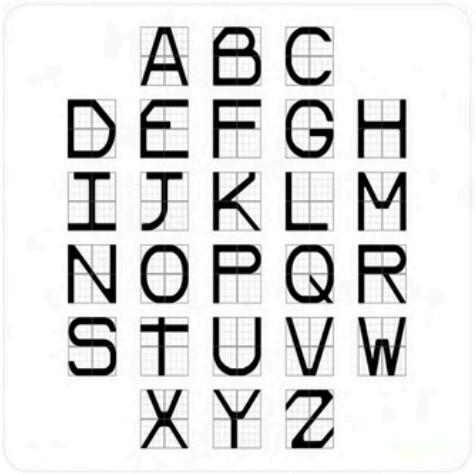
Spike Art Magazine Covers .pdf

by Spike Art Magazine

token 60 / 70 0.1 ETH ERC721

81 Horizons .svg

by Rafaël Rozendaal



Human Abecedary: Intr... .mp4

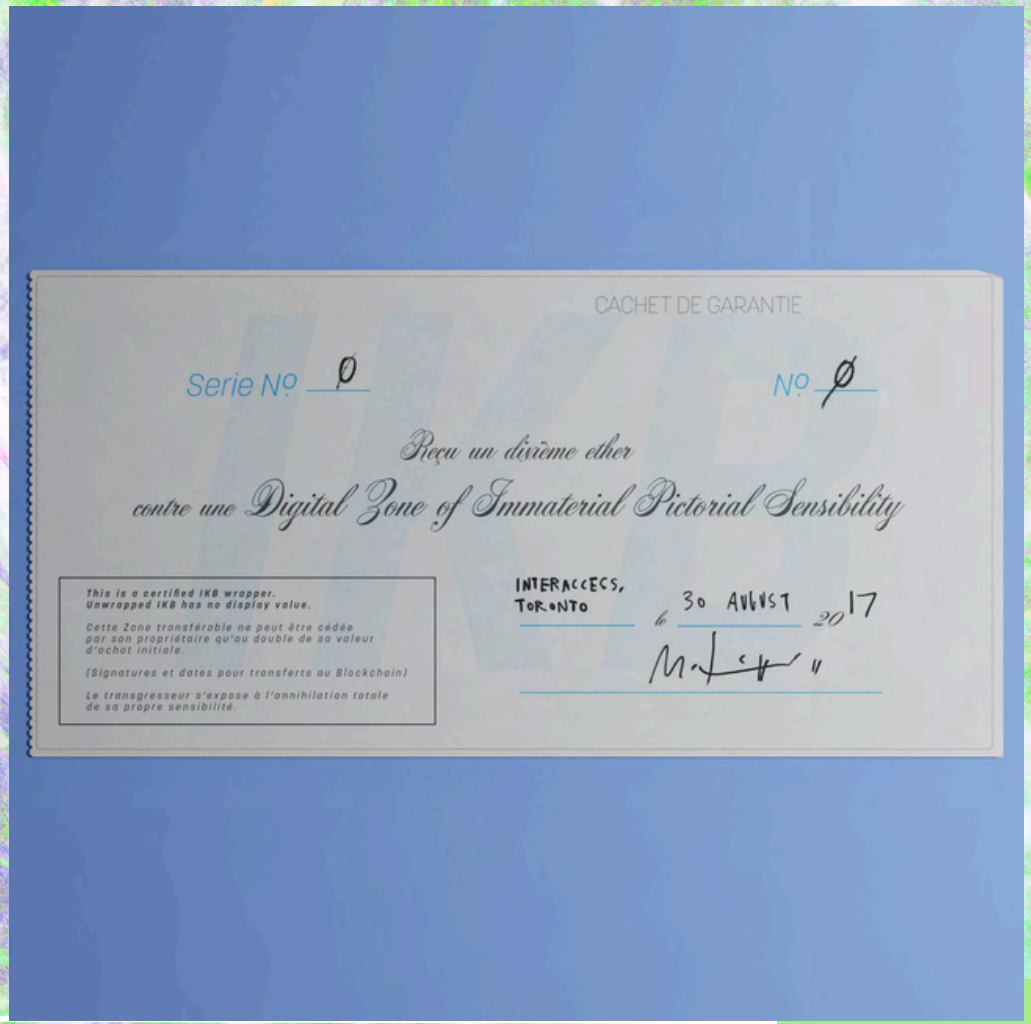
You're visiting the archived website of left gallery, which closed March 2022

To stay informed about NFT drops, you might like to follow this telegram channel

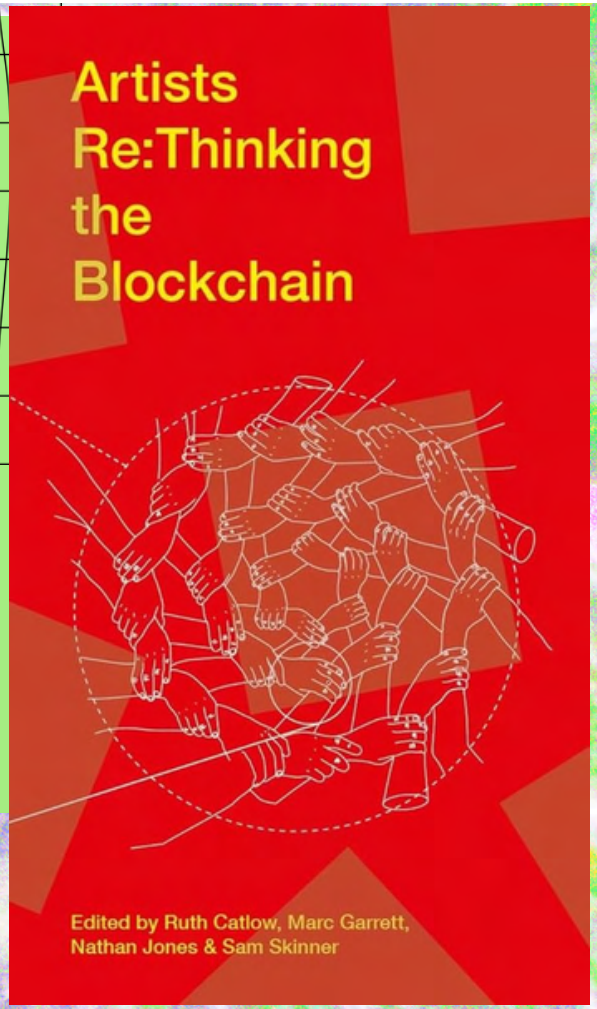
CRYPTOART: COUNTERPARTY

EARLY ETHEREUM

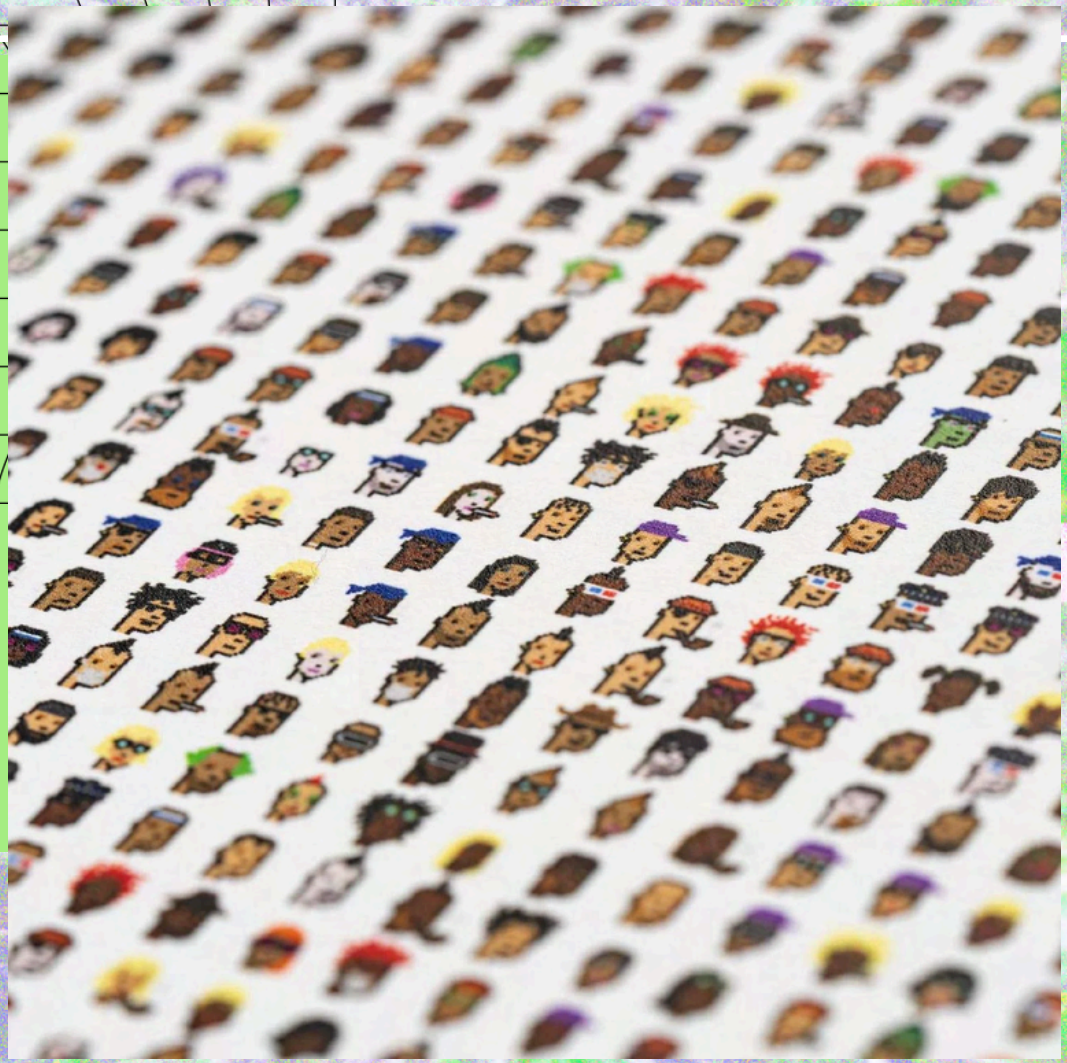
This contract is art



ARTISTS RE:THINKING... (2017)



CRYPTOPUNKS



ERC-721 (THE NFT)

Abstract

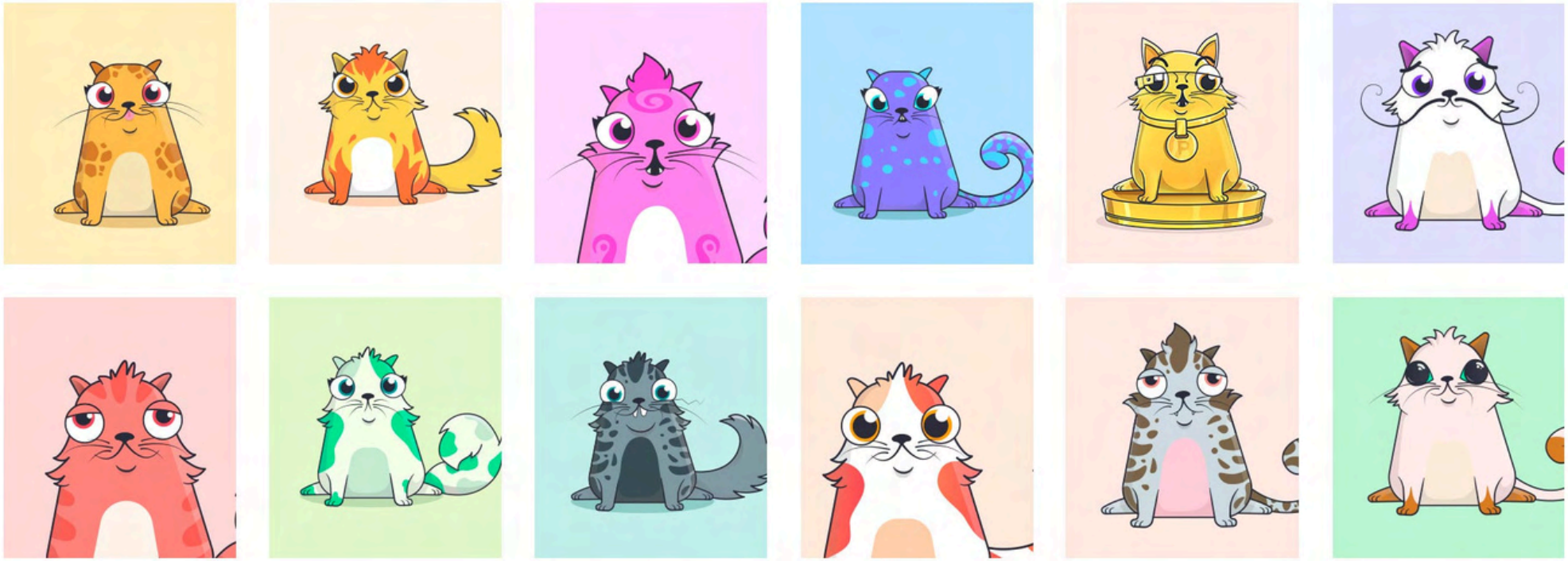
The following standard allows for the implementation of a standard API for NFTs within smart contracts. This standard provides basic functionality to track and transfer NFTs.

We considered use cases of NFTs being owned and transacted by individuals as well as consignment to third party brokers/wallets/auctioneers (“operators”). NFTs can represent ownership over digital or physical assets. We considered a diverse universe of assets, and we know you will dream up many more:

- Physical property — houses, unique artwork
- Virtual collectibles — unique pictures of kittens, collectible cards
- “Negative value” assets — loans, burdens and other responsibilities

In general, all houses are distinct and no two kittens are alike. NFTs are *distinguishable* and you must track the ownership of each one separately.

CRYPTOKITTIES



ETHEREUM PLATFORMS

SuperRare

OpenSea

Rarible

Nifty Gateway

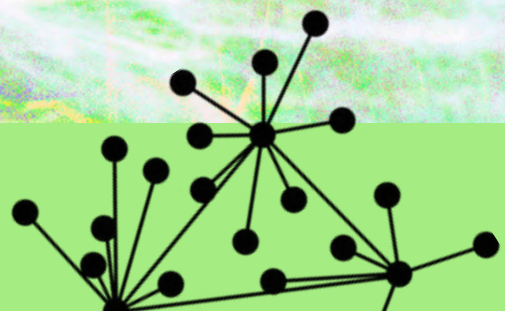
2018 CONVERSATIONS

Provenance

Fractionalization

Digital Art Market

Preservation

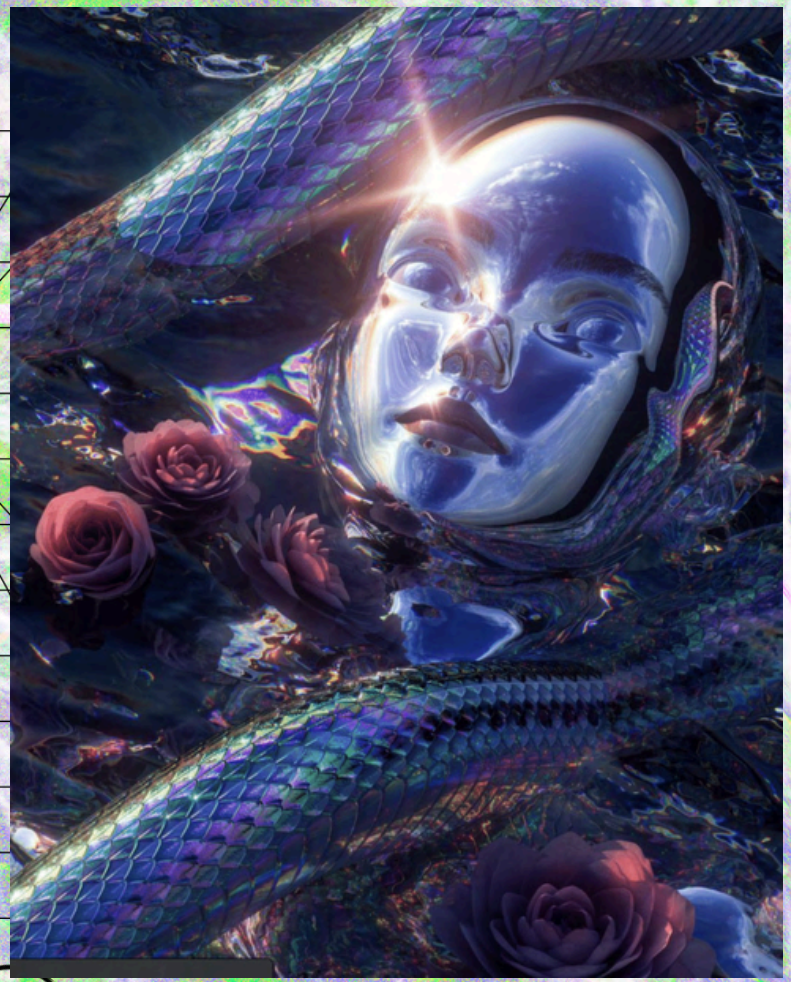


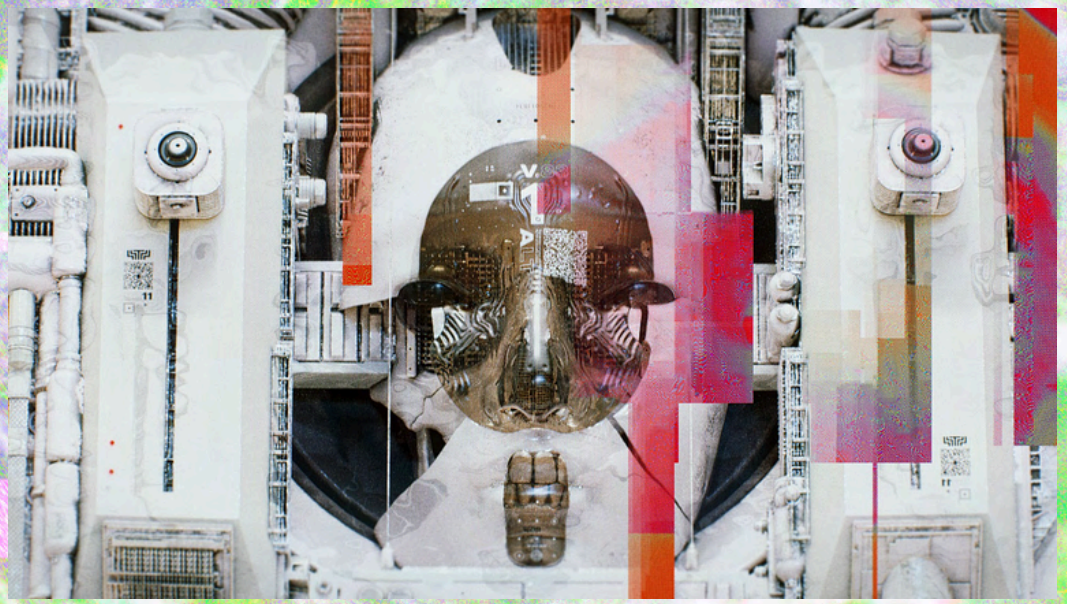
FURTHERFIELD

Terra0 with Furtherfield

2021

DESIGNERS TURNED ARTISTS



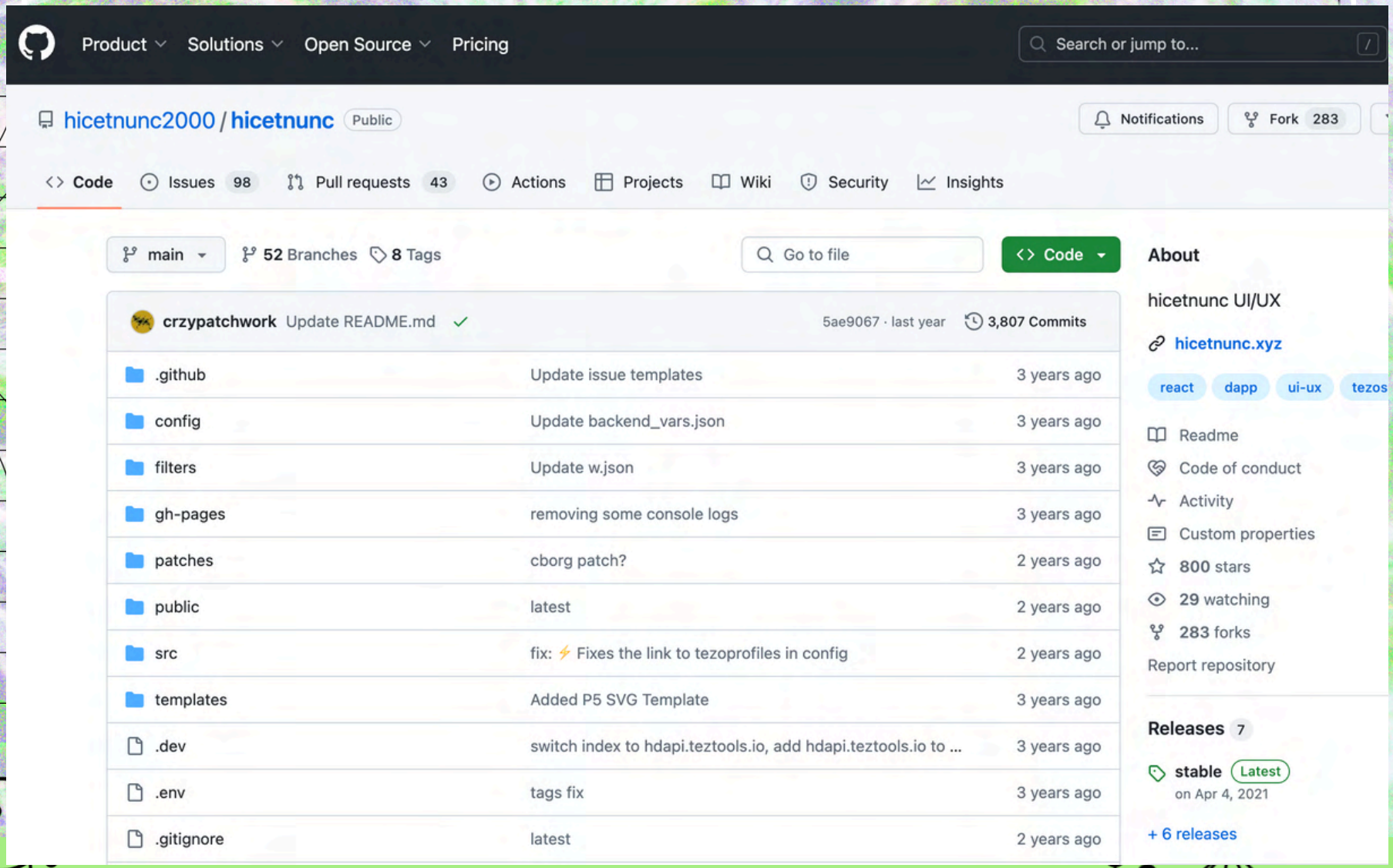


ART-CENTRIC PLATFORMS

DAOS

TEZOS

HIC ET NUNC


Product
Solutions
Open Source
Pricing
Search or jump to...
hicetnunc2000 / hicetnunc
Public
Notifications
Fork 283
Code
Issues 98
Pull requests 43
Actions
Projects
Wiki
Security
Insights
main
52 Branches
8 Tags
Go to file
Code
crzypatchwork Update README.md
5ae9067 · last year
3,807 Commits
.github Update issue templates 3 years ago
config Update backend_vars.json 3 years ago
filters Update w.json 3 years ago
gh-pages removing some console logs 3 years ago
patches cborg patch? 2 years ago
public latest 2 years ago
src fix: ⚡ Fixes the link to tezoprofiles in config 2 years ago
templates Added P5 SVG Template 3 years ago
.dev switch index to hdapi.teztools.io, add hdapi.teztools.io to ... 3 years ago
.env tags fix 3 years ago
.gitignore latest 2 years ago
About
hicetnunc UI/UX
hicetnunc.xyz
react
dapp
ui-ux
tezos
Readme
Code of conduct
Activity
Custom properties
800 stars
29 watching
283 forks
Report repository
Releases 7
stable Latest
on Apr 4, 2021
+ 6 releases

ORDINALS

FINAL QUESTIONS?