SESSION 5:

GOVERNANCE, COOPERATIVE RESILIENCE, AND CULTURAL VALUE EXCHANGE

EDUCATORS: Kelani Nichole & mai ishikawa sutton

May 14, 2025

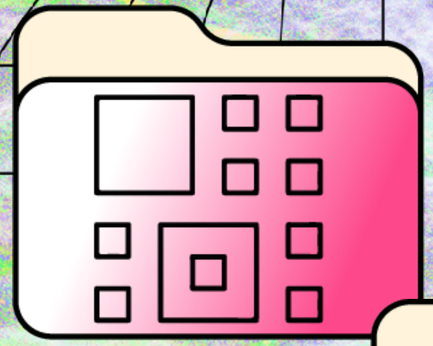
WELCOME

Cooperative forms of resilience are emerging, powered by decentralized principles of transparency, solidarity, and adaptability.

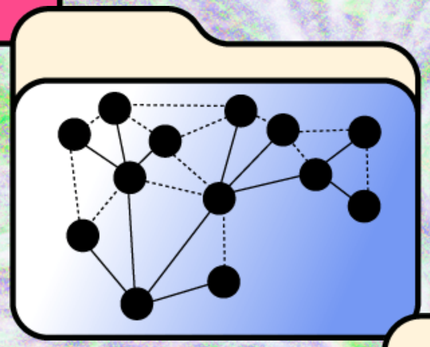
In this session, we will discuss case studies from across the cultural sector shining on artists, organizations, and institutions exploring decentralized principles and cooperative structures. We'll discuss governance models and the patterns of human coordination that underlie cooperative efforts.

During the latter half of the session, we will role play solidarity practices, which powers much of the emerging cultural sector. We will build off last week's workshop on organizational values, and explore governance models and inter-organizational cooperation.

AGENDA



RESILIENCE MODELS
& COOPERATIVES



GOVERNANCE
MODELS

WORKSHOP:
CULTURAL VALUE
EXCHANGE

ARTIST SOLIDARITY

Artists have been experimenting with solidarity models since the 90s. This online avant-garde was overlooked for decades, and had to make their own context for exhibiting and producing work.

This section explores a small sampling of solidarity experiments from the decade leading up to the emergence of NFTs.

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- SpeedShow
- BYOBeamer
- GIF Screenings
- Ways of Something
- A2P
- DiMoDA
- EPOCH
- Pieces of Me

speedshow.net

SPEED SHOW

About How to...

Speed Show Athens: STITCH INCOMING!!

Monday 25th of March 2024, 7:00 PM at Web Cafe, Eptanisou 40, 113 61 , Kypseli – Athens

Speed Show: FACE THE FACE

July 5th 2019, 7pm, internet Cafe – Midnightshop, Schönhauser Allee 188, Berlin.

Speed Show LA: Manifesto

Feb 18, 2016, 7pm at iPC Bang Internet Cafe, 401 S Vermont Ave, Koreatown, Los Angeles curated by Aram Bartholl

SPEED SHOW

byobworldwide.com

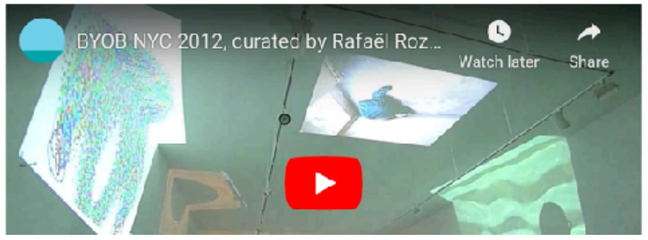
BYOB

What is BYOB?

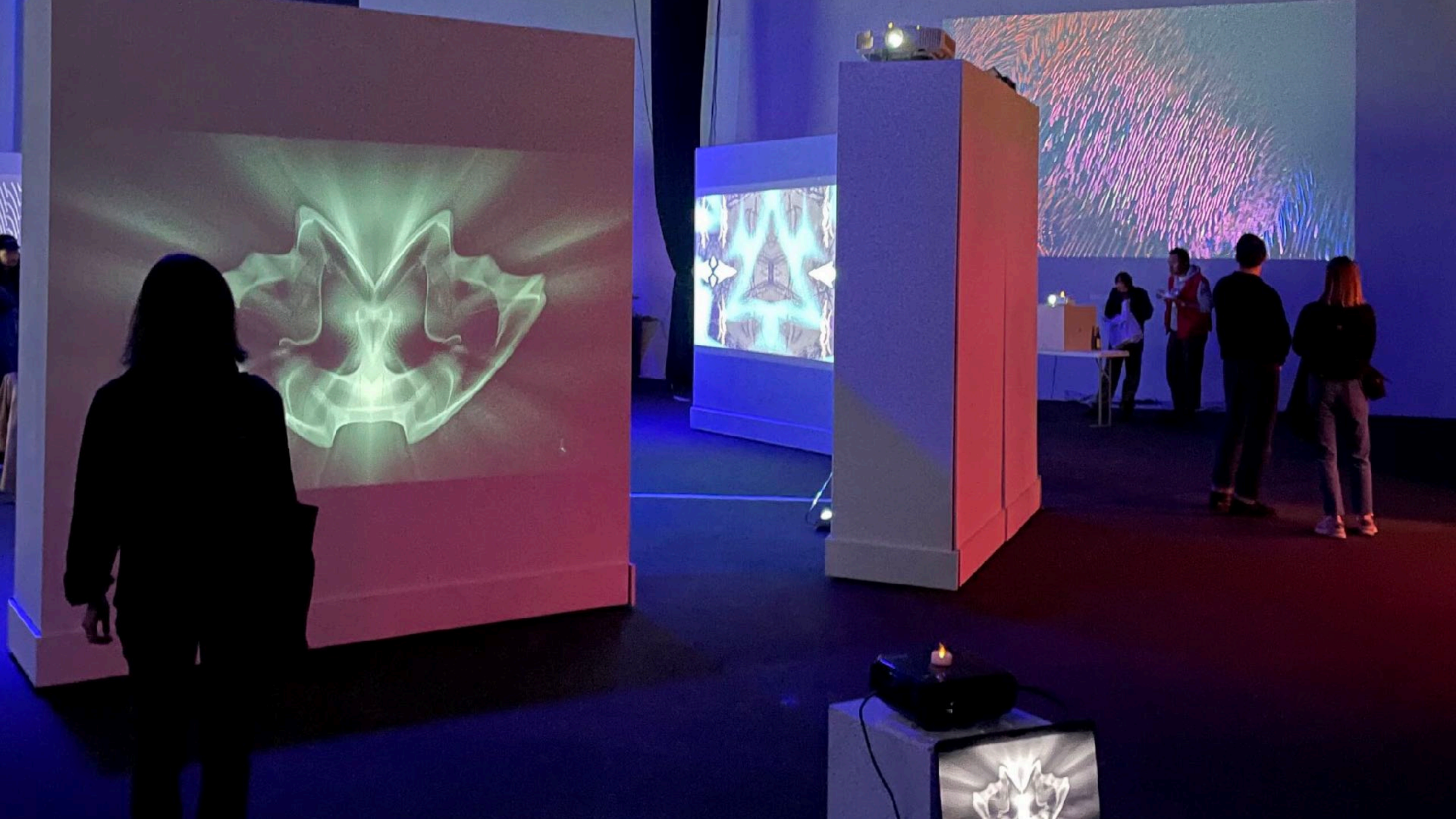
BYOB is a series of one-night-exhibitions curated by different people around the world. The idea is simple:

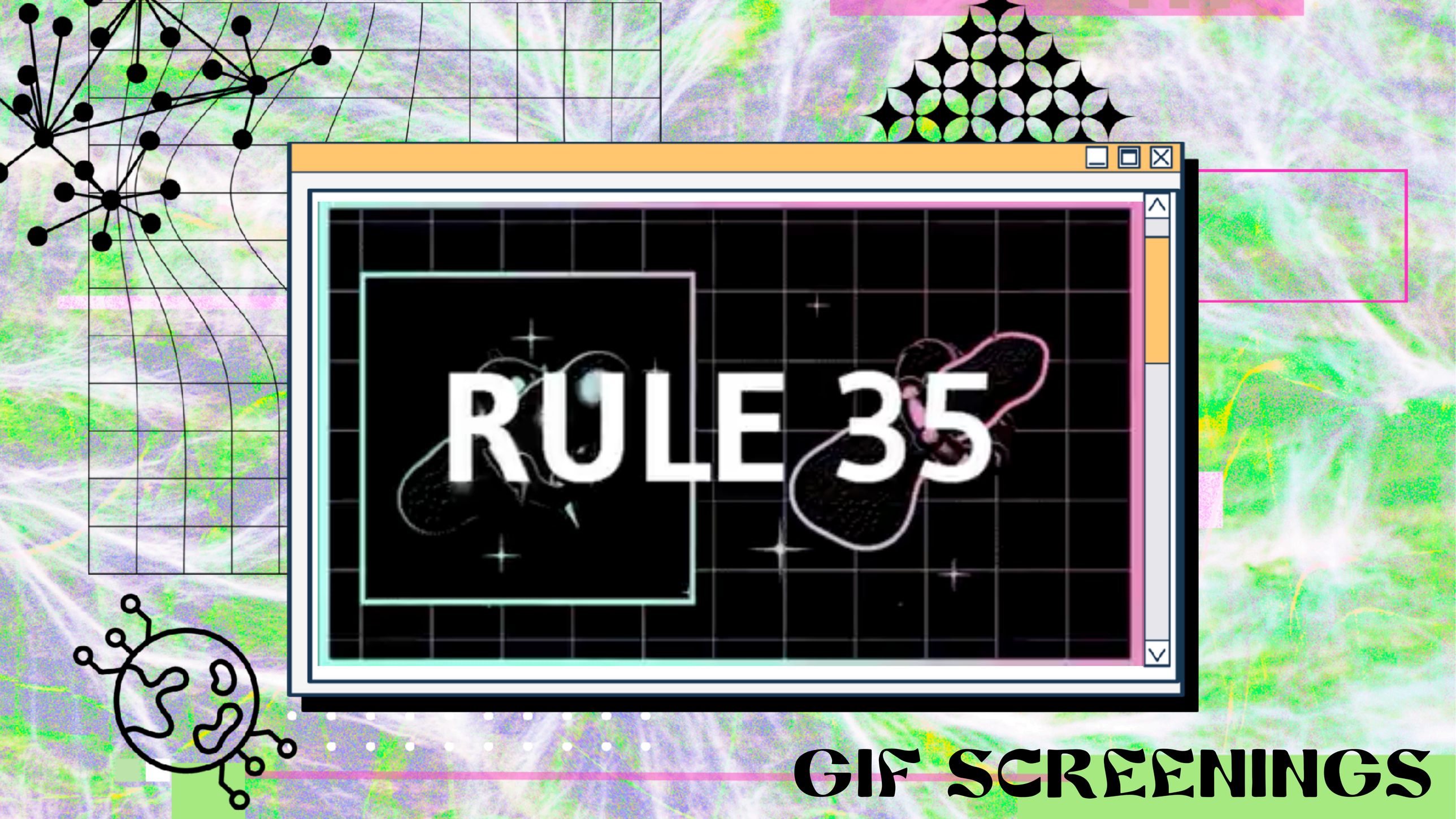
--> Find a place
--> Invite many artists
--> Ask them to bring their projectors

BYOB is a way of making a big exhibition with zero budget. It is an exploration of the medium of projection.



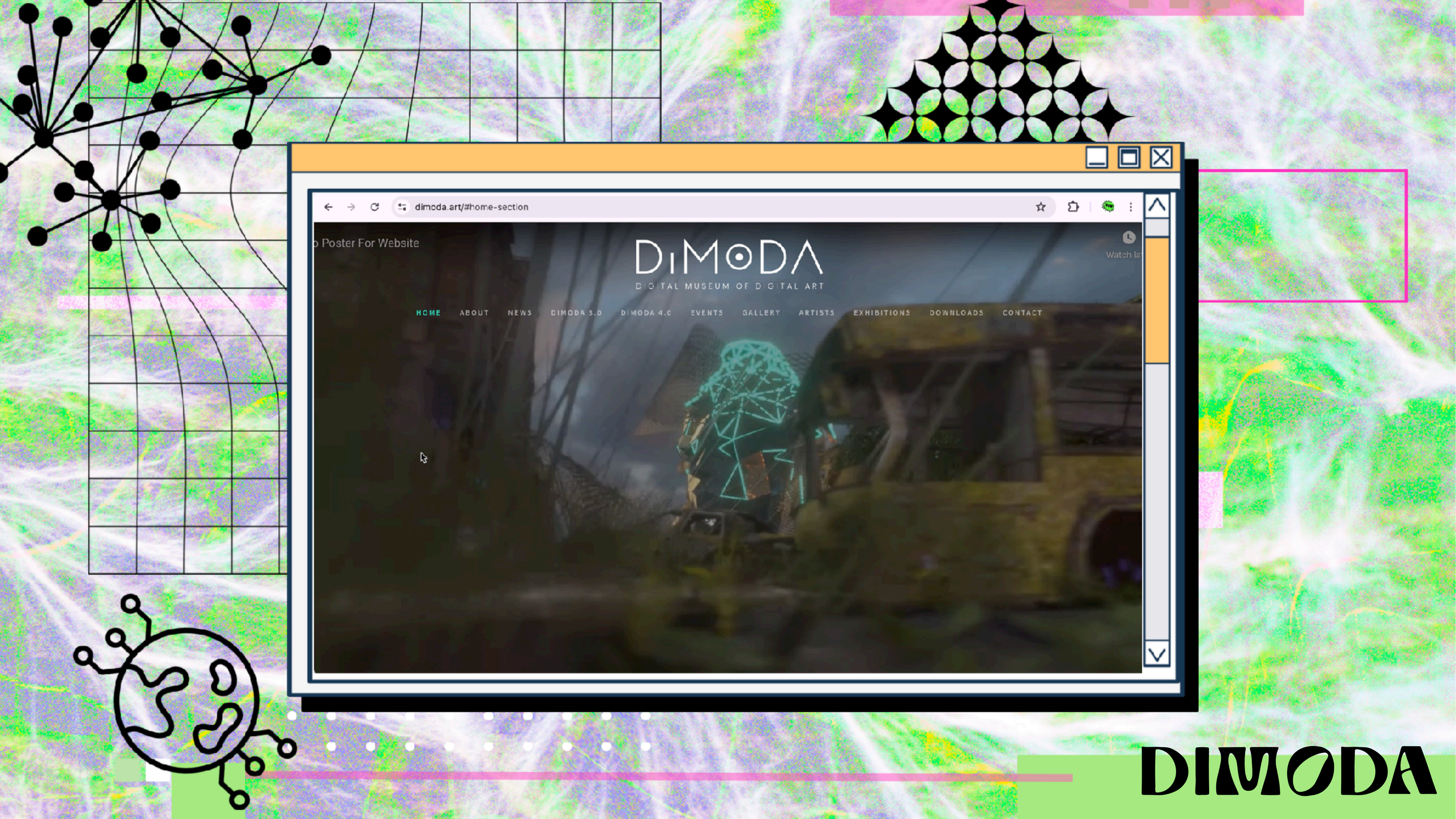
BYOBEAMER

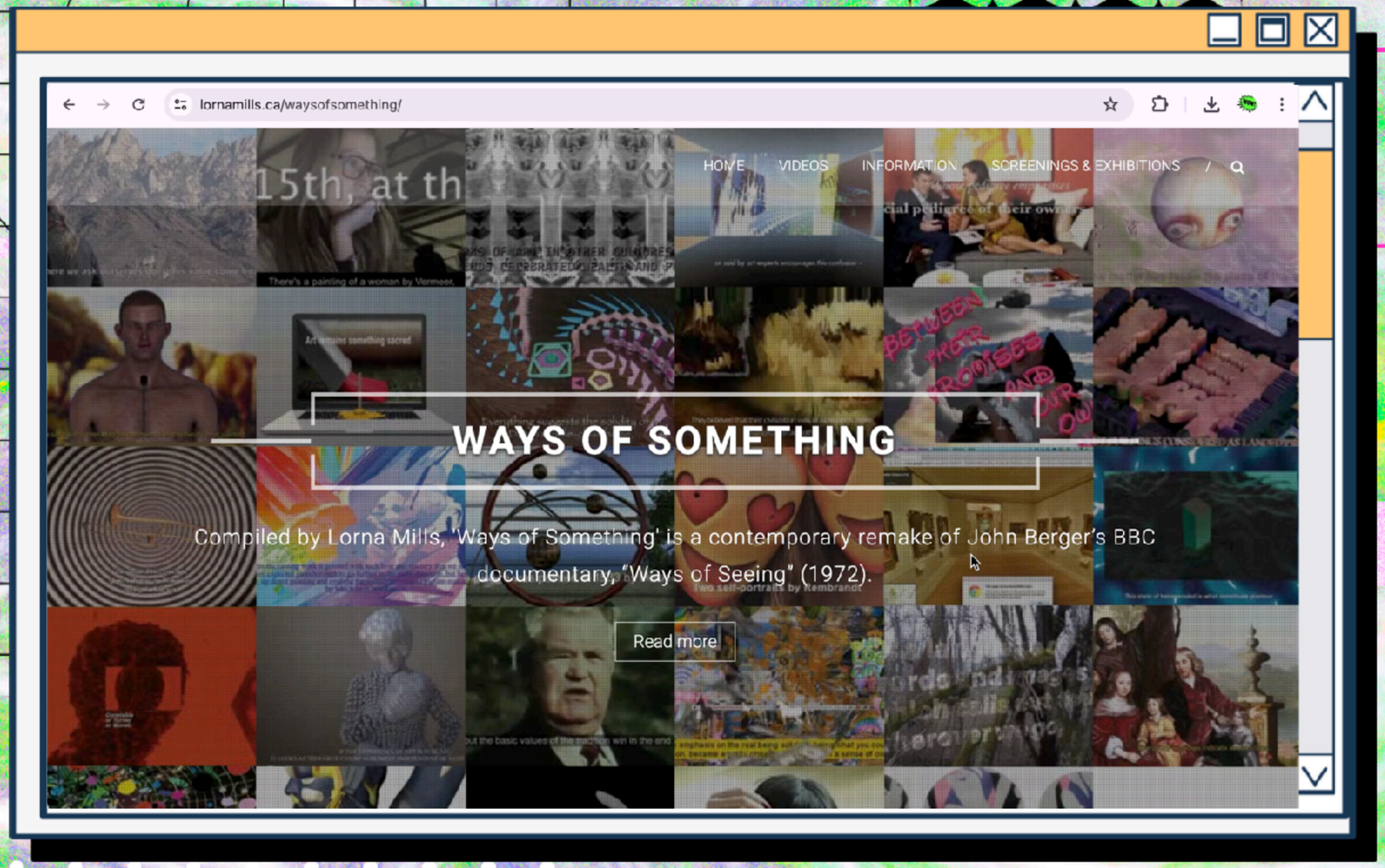




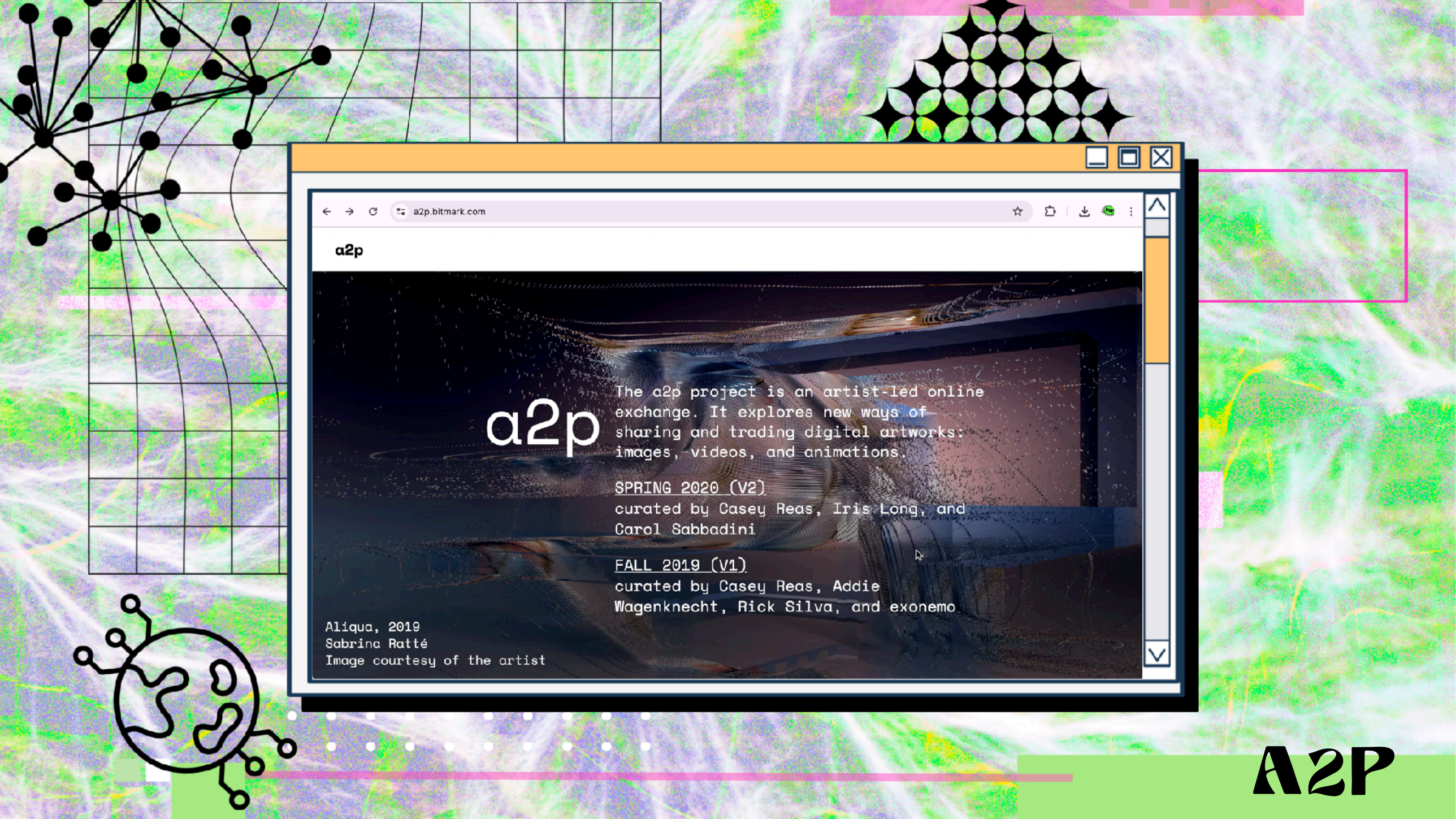
GIF SCREENINGS

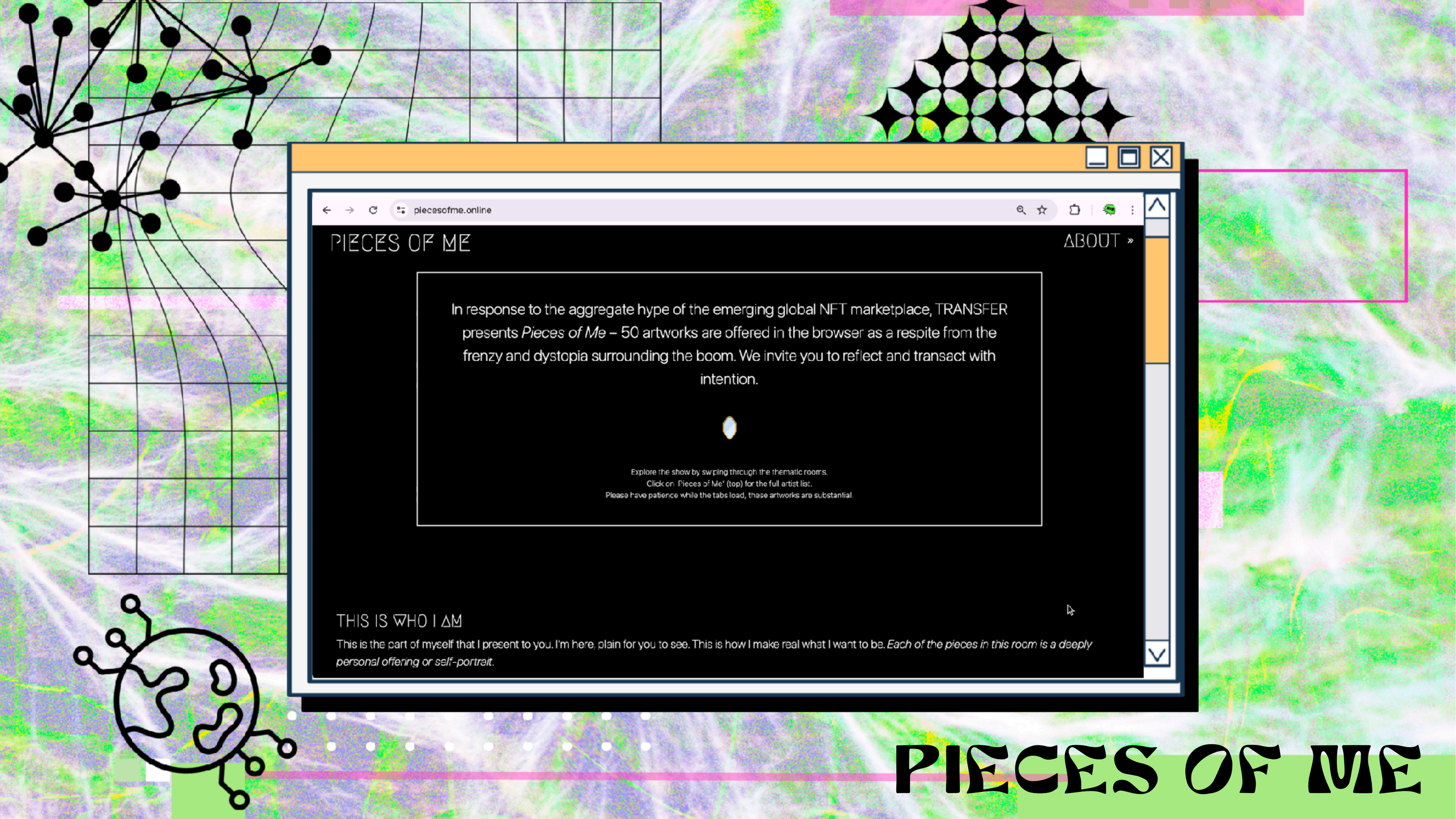
panthermodern.org/about.html
Panther Modern is a file-based exhibition space,
encouraging artists to create site-specific installations for the internet.
Founded 2013
PANTHER MODERN


dimoda.art/#home-section
Poster For Website
DIMODA
DIGITAL MUSEUM OF DIGITAL ART
HOME
ABOUT
NEWS
DIMODA 3.0
DIMODA 4.0
EVENTS
GALLERY
ARTISTS
EXHIBITIONS
DOWNLOADS
CONTACT
DIMODA



WAYS OF SOMETHING


a2p.bitmark.com
a2p
a2p
The a2p project is an artist-led online exchange. It explores new ways of sharing and trading digital artworks: images, videos, and animations.
SPRING 2020 (V2)
curated by Casey Reas, Iris Long, and Carol Sabbadini
FALL 2019 (V1)
curated by Casey Reas, Addie Wagenknecht, Rick Silva, and exonemo
Aliqua, 2019
Sabrina Ratté
Image courtesy of the artist
A2P


piecesofme.online
PIECES OF ME
ABOUT »
In response to the aggregate hype of the emerging global NFT marketplace, TRANSFER presents *Pieces of Me* – 50 artworks are offered in the browser as a respite from the frenzy and dystopia surrounding the boom. We invite you to reflect and transact with intention.
Explore the show by swiping through the thematic rooms.
Click on 'Pieces of Me' (top) for the full artist list.
Please have patience while the tabs load, these artworks are substantial.
THIS IS WHO I AM
This is the part of myself that I present to you. I'm here, plain for you to see. This is how I make real what I want to be. *Each of the pieces in this room is a deeply personal offering or self-portrait.*
PIECES OF ME

COOPERATIVES

DEFINITION: A cooperative or co-op is a business structure that is owned and democratically controlled by its member-owners who utilize its services. Member-owners can be customers, workers, franchise-owners, users, etc.

Co-ops have been around 100s of years but first one is considered the Rochdale Pioneers in Rochdale, England in 1844. They also established co-op principles and one of their members founded the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA).

Artists alone have been forming co-ops for more than 100 years as a means of resilience.

THE 7 CO-OP PRINCIPLES

Adopted by the International Cooperative Alliance (1995) :

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

Source: https://ncbaclusa.coop/resources/7-cooperative-principles/

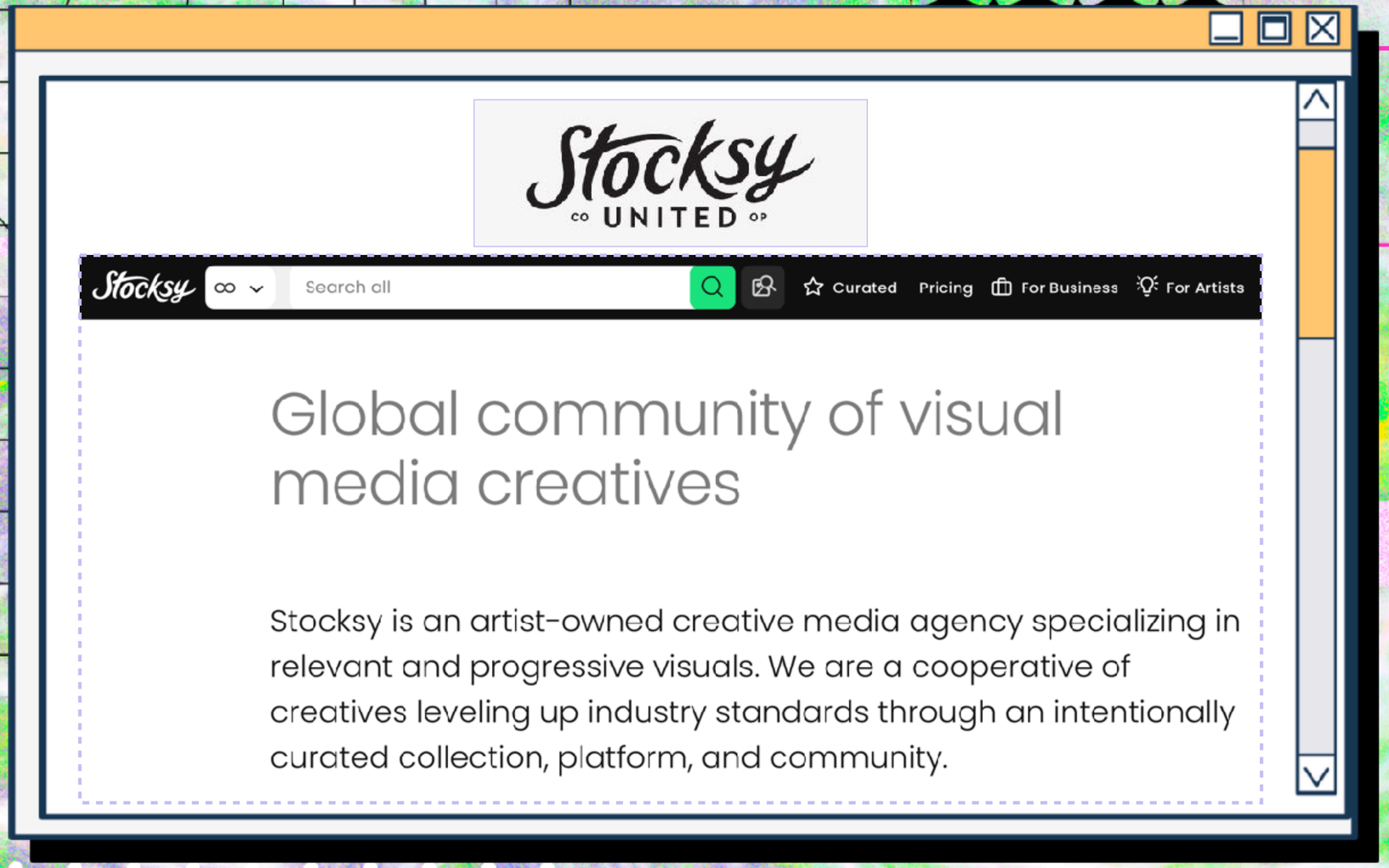
WORKER / PLATFORM CO-OPS

Platform Co-ops: Businesses that sell goods or services primarily through a website, mobile app, or protocol. They rely on democratic decision-making and shared platform ownership by workers and/or users.

Worker Co-ops: Operate as businesses in which ownership and management are in the hands of the workers.

Platform Co-ops	Worker Co-ops
> Fairmondo	Art.coop
> Fairbnb	DisCO.coop
Stocksy	Hypha.coop
Subvert	Art.coop
Exit to Community	TRANSFER Data Trust

PLATFORM CO-OP



STOCKSY

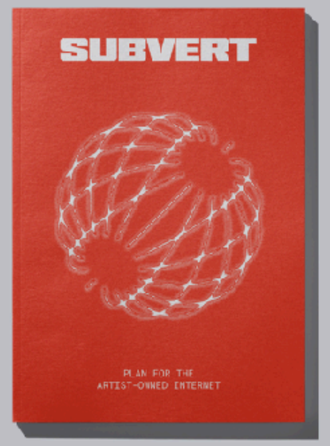
PLATFORM CO-OP

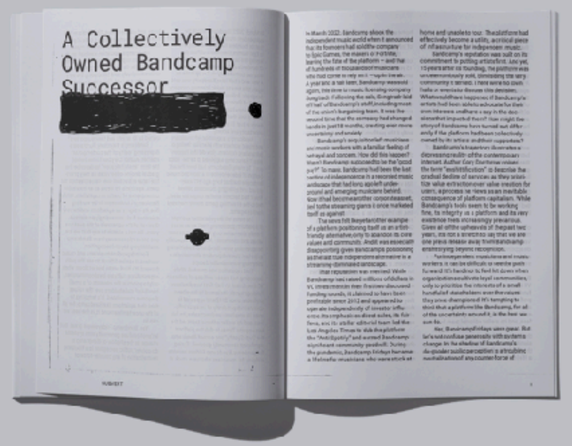
SUBVERT

BLOG | DOCS | ROADMAP | CHANGELOG | FORUM

Own and control the next Bandcamp.

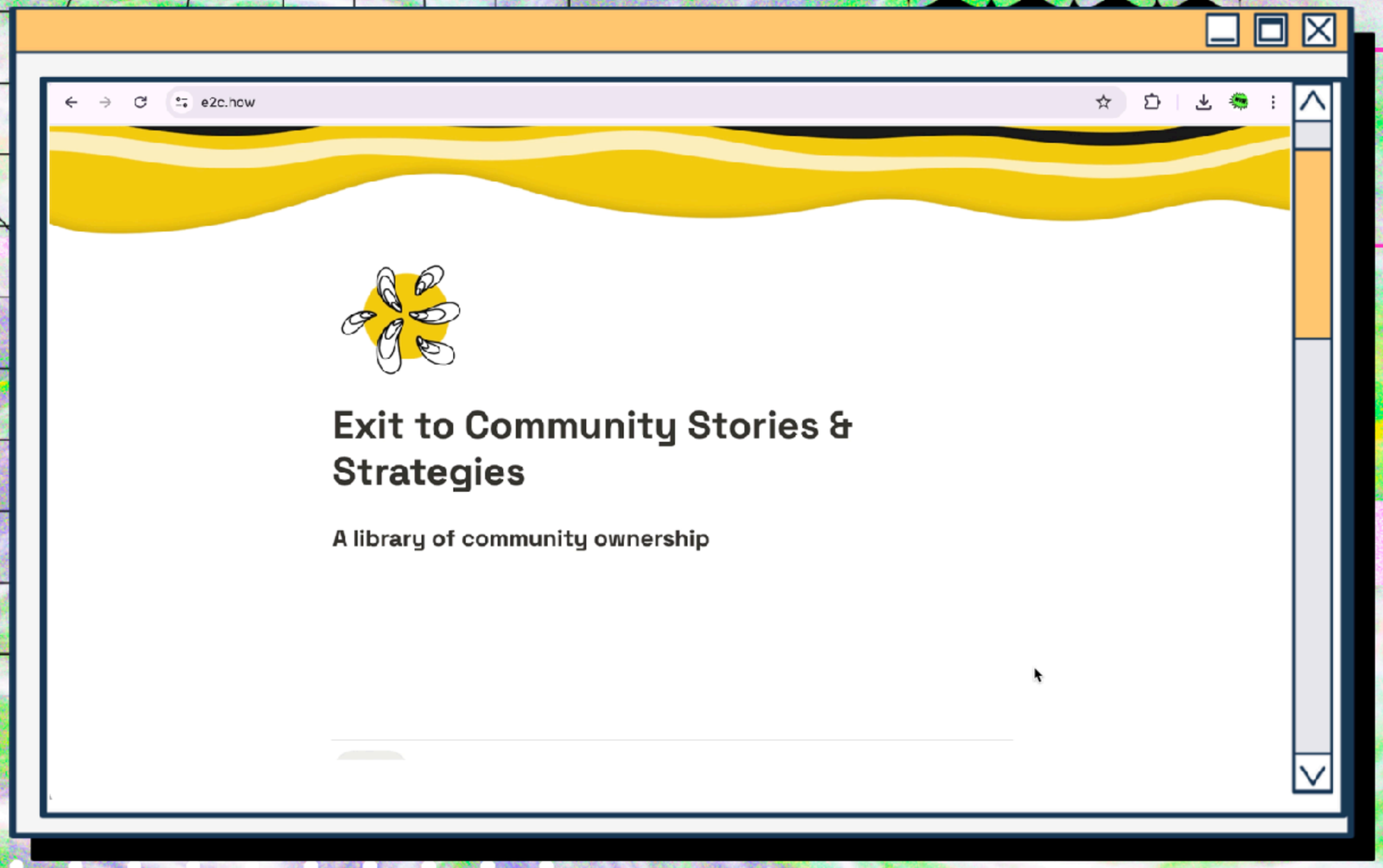
Join 3929 artists, 727 labels, and 631 supporters in collectively owning and shaping Subvert.





SUBVERT

PLATFORM CO-OP



EXIT TO COMMUNITY

WORKER CO-OP

art.coop

Art.Coop For Grantmakers For Artists Directory Contact Donate

art.coop

Art.coop is a network of artists and groups
who make the Solidarity Economy irresistible.

ART.COOP

WORKER CO-OP

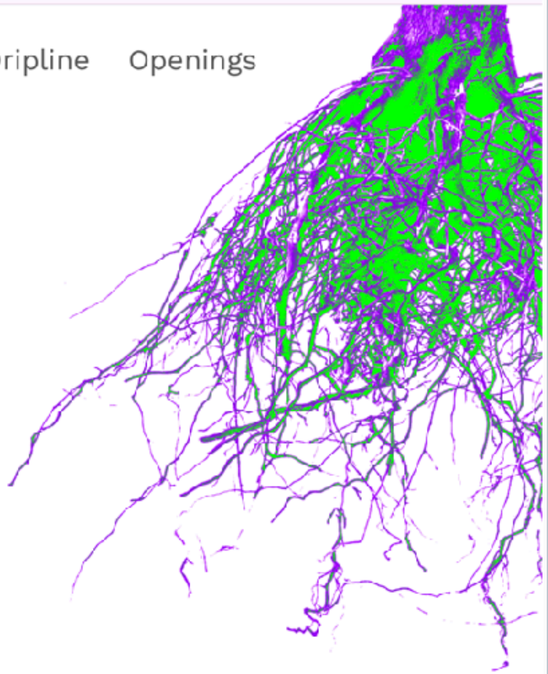
DISCO.COOP

WORKER CO-OP

hypha.coop

HYPHA Worker Co-operative Home People Work Dripline Openings

Hypha collaborates with communities to build better relationships with technology.



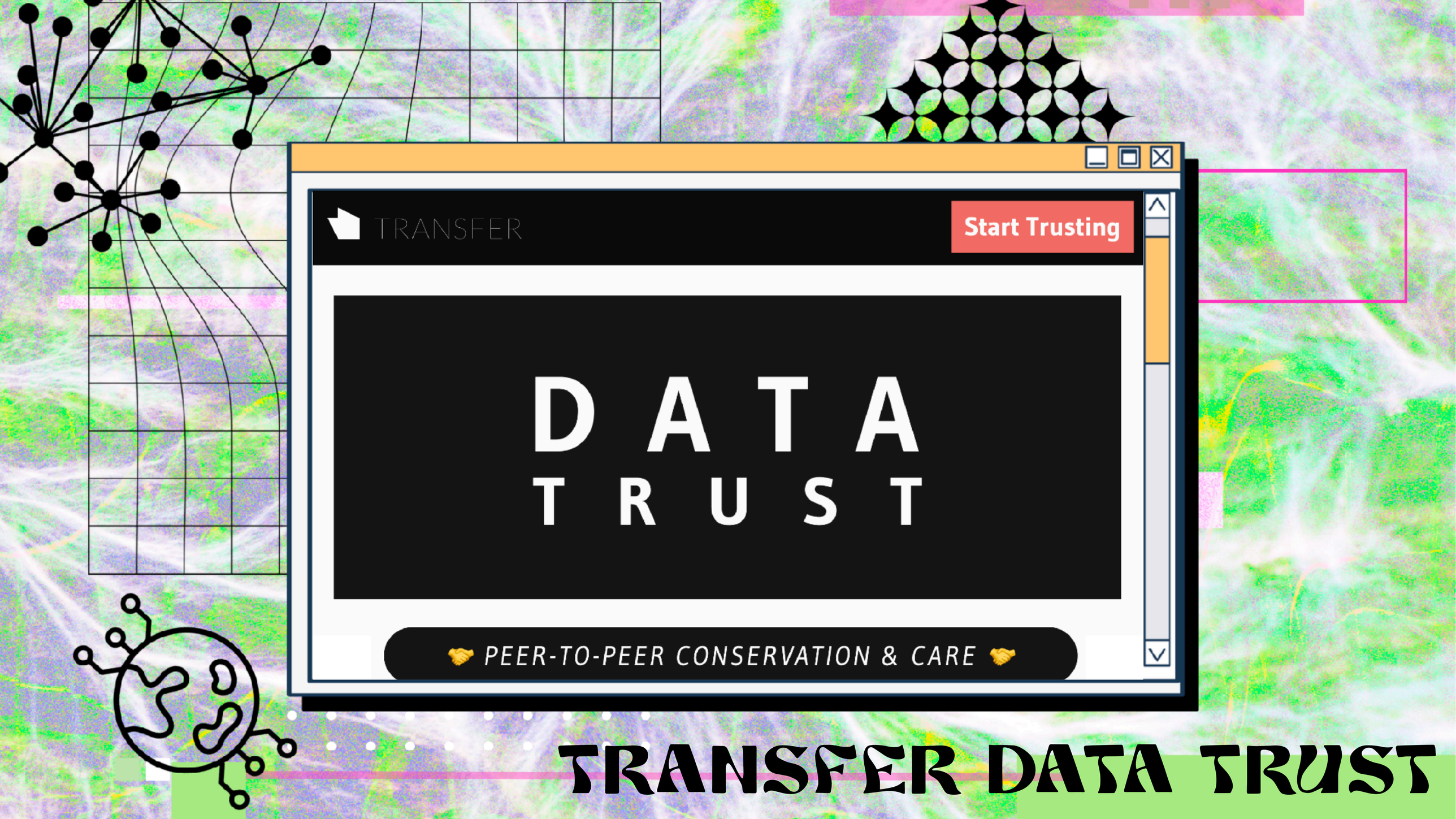
HYPHA.COOP

ARTIST COOPS

Artist cooperatives emerged in the early 20th century as groups of artists pooling resources to create, exhibit, and sell their work collectively, thereby gaining greater control over their creative and financial destinies. They proliferated in the 1960s and 1970s, particularly in urban centers like New York and San Francisco, as a response to the commercial gallery system, offering artists democratic spaces to innovate collaboratively and support one another's artistic growth.

_INDEX

- Associated American Artists (AAA) NYC. 1934
- Taller de Gráfica Popular (TGP) Mexico City, 1937
- CoBrA (Copenhagen, Brussels, Amsterdam) Europe, 1948
- San Francisco Art Institute Artists' Cooperative Gallery, 1952
- Black Artists' Group (BAG) St. Louis, 1968
- A.I.R. Gallery (Artists in Residence) NYC, 1972
- The Guerrilla Girls, NYC, 1985


TRANSFER
Start Trusting
DATA
TRUST
PEER-TO-PEER CONSERVATION & CARE
TRANSFER DATA TRUST

TRANSFER

DATA TRUST STRUCTURE

#1 ARTIST-OWNED ARCHIVE

Artists manage their archive on **NAS Drives in the studio.**

Artists seed backups of each other's archives with a **private IPFS network.**

Space is allocated to run **'Node Labs'** for shared compute resources.

ARTIST STUDIOS — **ARTIST-OWNED DATA** → **AUDIENCE EXPERIENCES**

Artworks are prepared into **Archival Information Packages** by Conservators, and **Appraised**.

Artist Proofs are committed to the trust with **FVM Storage Deals** backing AIP cold storage.

L1 Foundation Support
Development Grants
Arts Grants
Seed Contributors
Expert Time-banking

DATA TRUST COOPERATIVE

Funds Operations, Care & IP Development

#2 SOLIDARITY BUSINESS MODEL

EXHIBITIONS
PROGRAMMING
RELATIONSHIPS
DECENTRALIZED CATALOG

#3 UX / UI TOOLKITS

OPEN IP

Open Culture Infrastructure: Fork & Scale as Public Goods

Decentralized Compute
AI Training
Digital Asset Management

GOVERNANCE MODELS

Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs) took off in Web3, but they have quickly been revealed as flawed in ideology and execution.

We'll start with a look at some emergent governance models, before jumping into a case study of three leading DAO experiments to discuss the structures, what worked well, and what didn't.

_INDEX

Governance Models

- Community Rule

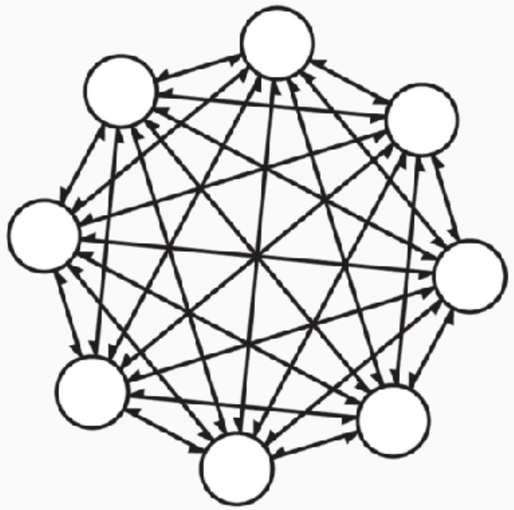
DAOs

- Ethereum Name Service (ENS)
- Friends With Benefits (FWB)
- Refraction (REFRACT)

communityrule.info

CommunityRule About Book Create Guides Library Templates Login

CommunityRule is a governance toolkit for great communities.



COMMUNITY RULE

GOVERNANCE TEMPLATES

Benevolent Dictator

The Benevolent Dictator holds ultimate decision-making power, until the group is ready for a more inclusive structure.

Values | Membership | Autocracy | Delegation | Expiration | Executive | Lobbying

Circles

Units called Circles have the ability to decide and act on matters in their domains, which their members agree on through a Council.

Values | Membership | Council | Delegation | Lazy consensus

Consensus

Decisions that affect the group collectively should involve participation of all participants.

Values | Membership | Exclusion | Consensus | Deliberation | Do-Ocracy

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Values | Membership [Exclusion] | Consensus [Deliberation] | Do-Ocracy

Do-ocracy

Those who take initiative to do something in the group can decide how they do it.

Values | Membership | Autonomy | Do-ocracy [Lobbying]

Elected Board

An elected board determines policies and organizes their implementation.

Values | Membership | Board [Representation] [Majority Voting]

Jury

Proposals are shaped and decided on by randomly selected juries.

Values | Membership | Legislature [Sortition] [Petition] [Policy Register]

GOVERNANCE TEMPLATES

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Values | Membership | Autonomy | Do-ocracy [Lobbying]

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ly selected juries.

Petition

All participants can propose and vote on proposals for the group.

Values | Membership | Petition

Self-Appointed Board

A board that selects its own members determines policies and organizes their implementation.

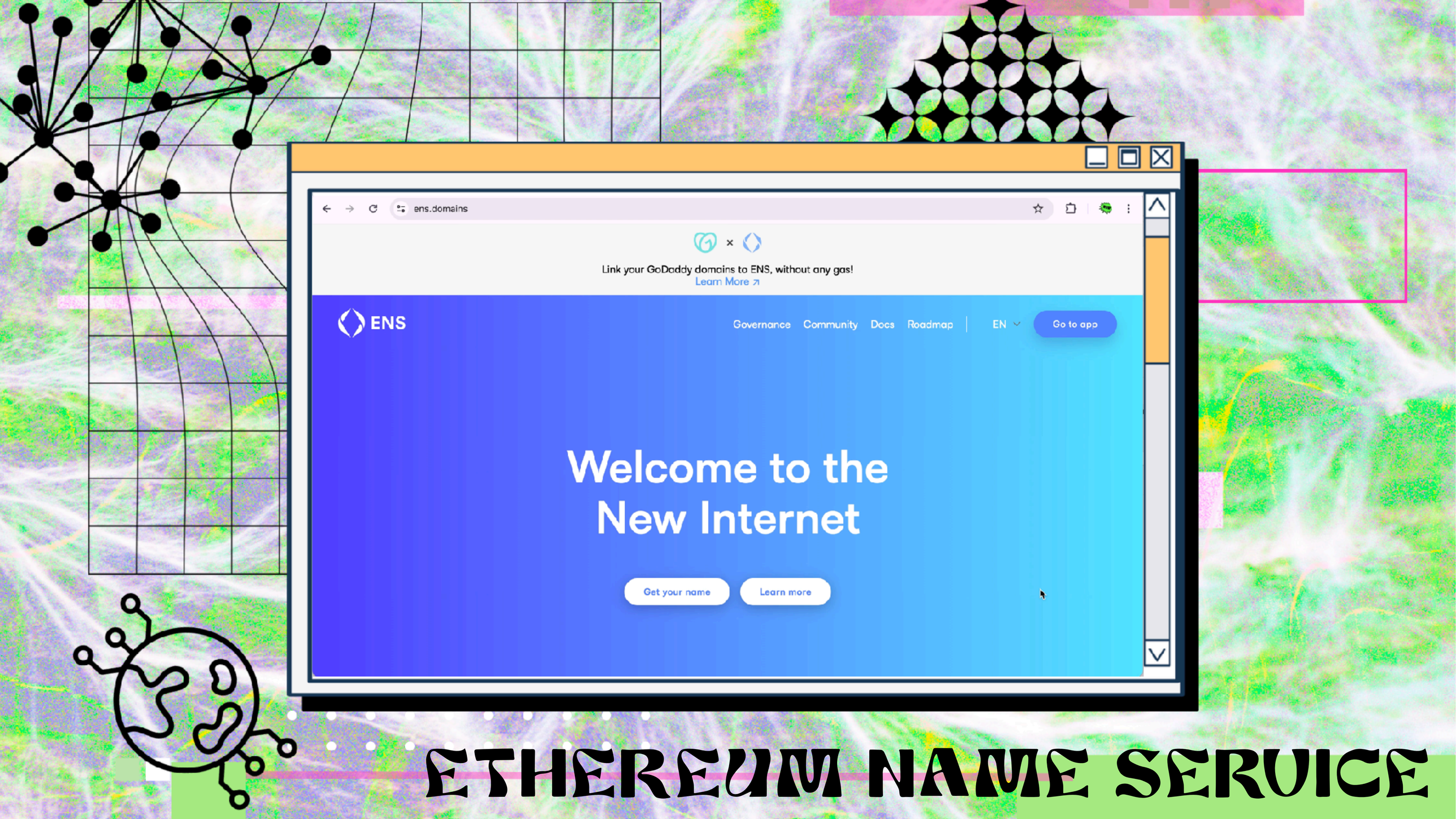
Values | Membership | Board [Majority Voting]

DAOS

A Decentralized Autonomous Organization is a blockchain-based system that enables people to collaborate and make decisions in a decentralized manner without the need for a central authority. The key infrastructure component is a 'token' that can serve both functional and financial purposes.

The concept gained popularity with the launch of the Ethereum blockchain in 2015, which provided a platform for creating and running DAOs.

The first major experiment was "The DAO," created in 2016 as a venture capital fund in the Ethereum ecosystem, which aimed to democratize investments, and infamously resulted in a significant security breach leading to a substantial loss of funds.


ens.domains
Link your GoDaddy domains to ENS, without any gas!
Learn More
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Governance
Community
Docs
Roadmap
EN
Go to app
Welcome to the
New Internet
Get your name
Learn more
ETHEREUM NAME SERVICE

fwb.help
A NEW KIND OF SOCIAL NETWORK
FWB
JOIN
GET $FWB
ABOUT
Friends With Benefits is a new kind of social network made up of creatives and builders who believe in the promise of a better internet.
We all hold $FWB tokens as a way to collectively fund and govern our community endeavors and co-own what we create together.
GET FWB IN YOUR INBOX:
your@email.com
LEARN MORE
FWB WIKI
FEST24
FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS

Home
Editoral
Drops
Events
Collection
Refract Pass
Contact
Join Us
REFRACTION
Refraction is an artist-owned community leading the next wave of digital art, music and culture — online, onchain and IRL.
REFRACTION

SHORT DISCUSSION

Have you been part of a DAO?

What was your experience?

How did its governance work, or not?

BREAK:
10 MINUTES

WORKSHOP:
GOVERNANCE &
COOPERATION ROLEPLAY