CRYPTO GROWS ON TREES

ON THE REVITALIZATION OF NATURE
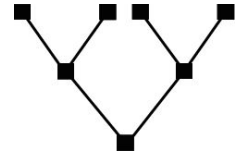
CRYPTO GROWS ON TREES — ON THE REVITALIZATION OF NATURE

ART EXPERIENECE

This summer we saw wildfires in the Arctic. We saw lakes of meltwater covering Greenland's ice sheets. The Amazon was burning, and so are still big parts of Indonesia's rainforest. California caught fire and Malibu went to ashes. Fingers were pointed, nothing was done.

For some reason, the "science" or the "evidence" is not sufficient to create global consciousness. We have seen divided opinions over children activists, however missing the point, the problem. There is a threat, no matter who is voicing it. We should reroute the conversation towards the evidence, and in the light of this, think collectively.

In these times the medium is becoming equally, if not more, important than the message to get more people to take an active role in societal change. Therefore, we'd like people to focus on the following questions when visiting this show:

Can we as a community help to solve some of the issues stemming from the climate crisis, through pushing wider awareness by working on a message able to be grasped by a global audience? What is the best medium to convey this message?

Are the "autonomous versions of nature" that technologists in our ecosystem are proposing the way forward - or do we need to think beyond that notion?

If we were to "prepare for the worst" could decentralized and autonomous archiving systems be a sustainable way of preserving the current state of flora and fauna, that seems to debilitate and shrink in diversity and vastness, day after day?

We seek to activate the viewers' opinions towards the questions posed through the emotional attachment to the earth and its inhabitants.

Crypto Doesn't Grow on Trees wants the participants to share their ideas on how this community can contribute to the conversation on the ongoing climate crisis and the much-needed change - if there are ideas, we are providing a medium to express them.

The Department of Decentralization and the patrons of this art experience invites the audience to leave comments, ideas, thoughts or anything else in the book of complaints. We also encourage you to stream the art experience via Pepo (Please use the code DEVCON5) to broadcast it to the DEVCON5 community and beyond.

The participating artists are Sarah Friend & Arkadiy Kukarkin, Tarun Chitra, Reese Donohue & Sarah Meyohas, and Social Dist0rtion Protocol.

The Department of Decentralization is grateful for the help and the kind support we have received from Sovereign Nature Initiative, Ed Hesse, Pepo and Simon de la Rouviere.

Remembering Network

Sarah Friend & Arkadiy Kukarkin
2019
Installation and digital interactive components

There are 41,415 species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, and 16,306 of them are threatened with extinction. It makes up 27% of all assessed species, 40% of amphibians, 25% of mammals, 14% of birds, and 70% of assessed plants. Early this May, the United Nations released a report on global biodiversity loss, finding that it is in unprecedented decline as a result of human activities.

Take a deep breath and hold that in your mind. As we try to preserve and rebuild our world, we must also bear witness to the losses that came from our past carelessness.

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is a highly secure seed bank meant to preserve genetic information for future civilizations located on a remote island in Norway. Increasingly, it serves as a memorial, but it's not accessible to most people as anything more than an idea. Remembering network is also a kind of monument - but one that is collaborative, local-first, diverse, and resilient - to lost and threatened wildlife. It will contain crowdsourced images and genetic information of currently threatened and endangered animals.

Attendees are invited to submit images of animals, to be packaged in archives on ipfs and other peer to peer protocols. Much like the seed bank, which is built to withstand many kinds of extreme climate and weather, peer to peer protocols are similarly designed to withstand network failures and takedown attempts. We'll put our memorial in the safest place we know: all over the world, everywhere.

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Sarah Friend is an artist and software engineer, with special interest in blockchain and the p2p web. She is a proud Recurse Centre alum, and is one of the organizers of Our Networks, a conference on all aspects of the distributed web in Toronto. Recently, she has exhibited work at NEoN Festival in Scotland, Moneylab in London, Gray Area Festival in San Francisco, Microwave Festival in Hong Kong, the Athens Biennale, and the ZKM Center for Art and Media In Germany.

Arkadiy Kukarkin has been trying to make the internet a better place for just over a decade, with mixed success. His work focuses on creating systems of support and expression that respect the intrinsic motivations and intent of the participant and exploring the relationship between creative labor and reward. If the whole Internet thing doesn't work out, he'll probably be found in a kitchen/garden somewhere or making atonal sounds with weird software/electronics, if there is a power supply.

Planet A, the Tragedy of the CO$_2$mmons

Social Dist0rtion Protocol
Conceptualized in 2055, developed in 2019
Decentralized Web Application

"Planet A" is a simulation game taking place during social events, involving as many participants as possible. The simulation starts as a gimmick to induce participants through a financial incentive to interact with each other via a burner wallet. Halfway through the game, players will find themselves in a tragedy of the commons, as they discover that their greedy interactions had dangerous emissions that now threaten to collapse the economy of the game. They enter into a competition to educate each other, and prevent an economic tipping point to be reached.

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Social Dist0rtion Protocol is a collective intelligence spawned in the waste products of social media virtual realities and psychedelic drugs. SDP emerged in 2045 to fight the transplanetary corporations that commodify democracy, manipulate governments, and destroy the environment. SDP gained visibility 10 years later by coordinating the hacking operation "Hunt Zuckerberg", which aimed to capture Mr. Zuckerberg and turn him over to the Decentralized Courts of Cyberjustice. The operation was successful, but it wasn't enough to heal society's deep wounds. SDP's new strategy is to travel back in time to warn earthlings about the dystopian future they face if they don't fight.

Dataflocks

Tarun Chitra, Reese Donohue & Sarah Meyohas
2019
Augmented Reality / Digital

A hidden pattern is popping up in seemingly unrelated places. The concept of universality describes how emergent phenomena in seemingly disconnected fields are actually related due to common, hidden statistical similarities. Dataflocks illustrates universality in a tangible manner by mapping human sociological behaviors to virtual birds flocking. We illustrate the power of universality by mapping stock market, cryptocurrency, subway, and airline data to these digital feathered friends. Can you identify which data set produced the trajectories that you are looking at?

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Reese Donohue is the founder of Tempo, an immersive design studio housed at the NEW INC in New York City. He focuses on creating experiences rooted in audio with the belief that sound and form are inextricable. Reese holds a B.A. from Berkeley's Center for New Music and Audio Technology and has composed, produced and performed as Painted Palms since 2010.

Sarah Meyohas is an internationally acclaimed artist working at the forefront of new media. She works across film, photography, virtual and augmented reality, performance art, and sculpture. Her financial art pieces on stock manipulation and [Bitchcoin](#) share a curiosity about the meaning of value with the Ethereum community. Her work has been exhibited at the New Museum, Red Bull Arts New York, 303 Gallery, and the Locarno Film Festival, amongst others.

Tarun Chitra is the founder and CEO of Gauntlet, which aims to provide useful simulation tools to estimate financial risks within smart contracts. Previously, he worked in algorithmic trading and studied the glass transition and ASICs at D. E. Shaw Research, a private research institute in New York. He stumbled into cryptocurrencies in 2011, when D. E. Shaw's ASIC orders were front-run by early Bitcoin miners.