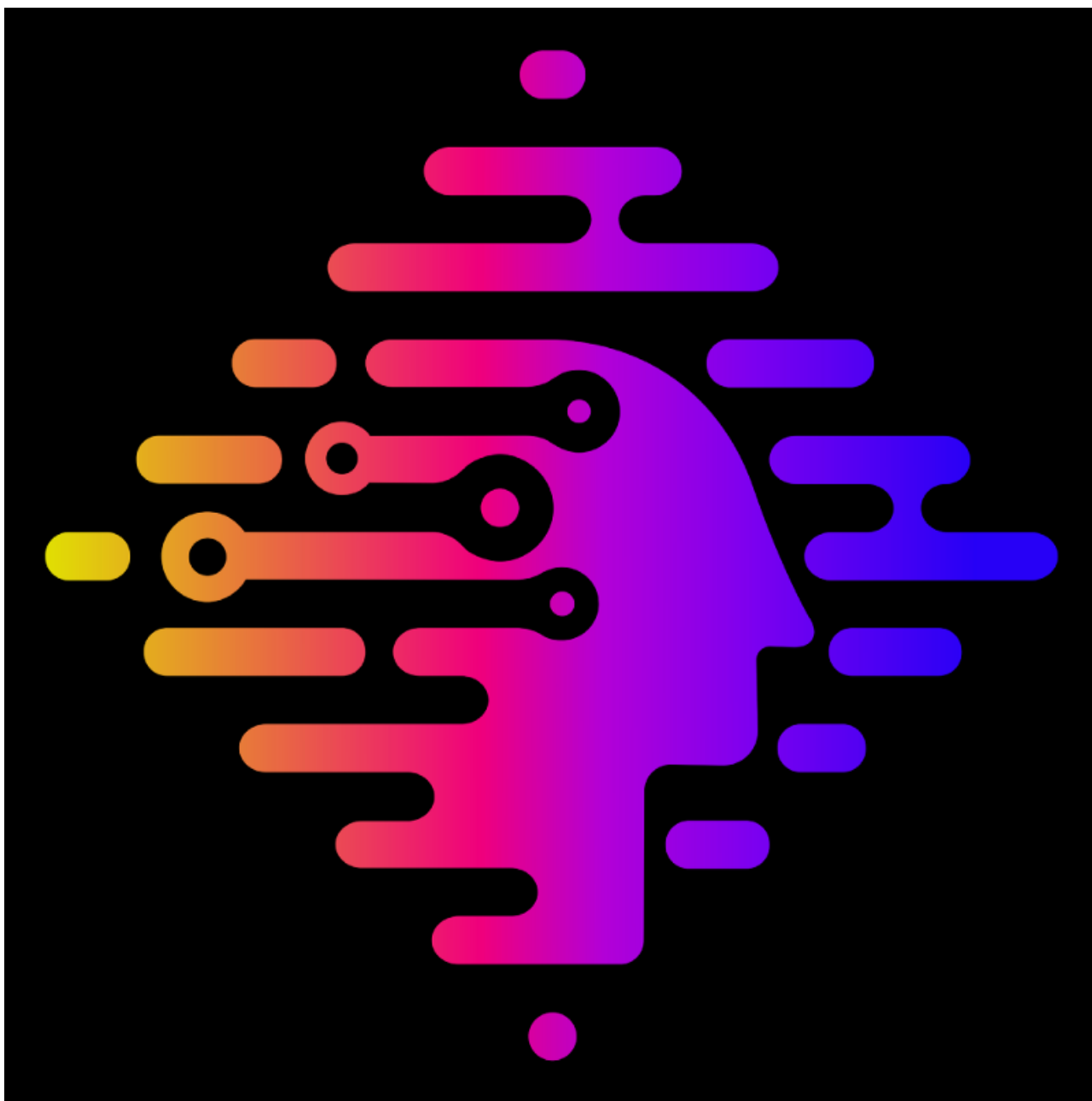


---

# My Journey Into NFTs 🖼️

Before Mango Heroes



## 🧠 The Brain Trust

The formation of the Brain Trust was pivotal, I think for many of its members, myself included. We had all been individually doing things alone in crypto as traders, NFT-ers, yield farmers, etc but everyone also had much **stronger ancillary skills in software development,**

**graphic design, law, and other arts** that we had not really tapped into as of yet as a collective. The Brain Trust become a think tank, a lab, an incubator before our eyes without us really trying to make it that. It's been one of the most organically grown groups I've ever been honored to be a part of. You can read more about us in this introductory piece here:

[Intro to the Brain Trust](#)

**The Brain Trust**  
@TheBrainTrust\_\_ · [Follow](#)



A group of internet friends came together using magic internet money to create opportunities for themselves and others. With community and innovation in mind, allow us to introduce ourselves. This is The Brain Trust



[tbtbraintrust.medium.com](https://tbtbraintrust.medium.com)  
Intro to The Brain Trust  
Written by Yohan GG (gotchuglobal)

10:52 AM · Oct 21, 2021 

 35  Reply  Copy link

[Read more on Twitter](#)



## ♥ “Tomodachi” (Friends)

I was mentally and emotionally at a low point and I turned to art initially as an outlet after not finding any relief from much anything else. Instead of studying for a new cybersecurity cert, I started doodling on my iPad and looking at YouTube videos on coloring/shading and... it felt good. This was the first time I had created anything I'd consider as “art” in over 10 years. I had no interest in being an NFT artist but projects on both Ethereum and Solana networks began to peak my interest. Some of

the first of those were <https://www.lostboy.io/> and <https://www.on1force.com/>.



oN1 #2969 Shenron Dragon

Functionality wise I liked what Lost Boy NFT was doing in terms of providing mental health support and a space for people to find community and be heard. Artistically, I liked this world of comic book art on1 Force was building. Within the information share of The Brain Trust I became more and more interested in the NFT space and all of the possibilities and opportunities that could come from it. It seemed endless. A blank canvas so to speak. After drawing an [oN1 Force](#)

Derivative for fun I thought to myself how I wish there were more PFP(Profile Picture NFTs) that looked like me and my friends. But hey! Let's just admit it's cool seeing yourself in a representative way in a picture. I think that's some of the magic that draws us to NFTs. We begin to identify with the characters. And that is how “Tomodachi” was born as an ode to the meaning of the word—my friends. The project works can be viewed here: <https://tomodachi.holaplex.com/>.

### **Tomodachi**

*This PFP NFT project started right after I returned to creating art again. I was at a low point and turned to art to...tomodachi.holaplex.com*





## **SolRacs?!**

Once I decided to delve even deeper into NFTs I thought, “Well, I can draw and I have enough development know-how to get a candy machine going. Why not spark a small (300 supply), fun project? And let’s see where this goes!”

SolRacs was the first idea. All the solana based projects were using the prefix “Sol-” for differentiation sake and people seemed to really jive



with the animals. And if I've learned anything in this space this year is to just go where the vibes are going.

My first thoughts on other NFT projects were, "Maybe we could build together and help each other out?" Solbears had not too long launched. Why not reach out to Solbears to collaborate? Be a part of the Soltopia. Build together with another strong Solana project. I thought, "Ok, wow. This could really be a good thing."



**Parzival**   
@0x\_Parzival · [Follow](#)



My Twitter banner tells the tale of Battle of Solbears, the first terrible rug of Solana.

Many sols were lost that day.

2:37 PM · Oct 17, 2021



[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

 209  Reply  Copy link

[Read 44 replies](#)

Unfortunately, I was wrong. If you've been in the Solana NFT space long enough you've seen the "negative" reputation the Solbears have engendered due to some of their practices. I realized I was being naive. I

had to thread carefully. Instead of thinking that all of these projects were trying to build honest and authentic communities, the truth was, it was cash grab season. So it was back to the whiteboard and I really started thinking that maybe this whole space just wasn't for me. Maybe I should just go back to making art for fun.

By [etsploit](#) on [October 27, 2021](#).

[Canonical link](#)

Exported from [Medium](#) on November 29, 2022.