

Blockchain & Crypto as an Artistic Medium and Subject

Purposes and Approaches

Tactical Media (TM) & Electronic Civil Disobedience (ECD)

- Tactical Media - Art that uses the technologies and tools of whatever it is critiquing to explore the boundaries of application and ethics of use usually in public domains or as *Direct Action*
 - *Art Galleries, museums, public installations, etc.*
- Electronic Civil Disobedience - Art that uses the technologies and tools of whatever it is critiquing to actively resist the use of any form of tool or technology to further entrench power structures or marginalizing forces. Usually *clandestine policy/process subversion*.
 - *We don't generally see these but occasionally hear about them*

Key Figures

Electronic Civil Disobedience

- Critical Art Ensemble
- The Yes Men
- Hacktivists

Tactical Media

- Julian Oliver
- Paul Vanouse
- Natalie Jeremijanko

Examples not related to Blockchain/Crypto - TM

Julian Oliver - *Transparency Grenade*

The lack of Corporate and Governmental transparency has been a topic of much controversy in recent years, yet our only tool for encouraging greater openness is the slow, tedious process of policy reform.

Presented in the form of a Soviet F1 Hand Grenade, the Transparency Grenade is an iconic cure for these frustrations, making the process of leaking information from closed meetings as easy as pulling a pin.

Equipped with a tiny computer, microphone and powerful wireless antenna, the Transparency Grenade captures network traffic and audio at the site and securely and anonymously streams it to a dedicated server where it is mined for information. Email fragments, HTML pages, images and voice extracted from this data are then presented on an online, public map, shown at the location of the detonation.

Whether trusted employee, civil servant or concerned citizen, greater openness was never so close at hand.

THE TRANSPARENCY GRENADE



Example - TM

Critical Art Ensemble - *Radio Bikes*

Radio Bikes were detournements to fascist news. By hijacking the frequencies of established, right wing news radio via nomadic and highly agile mini-broadcast centers, *Radio Bikes* would temporarily disrupt the content being heard by audiences in their vicinity.





EDC & Blockchain/Crypto

Julian Oliver - *H A R V E S T*

HARVEST is a work of critical engineering and computational climate art. It uses wind-energy to mine cryptocurrency, the earnings of which are used as a source of funding for climate-change research.

Taking the form of a 2m wind turbine with environmental sensors, weatherproof computer and 4G uplink, *HARVEST* 'feeds' from two primary symptoms of our changing climate: wind gusts and storms. It does this by transforming wind energy into the electricity required to meet the demanding task of mining cryptocurrency (here [Zcash](#)), a decentralised process where computers are financially rewarded for their work maintaining and verifying a public transaction ledger known as the blockchain. Rather than filling the digital wallet of the artist, all rewards earned by the *HARVEST* mining machine are paid out as donations to non-profit climate change research organisations such that they can better study this planetary-scale challenge.

Acting as a fully functional prototype beyond a media-art context, it is envisaged hundreds of such *HARVEST* nodes could be deployed in the windiest parts of the world, together generating large sums of supplementary funding for climate-change NGOs in a time where climate science itself is under siege from the fossil-fuelled interests of governments and corporations.

Hardware - From 2015/16

- Battery charge controller (24V 3-phase in, 24V DC out)
- 400W wide input (16V-24V (28V max)) ATX PSU ('HDPLEX')
- 6V-24V DC in, 12V 3A out converter/regulator
- Mini-ITX mainboard
- Intel i3 CPU (Socket 1151)
- NVIDIA GTX 1080 ti GPU
- 250Gb SSD
- 4G USB dongle/'surfstick'
- Arduino
- 4Gb DDR 4 RAM
- Weather proof case modified with rain and insect-proof air intakes and GPU thermal exhaust





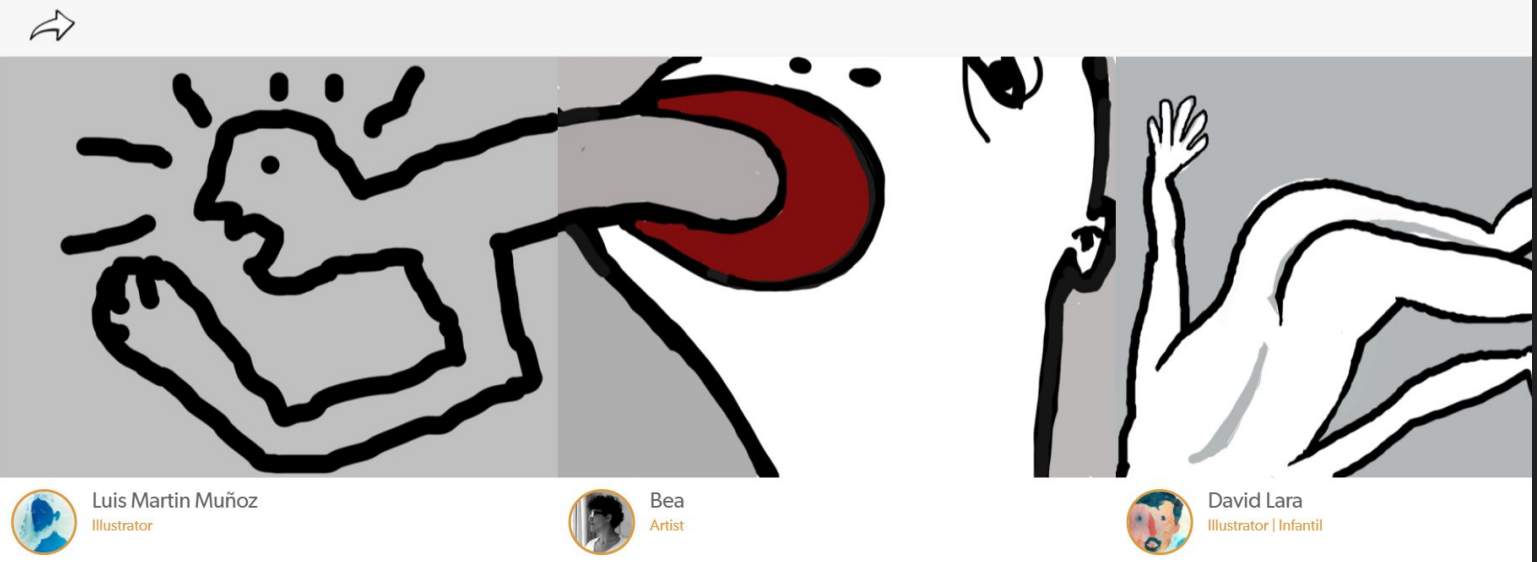


Pedestrian Appropriation of Tools of Resistance

Dada.art

Using Blockchain to connect artists to produce aesthetic digital objects

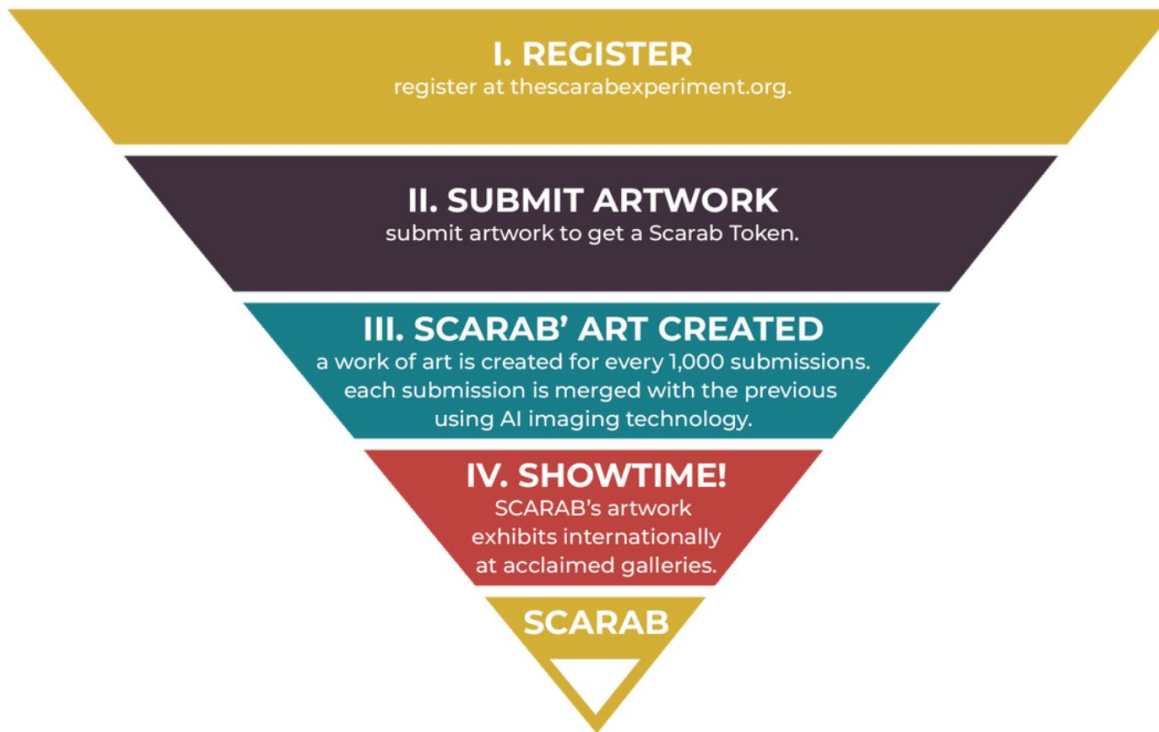
- “Each artist responds to what previous artists have created or simply begins anew. The cumulative work both preserves individual contributions and manages to develop a narrative. These artistic interactions are considered conversations, and just like the spoken kind they represent a sort of give and take between two or more people.”



The Scarab Experiment

“...decentralized artist collective focusing on combined artwork. Created in 2014, SCARAB is a multi-user persona that uses artificial intelligence (AI) image processing to form a single work of art from one thousand submissions. To contribute to the collection, you just need to register and submit your piece of art here. In return, you'll receive a Scarab token.

This token grants you membership into the Scarab community and allows you to vote for which pieces of art are included in the combined piece. The team used Counterparty to create the tokens and there will only ever be 100,000 Scarab tokens in existence. Beyond voting, you can also trade Scarab tokens through the Counterparty DEX. They're currently trading at around \$13 a token giving the project a ~\$30,000 price tag with the 2298 tokens in circulation. “



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Rare Pepes

“...The users design meme cards. These cards are linked to a special token, PEPECASH. PEPECASH is issued on the Bitcoin blockchain using the Counterparty protocol. After careful inspection by the community, they are also listed in the Rare Pepe Directory. The number of tokens is limited and scarce and thus the Pepe Cards become rare and valuable assets. Pepe Cards can be traded using special Counterparty wallets.”

- Pepe has been appropriated by the alt-right but also used in Hong Kong protests
- Speed at which meaning (Semiotics) surrounding an object can become problematic but only makes it more interesting as art

as virtual game cards: A whole community has emerged around Rare Pepe trading card tokens, which are unforgeable and have a known fixed supply as well as an auditable flow of ownership due to the inherited properties of



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Usually multiple tokens are created, say for example tokens with the label "VOTE-YES" and "VOTE-NO", which are distributed to participants of the vote. To cast votes, vote tokens are then sent to a agreed upon destination

Byron's next project - Labour/Fuel/Currency

Connecting the hidden labour and environmental impact of Blockchain/Crypto

Biodiesel Production Process

