XPNFT A Guide to Experiential Art NFTs by Nik Kalyani

What's an xpNFT?

An xpNFT is an NFT that has either a digital or real-world experiential component. There are many types of XPNFTs. This guide focuses on Art XPNFTs that have primarily digital visual experiences.

The xpNFT Concept

This is the data for each NFT in a — Smart Contract

NFT Smart Contract

ID (number)

Metadata (list)

Asset URL (link)

Usually the Asset URL refers to a fixed file (JPG, MP4, PNG etc.) on decentralized storage like IPFS, Skynet or Arweave. But what if the file wasn't fixed? What if it could "render" a different image or movie dynamically based on the Metadata or some other criterial?

Voila...XPNFT!

How do xpNFTs work?

Minting Packaged NFT Image Artist Composer Artist provides the individual layer images required for the final image and the composition rules

A single image with the individual image layers embedded within that image

Viewing

Viewer

Renderer

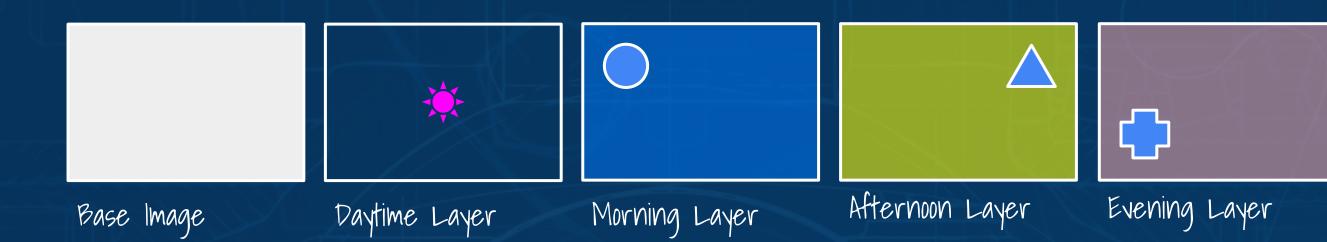
View NFT

The renderer enumerates the rules, extracts the required image layers from the packaged image and renders a single image

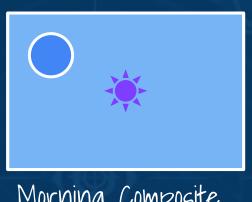
The image that is displayed is a composite, rule-based image derived from the individual image layers



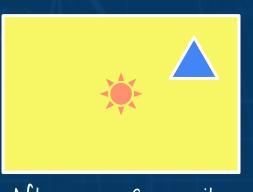
An xpNFT Example



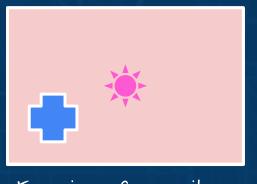
This is a simple example that changes the composite image based on the time of day







Afternoon Composite



Evening Composite



Night Layer

Night Composite

Types of Art xpNFTs



0 = Metadata-based



ES Ownership-based

+ many more...

© Time-based Art xpNFTs

Time-based art XPNFTs change their appearance with the passage of time. The time duration is arbitrary and determined by the XPNFT author.



(C) Time-based Art xpNFTs

Evolution/Decay

The art visually evolves or degenerates (decays) over time. For example, a creature could start as an egg, hatch and grow over time. Conversely, a building could visibly age over time.



(C) Time-based Art xpNFTs

Transient

The art visually changes at a regular cadence that is time-based. This could be time-of-day, day-of-week, month or season. It could also be a set interval of time (odd, even, square, Fibonacci etc.).

Metadata-based Art xpNFTs

Metadata-based art xpNFTs change their appearance according to the NFT and/or contract metadata fields. These typically map to specific visual attributes of the appearance.

Direct Mapping

The art visually changes based on metadata values. These values may be changed manually or based on external automated agents.

Community Mapping

The art visually changes by rotating sets of owner metadata values. This requires multiple mints of the NFT. With every mint, the metadata sets increase, adding more art variants.

BB Set-based Art xpNFTs

Set-based art XPNFTs change their visual appearance based on other NFTs held by the NFT owner. These could be from the same or different artists depending on the set rules.



Ball Set-based Art xpNFTs

Artist Group

A group of artists each release an NFT with hidden layers for each other artist in the group. The hidden layers are revealed if an NFT owner also owns NFTs from other group members.



Ball Set-based Art xpNFTs

Series

The art visually changes as an NFT owner adds each additional NFT in a series. For instance, a series NFT added to the account, adds more intricate details to all the series NFTs in the account.

Ownership-based Art xpNFTs

Ownership-based art xpNFTs change their visual appearance based on who is holding the NFT and for what duration.



Ownership-based Art xpNFTs

Stayin' Alive

The NFT has a fixed life-span. The owner must sell or transfer the NFT to a new owner within its life-span or it self-destructs. The life counter resets with each new owner.



Ownership-based Art xpNFTs

Aging

Each time an NFT is transferred to a new owner, it ages. The visual appearance of the NFT deteriorates like a real-world object that has had multiple OWNers.