Tokenization of works of art as an object of collection and as an object of crime.



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District Prosecutor's Office in Lublin



What is NFT in the context of an art work?

Non-fungible token - a non-exchangeable token based on the blockchain;

Non-duplicable;

Unique,

Single,

Containing an encrypted signature of the author, traceable origin;

Offered for sale on dedicated platforms, but also in auction houses.



Collection by The Last Raptor.

www.artplacer.com

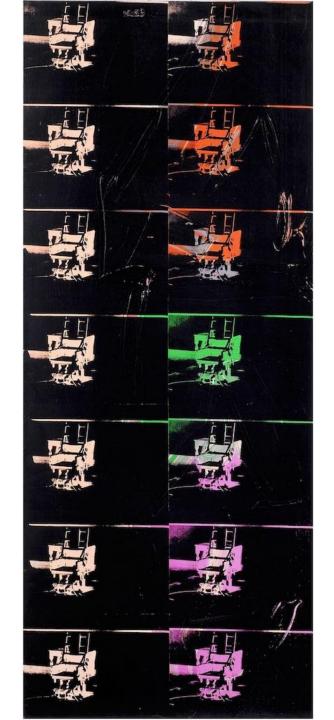


Digital art vs. NFT

- Solving the problem of duplication of digital works;
- A new way of monetization for creators;
- NFT is a certificate of authenticity of the work;
- Possibility of archiving works of art

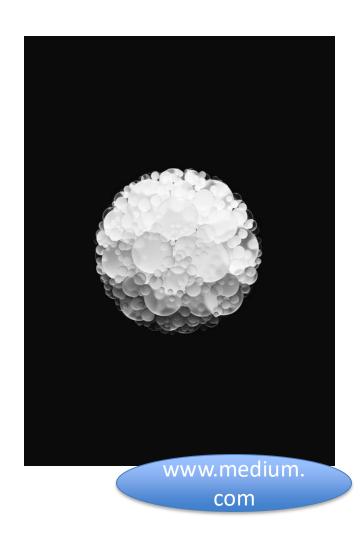
Breakthrough events

- In 2018, Andy Warhol's "14 Small Electric Chairs" was staged and put up for auction.
- More than 800 participants took part in the auction, ultimately purchasing 31.4% share of the work.
- After the auction, they received tokens confirming their fractional shares in the painting.
- They will also remain fractional co-owners if the pop-art work changes its majority shareholder and thus its actual owner.



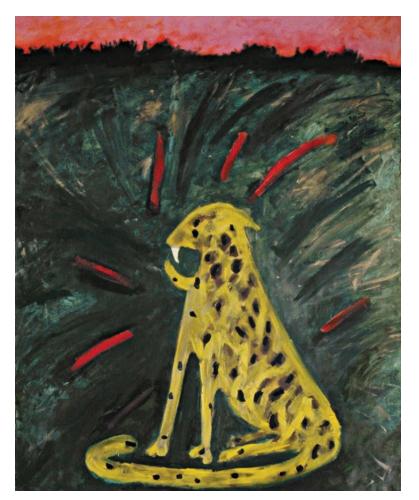
Breakthrough events

- 1. "The Merge" \$91.8 million (December 2021)
- Author: Pak. The most expensive NFT ever. It's a digital masterpiece consisting of spherical masses that grew as more people bought NFT units.
- 2. "Everydays: The First 5000 Days" \$69.3 million (March 2021)
- Author: Beeple
- Created one image a day for 5,000 days and then combined them into one monumental work.
 - 3. "Clock" \$52.7 million
- Author: Pak
- NFT showing a countdown timer of days since the imprisonment of Julian Assange, creator of WikiLeaks. The sale was to support his legal defense.



Breakthrough events

- Market Development: CryptoPunks, Bored Ape Yacht Club, Pudgy Pingwins.
- Auction houses:
 Christie's, Sotheby's;
- Polish auction houses:
 Desa Unicum, Agra ART
- Archiving the works of art by Bank Pekao



"Why there is something rather than nothing" by Pawel Kowalewski

Advantages and disadvantages

- Royalties on each resale
- Direct contact with the buyer, no middlemen
- Global marketplace available online;
- Platform: OpenSea, Rarible,
 SuperRare

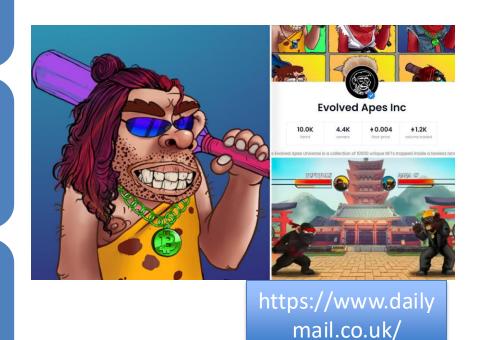
- Speculation and lack of artistic value
- Lack of physicality and permanence of the work
- Problems with authenticity and duplication

NFT fraud and theft

Fake NFT (Evil Ape) Collections;

Phishing and theft of cryptocurrency wallets (February 2022 OpenSea).

Pump and Dump.



NFT vs. money laundering

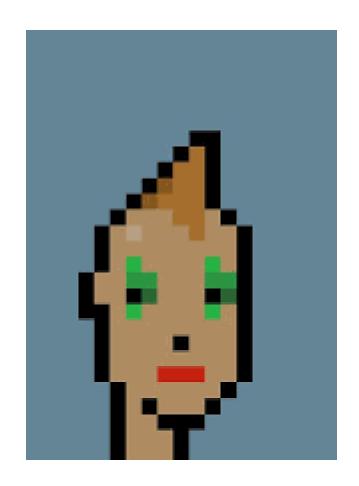
Wash trading - fake trades

NFT transfers between own portfolios

No KYC obligation - anonymity

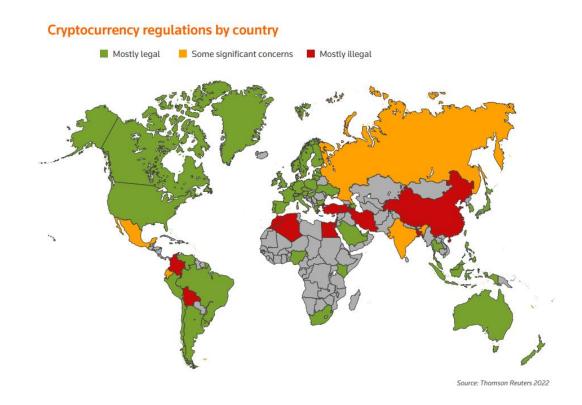
NFT and copyright law

- Tokenization of others' works without consent
- Lack of regulation and difficulty in pursuing claims
- Platforms are often ineffective in responding to reports
- https://cryptopunks.app/



Law enforcement regulations and practice

- European Union -MiCA Regulation
- FBI, Europol actions against
 money laundering
 and fraud
- The need to regulate the NFT market;
- TaX



Conclusions

- Intellectual property issues
- Jurisdiction and transnationality of crimes
- Lack of unambiguous regulations
- NFT as a new model for the art market
- Digital museums, archives and galleries
- Technological potential vs. risk of speculation



Thank you for your attention

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