

THE SCL TIMES

VOLUME N°7

JUNE 23, 2023

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND



ART BASEL

Art Basel is an art fair, more than 50 years old, which quickly became the best in the world. Before spreading, first in Miami, then in Hong Kong and finally in Paris. A brand with a particularity: the products found there adapt to local tastes: more bling-bling in Florida, more French in Paris, because of the overrepresentation of hexagonal galleries compared to other countries.

INTERNATIONAL

Louis Vuitton launches an NFT trunk for 39.000 euros

The house gives a new dimension to its tradition by initiating its first digital trunk which will be available on June 8.

CRYPTOCURRENCY

Bybit implements ChatGPT in their services

Bybit aims to use ChatGPT to create new trading tools and offer innovative solutions for their customers.

LEGAL

North Korean Hackers Behind \$35 Million Crypto Heist

North Korean hackers were most likely behind the hack and theft of over \$35 million from the renowned cryptocurrency firm Atomic Wallet.

ALL ABOUT BITCOIN

The world's first Modular Blockchain with Multiple Consensus

On the 27th of May, Woven, was launched and the team invited the blockchain community to join them in the 1st District of Zurich with a view of the Parade Platz to celebrate the launch of their modular Layer 1 blockchain. We researched modularity in blockchains, attended the launch event, and interviewed two team members. Later on, you will find a fraction of what we learned about the next possible revolution in the blockchain sphere.

Woven is the world's first modular blockchain that provides decentralized consensus choices for its users.

Developed by the Switzerland-based company RunTime Machines, it consolidates the consensus mechanism of major Layer 1 blockchains into a single decentralized consensus network. That means that Woven users can flexibly choose the consensus of their blockchain transactions on a "per transaction" basis enabled with insights from the Woven Consensus Marketplace. Woven promises to radically improve flexibility, reliability, cost, and speed while leveraging and maintaining verifiability by the selected chain of consensus.



The world's first modular blockchain network
with consensus choice

INTERNATIONAL

Democrats Risk Losing Youth's Votes as Cryptocurrency Laws Become Stricter

Wagner, Cendrine

Gemini's well-known co-founder and crypto billionaire, Cameron Winklevoss, took a stand on Twitter last Sunday as he warned that the Democratic Party risks losing crucial support from the US's youth due to the increasingly aggressive attitude towards cryptocurrency from Democratic politicians. As Generation Z and millennials have "wholly embraced the emerging asset class," Democrats have been implementing stricter laws surrounding cryptocurrency, creating a wedge between the political party and younger voters.

"Winning the youth vote w/ 'get out the vote' is a key part of the Democratic playbook," he tweeted. "Dems believe the youth vote will carry the day."

As the younger demographic grows in importance and could swing the balance of power in future elections, the Democratic positioning might be at risk due to the party's stance on cryptocurrency. Winklevoss especially gives fault to Senator Elizabeth Warren and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Gary Gensler, who have, in their eyes, targeted cryptocurrencies from the very start by creating unjust laws against major cryptocurrency exchanges such as Binance and Coinbase.

"Senator Warren and Gary Gensler's war on crypto is going to alienate an entire generation of would-be Democrats," Winklevoss tweeted.

Winklevoss also mentioned the large number of Gen-Z crypto investors who have used their life savings to bet on cryptocurrencies. In his eyes, they will not forget any value destruction caused by Warren and Gensler.

As the regulations and guidelines for cryptocurrencies continue to evolve, these remarks serve as a catalyst for the ongoing debate. These discussions emphasize the potential impact not only on the financial markets but also on the political stances of the younger generation, who increasingly favor decentralized finance.



Winklevoss twins belong to US's crypto elites generating billions of dollars.

Commentary:

2024 is a crucial year for US citizens as many elections will occur. For one, there will be a presidential election, and second, the House of Representatives and the Senate members must be elected as well. This means there will be 435 chairs to be filled, including an additional 34 out of 100

seats in the Senate.

As the younger demographic keeps growing, it has become clear that they have become crucial for the upcoming Democratic elections. Moreover, they have also become the largest demographic group to be involved with cryptocurrency. A report published by Pew Research claims that 28% of Americans between the age of 18 to 29 have already been involved in cryptocurrency. But is the fate of cryptocurrency a pivotal point of decision-making for this generation?

The question is whether they will, in fact, use their voting power to demand better treatment for the crypto industry, thus setting the Democratic party at risk. Or whether maintaining their political stance, apart from the increasingly stricter regulation in crypto, is of greater importance.

Future election updates will show whether Winklevoss was correct in predicting young America's political stand.

Blockchain Credential Verification for EU Citizens Computing

Dang, Nadia

On June 7, 2023, the European Commission announced the collaboration between the blockchain service provider Protokol and EBSI Vector, a European project focusing on a decentralized system that enables information verification without a centralized organization. This project aims to integrate blockchain-based solutions for verifications to make credential verification process easier for EU individuals. It is reported that Protokol plans to develop a digital wallet that enables EU individuals to store their digital credentials. Lars Rensing, the CEO of Protokol highlighted that the company aims to use blockchain technology in order to achieve more transparency and security for the decentralized digital infrastructure, not only for the EU but also across different countries.

Lars stated: "We believe that blockchain and Web3 technology have

enormous potential to transform a wide range of industries and prepare them for the future." With this statement, he expressed his belief that blockchain can be a highly helpful technology that can shape the future positively through its transparent and decentralized system.

According to the announcement of the collaboration, it is reported that the project intends to integrate other EU initiatives, such as "EUeID" to enable easier and smoother interactions for individuals and organizations. The collaboration with Protokol is part of a bigger project which is also known as the European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI) initiative, according to the announcement. This project aims to establish a framework that allows for different blockchain services to work together in harmony.

Louis Vuitton launches an NFT trunk for 39.000 euros, the ultra-luxury digital

Grégoire Prétat

The house gives a new dimension to its tradition by initiating its first digital trunk which will be available on June 8. A collector's initiative, linked to a series of digital and physical objects.

The starting point of this new adventure? A VIA Treasure Trunk is offered in a physical version and enhanced with its digital alter-ego. Made in a few hundred copies, this creation will be awarded, by drawing, to a handful of collectors and fanatics registered on a waiting list that will be open on June 8 on the brand's website. Entrance ticket: 39.000 euros.

A VIA Treasure Trunk with exclusive keys

Designed as a gateway, hence its title "via", this trunk will allow its holders to access a series of "new products and limited-edition experiences", promises the house. On one condition, however: owning the digital keys that will later be launched on the market, at regular intervals, like drops.

The first key will be unveiled in a few weeks and will be linked to an exclusive Louis Vuitton object available there again in physical and digital versions. Depending on the keys, all strictly reserved for holders of a VIA Treasure Trunk, some coins can be customized.

If the various items related to the keys are not presented in advance of their launch, the project members will, however, have access to some clues. And while trunks cannot be sold, these collector items can be put back on the market later, especially on specialized NFT marketplaces. This is enough to attract the most speculative profiles.

The launch of VIA Malle Trésor, which is accessible by crypto payment, is currently limited to France, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and Australia.

NATIONAL

Canton of Zug's Plans of building A new Blockchain Hub with Additional Revenue resulting from the OECD Minimum Tax

Triet, Robin

Ahead of Sunday's definite result of the OECD minimum tax initiative, the canton of Zug has disclosed their ambition of becoming a worldwide leading innovation and research center for blockchain technology. The potential additional taxes should help in achieving this goal.

The government council of canton Zug has published a press release on June 12 where the governance council requested the cantonal council to build an institute at the University of Luzern with a new academical chair and to strengthen current research activities at the Lucerne University of applied science. The new initiative called "Blockchain Zug – Joint research initiative" pursues the goal to anticipate developments of blockchain technology and its impact on the economy and society.

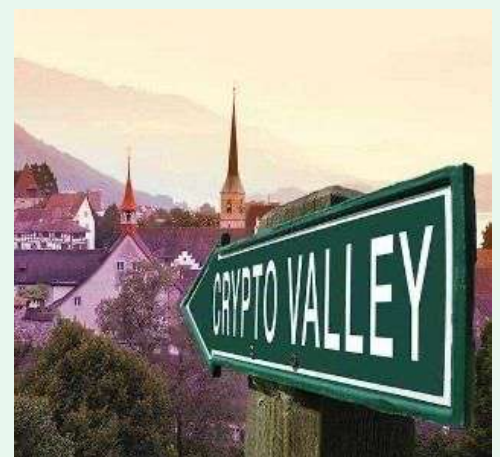
The government council wants to support the universities with a total of 39.35 million Swiss francs, distributed over five years, to help them build up the Blockchain Zug infrastructures. According to NZZ, the new university institute will be built in Rotkreuz, between Lucerne and Zurich. The proposed schedule to build up the new Institute is very tight. By next year the cantonal council should approve the requested 39.35 million Swiss francs so that in Summer 2024 the constructions can start. The goal is to end construction in 2027.

Considering the potential impact of the OECD minimum taxes, the canton of Zug is in a comfortable financial position. With the OECD minimum tax, the central Switzerland canton would increase their tax revenue for by 200 – 400 million Swiss francs. The finance director of the canton announced that these means would be put into tax reduction for natural persons and the rest invested in infrastructure, innovation, society, and education. The Blockchain Institute would be financed from this pool, however, should the initiative be declined, they will build it independently.

Critical Summary:

The announcement of Blockchain Zug the joint research initiative comes in the last week voting for the OECD minimum tax initiative is possible. The canton agrees with the OECD minimum however, the redistribution of the additional revenue has been heavily criticized, as it is mostly big corporations who will benefit, whereas in, for example, Basel the money is used more for culture and the people. SP National councilor Jacqueline Badran has heavily criticized Zug and titled the cantonal government as "banana republic". The Blockchain Zug initiative could be a strategic counter to bring the well-being of companies and the people under one umbrella.

Whatever the intentions, I believe the initiative is a great way to further establish the crypto valley given that the US seems to be pursuing the Blockchain industry. However, this is a fast-evolving industry, to keep up Zug should stick with their timing. And until then the University of Zurich can enjoy its position as the most established blockchain research center in Switzerland.



finnews.ch - Zug reveals plans to finance a new Blockchaininstitute

Introducing Woven: The world's first Modular Blockchain with Multiple Consensus Options

Triet, Robin

On the 27. of May, Woven, a modular blockchain that focuses on the Consensus Layer, was launched. The team invited the blockchain community to join them in the 1st District of Zurich with a view of the Parade Platz to celebrate the launch of their modular Layer 1 blockchain. We researched modularity in blockchains, attended the launch event, and interviewed two team members. Here is a fraction of what we learned about the next possible revolution in the blockchain sphere. For more information on Woven and Modularity in blockchain, we interviewed Christian Rondanini, the Technical Project Manager, and Benedek Orban, Head of business development from Woven.

Modular Blockchain:

The 4 Layers of a blockchain are Data availability, Consensus, Settlement, and Execution. Most blockchains we know today are monolithic. Monolithic chains try to cater to every layer, making them inflexible to change or adaptations. On the other hand, modular blockchains typically focus on one or two of these 4 Layers.

Modular blockchains are built with component-based architecture and decouple the main functions of blockchain and specialize on typically one or small set of them, resulting in greater performance by concentrating the resources. The design enables the customization of individual modules without impacting the core system.

Woven

Woven is the world's first modular blockchain that provides decentralized consensus choices for its users. Woven, developed by the Switzerland-based company RunTime Machines, consolidates the consensus mechanism of major Layer 1 blockchains into a single decentralized consensus network. That means that Woven users can flexibly choose the consensus of their blockchain transactions on a "per transaction" basis enabled with insights from the Woven Consensus Marketplace. Woven promises to radically improve flexibility, reliability, cost, and speed while leveraging and maintaining verifiability by the selected chain of consensus.

Woven enables the inclusion of transactions with different consensus mechanisms in the same block, which unlocks unseen customization and efficiency.



A supporter of Woven at the launch party.

Interview with Benedek:

How would you describe a modular blockchain?

Benedek: I would say a modular blockchain has two key aspects. One of them is that it differentiates itself from the monolithic blockchains, which are those that are trying to solve all issues and address inefficiencies on all the layers in their blockchain starting from the execution, the settlements, the consensus itself, and the data availability. But being good at everything is hard. Modular blockchains and the projects working towards modularity in blockchain technology try to apply a modular approach and to specialize themselves and be the best in one or a maximum of two of the layers.

This also comes with the second aspect of modular blockchains: pluggability. If you are the best at one of the layers but at the end of the day, nobody can plug into you and you cannot plug into anybody else, it is of no use.

Summarizing blockchain modularity, two key principles stand out: First, it's crucial to concentrate on a specific task or problem that a blockchain can optimally solve. Second, it's essential for chains to be pluggable, allowing integration with others. However, attaining modularity brings along technological challenges and intricacies that need to be resolved to ensure viability. While modularity is emerging as a new category within the blockchain space, its roots extend back to software engineering practices of the 80s and 90s. Modularity started gaining relevance within the blockchain context in 2019 with the launch of the first modular blockchain, Celestia.

Before we talk about Woven I want to touch on one thing, which was also a big question at your launch party. Sometimes Layer 2s are also considered as a modular blockchain. What is the difference?

Benedek: A blockchain typically has four layers: Data availability, Consensus, Settlement, and Execution. On the Execution layer scalability is the speed at which you can act and execute transactions. If you think about Layer 2 scaling solutions, they could easily fit into the modular stack on the execution layer. From the business point of view, if you investigate scaling solutions, you observe how those Layer 2 scaling solutions are rebranding themselves as modular because modularity is a big trend. In my opinion on this high level, I agree that they can define themselves as a modular blockchain. Also given that there is no academic definition yet of modular blockchain.

Christian: Yes, it is true that Layer 2s can claim to be a modular blockchain, but you have to be careful about what you define as modular. I would say that first, we have to think about how the Layer 2s work. They focus on the execution layer. Why? Because they increase the scalability and the execution power of Ethereum and that's why they can call themselves modular. Layer 2 projects like Arbitrum and Optimism plug into Ethereum, a Layer 1 Blockchain.

One of the things that we want to make clear for Woven is that we can provide the whole stack of layers, the execution layer, the data availability layer, the settlement layer, and the consensus layer in a modular way.

If you divide each of the layers that a blockchain can give you into layers, and you somehow try to build your blockchain with your flavors, this becomes fantastic from a certain point of view. Sure, there are problems, risk but they can be powerful. At Woven, we started to address one layer, which is the consensus layer, but we managed to reach our goal of providing each of these layers in a modular way. Some of the layers cannot yet be detached because we are limited by the current technology, but if we look at the next five years, we can address this with extensive research.

I also want to point out that recently the topic of modularity is trending because even the top Layer 1s such as Ethereum have started to think about modularity. They realized how inefficient it would be at maintaining each of these modules in only one blockchain. So, now they are moving to decouple the layers, to allow reliable evolution of the whole stack. This can be seen as a revolution because the pattern resembles other trends in software engineering that were then adopted.

What is the underlying problem-solving or the needs that Woven is fulfilling?

Benedek: We identified three main problems that Woven solves. The solutions include reliable consensus, flexible consensus, and tailored consensus. The first identified problem is unreliable consensus. What do we mean by unreliable consensus? It is a congestion of the chain. Even the largest chains such as Solana, Hedera, or Arbitrum, have downtimes and problems with providing a reliable consensus. If you want to run critical infrastructure such as financial infrastructure you need a very reliable consensus. By very I mean it will always have to be up and running. With Woven we can provide this because if one consensus provider is down, we can auto-route the user to another one. You will never depend on only one consensus.

The second problem which we address is matching the consensus to the characteristics of the blockchain transaction. We solve this issue with flexible and tailored consensus. For example, currently, if you have crypto on your phone or in an application and you want to pay for a coffee, the transaction fees depend on which consensus provider and chain you use. If you use the Ethereum chain, the transaction might cost you \$2-3 dollars per payment. The coffee is \$3 and the transaction fee is another \$3, which does not make sense. With Woven you could say, well then, I just set my application to a different mode, which allows me to use the cheapest and fastest consensus. Now you pay \$3 for the coffee and only \$0.001 for the transaction.

But then you want to send your friend a high volume or an expensive NFT from your wallet, worth \$10K. The question is, do you trust the chain and the consensus of that specific chain that you just chose to buy your coffee? Maybe they are cheap because they are centralized and do not have many validators, and that is why they can be fast and cheap.

The issue of today is that if you choose a chain, you are stuck in that world and you are stuck with that consensus, with the pros and the cons and all the attributes of that specific chain. Woven takes you out of this silo and provides you with a consensus choice. So for that \$10k NFT transfer, you could use the most secure chain without having to bridge or do anything complicated.

So literally when you do the transaction or you do the payment, you can choose if you want to do the fastest, the cheapest, or the safest and Woven will choose the matching consensus.

Wow, an exclusive reveal! Thank you for that. We covered the benefits of Woven, now where do you see the challenges on the business and the developer side for your modular blockchain that focuses on the consensus layer?

Benedek: So in general, I would say that if you're focusing on a module, it has to be pluggable. It is very important that this piece works well, and it seamlessly plugs into other players. I think this is the focus

we need to set but the general challenge I think is that modularity is in its infancy.

The whole modularity in blockchain is just arriving and we are among the first handful who are bringing this out and trying to educate people in our region. Others do it in the US, some others are doing it in the UK. But, you know, pioneers have a harder life than people who go mainstream, because if I tell you about NFT maybe three years ago, you would not even have heard of it. We go the harder route by working on modularity, but we believe that this is the new wave and this is what really makes sense. We want to bring this message out, to convey, and to convince the players on the business and the academic side as well, that modularity is the game changer. It is not easy, but we are ready to tackle this and be the pioneer of modularity and modular blockchains here in Switzerland.

Christian: As I'm basically coming from the academic and the developer side. I used to think with the mind of a developer who has to prove their own idea to academics that have, many years of experience. One cannot just say this is super cool, super easy, super everything, but you must provide real proof. Right now, we have just an alpha, so we cannot claim that we have 10 times better scalability of, I don't know, the fastest roll-up out of there because it will not be true.

And then the other part of that problem is that because this topic is new, there are a lot of things to cover, not only from the developer's point of view but even from the academic side as well.

Did you set yourself any important milestones? I already saw your timeline for 2023, do you want to comment on that?

Benedek: The blockchain space moves so fast, especially with modularity. If we would promise something and put something on a timeline like X feature will arrive in eight months. Then, in eight months, maybe that feature does not make sense anymore. Therefore, for us, it's important to constantly monitor the market, the demand which is out there, and the state of the technology and make smart pivots if needed.

That does not mean we go without a goal, we have a very straightforward vision, but we do not tie it to milestones in terms of dates. Maybe quarters.

I could maybe say that we are aiming to go out with the beta version in Q3 of 2023 and with the main net in Q4. Might be two weeks earlier or later, we'll see but this is what we aim for.

What more can we expect to come?

Benedek: What we are working on in terms of features is that firstly, we want to include more chains. Currently, we have five: Ethereum, Binance, Polygon, Hedera, and Avalanche, which is already a lot for an alpha, but we aim even in Beta to include new ones.

Number one is to include new chains and number 1.1 is having the third type of apple in your fruit shop. Only apples might be kind of boring but having a banana, the first banana out there is pretty cool. So, where I am going with this and I do not want to say any blockchains because I cannot commit technically. But currently, if you look at the stack or the chains which we cover, they're mainly EVM chains running on the Ethereum virtual machine, and we are aiming for something big which is not an EVM. Let me just keep it like that. We are researching it and we're working towards that because that would be a big thing.

On the other hand, this kind of pluggability which we talked about is also very important. I will not be able to tell you now on which date in September, we will plug into Polygon or they can plug into us or other modular chains. But this is also very important to us.

Last but not least, we believe that account abstraction is a game-changer in our business. Especially on the user interface and the user experience of crypto in general. So we have that on our agenda and in our, I would say mid-term plans we include account abstraction.

Can they coexist? Account extracts abstraction and modular blockchain because I think they fixed the same problem.

Benedek: We think that our invention multiplied by account attraction is a beast.

And therefore, we really look into it and research. How we do that and when we do that, but it's not in two years once again. Christian, do you want to add anything?

Christian: Yes, I have been around Ethereum for quite a few years. Then, even though we are planning to introduce account abstraction, we have some secret ideas on how to even improve that because, from a non-technical perspective, there are countless structures that work on smart contracts.

As an example, one of the problems that the people said to us is that they don't care about the account itself. What they care about is, they have many tokens in their wallet but often not the native token of a blockchain which is used to pay gas fees. If they do not have this native token, they must then acquire that token before using the blockchain. This is a major user headache. So, one of the things that are covered by the account abstraction and that we are trying to enhance is down this route - the ability to use any token on any blockchain. I mean, I cannot tell you everything because otherwise probably then we kill me to reveal secrets.

Perfect. Thanks a lot, I think that is it from my side, I'm coming to an end. Do you have anything to add?

Benedek: I would like to explain the forces behind Woven and quickly talk about tokenomics.

First on the team, Woven modular blockchain is a development product of RunTime Machines, a blockchain startup that is located in Zug and Lugano, and has about 20-ish employees. We also have other inventions ongoing towards a verifiable computation and a bit into the other direction. Of course, down the road on the privacy side and on the data security side, those are meant to be plugged in at the latest stage into Woven.

Now to tokenomics. We are constantly asked when we will release the tokens. Currently, the Woven modular blockchain code in the alpha code which at this stage is overwhelmingly close sourced. It is not open source yet, bits and pieces are here and there, but in general, the consensus delegation mechanism is not open source yet. Very soon, there will be an academic

white paper coming out, probably starting beta, where all this will be on the academic level, explaining how it is done.

After the main net goes live, we are planning to have a token sale. So this would be somewhere in the midterm. This sale will be tied to the open-sourcing strategy of the company because this reflects our values.

Robin:

Super excited about this token. Then I always try to end with a fun question. That has nothing to do with blockchain and there will be. What do you think was first the egg or the chicken?

Christian: Ohh. Probably the egg, I would say.

Benedek: I think it was the chicken.

Robin: Amazing! So, from my side, we are done, and thank you. Thank you so much - nice talking to you and giving me your time!



Cover Page of Woven's Lightpaper.

CRYPTOCURRENCY

Coinbase Delivers Risk Management Solutions with New Futures Contracts for Institutions

Prétat, Grégoire

On June 3, Coinbase announced the launch of futures contracts on Bitcoin and Ether for the benefit of institutions on its derivatives platform. This innovation aims to offer better opportunities to this class of investors. It follows an increase in institutional demand observed since the launch of nano futures contracts last year by the exchange.

Futures contracts exclusively dedicated to institutional investors

Coinbase has officially announced that its derivatives platform, regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), will offer forward contracts starting June 5. According to the announcement, this launch is intended to enable institutional investors to better manage risks in this specific market. In addition to this, these contracts will target attractive returns with lower fees than other regulated derivatives exchanges in the US. Furthermore, eligible institutions will benefit from incentive programs in addition to traditional reductions in transaction fees. These advantages are valid only when these institutions are among the first to adopt contracts.

With this new offering, Coinbase is once again demonstrating its commitment to offering solutions tailored to the needs of its institutional clients in a regulated environment. The latter intervenes while the exchange continues its showdown with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for the advent of clear crypto regulation in the United States.



Delta edging of investments with future contracts proposed by Coinbase

Bybit implements ChatGPT in their services

Dang, Nadia

On June 15, it was reported that Bybit aims to use ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence technology developed by OpenAI, to create new trading tools and offer innovative solutions for their customers. Bybit created an AI-powered tool called ToolsGPT to provide traders with different functionalities such as technical analysis, market data and other metrics and improve their trading experience. ToolsGPT is a tool which integrates the learning technology of ChatGPT. With the help of this combination, Bybit's tool allows users to ask for specific information. Moreover, ToolGPT can offer valuable information to customers by providing predictions related to crypto trading scenarios. This AI tool has the ability to analyze price trends and dig into historical as well as real-time market data to create insights from it.

Ben Zhou, the CEO of Bybit, gave his opinion regarding the utilization of ChatGPT for their services. He stated: "By integrating ChatGPT into Bybit Tools, we are able to give users more comprehensive information when making their decisions. ToolsGPT is a testament to our commitment to empowering traders with advanced tools and insights." With this statement, he pointed out that the integration of OpenAI's learning technology was a very important step. Besides, he considers the company's move as very innovative.

There are other cryptocurrencies besides Bybit such as Crypto.com, Binance and Solana that have implemented ChatGPT in their solutions in order to enhance the trading experience for their users.

Bitcoin Infrastructure Firm Blockstream to Unveil Its Long-Awaited Mining Rig in 3Q of 2024



ASIC miner is scheduled to be launched soon.

Arnold, Luna

Blockstream, a Bitcoin infrastructure firm, is on the verge of a breakthrough in the cryptocurrency mining industry: The long-awaited Application-Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC) miner is scheduled to be launched in the third quarter of 2024.

ASIC miners are specialized computer devices designed to mine specific digital currencies, such as Bitcoin, with superior speed and efficiency compared to regular computers.

Originally planned for a 2022 launch, the ASIC miner is now expected to be available in the latter half of 2024. Blockstream's acquisition of Israeli mining hardware manufacturer Spondoolies in 2021 has strengthened its mining division, led by Chris Cook and former Spondoolies CEO Assaf Gilboa. With plans to expand mining operations, Blockstream raised \$125 million in January 2023 and aims to secure additional funding for its mining business.

The CEO of Blockstream, Adam Back, discussed the manufacturing timeline during a media briefing, mentioning a test run in the third quarter of the following year. Alongside mining, he also provided insights into the company's other noteworthy projects, including Liquid, a federated sidechain, and Jade, the company's flagship hardware Bitcoin wallet.

Crusoe Energy's Green Bitcoin Mining on the Block Green Platform

Pontiggia, Céline

On June 14, Crusoe Energy, a company that utilizes wasted natural gas for Bitcoin mining, made a significant sale of 50 BTC (worth \$1.3 million) on the newly launched liquidity platform, Block Green. Crusoe Energy's innovative technology converts flare gas, a byproduct of oil extraction that causes environmental harm and energy waste, into electricity to power their on-site Bitcoin mining rigs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and generating revenue from the previously discarded resource.

Block Green, a decentralized marketplace based in Switzerland, facilitates the connection between Bitcoin miners and renewable energy producers, enabling them to trade power and hash rate contracts. The platform ensures transparency by providing comprehensive information about the financials and operations of the miners.

This transaction represents the largest sale on Block Green to date, and it is accompanied by another sale involving 7.5 BTC of Merkle Standard's hash rate in

the same week. Crusoe Energy has committed to directing the Bitcoin rewards generated from their mining operations, with a hash rate of 220 petahash/second (PH/s) over a 90-day period, to Swissborg, a Swiss-based cryptocurrency exchange. Through a 12-month contract, Crusoe Energy secures access to cost-effective and environmentally friendly electricity for their mining activities.

Block Green aims to offer attractive and scalable returns to Bitcoin holders, attracting significant interest from institutional investors holding Bitcoin due to the relatively low yields available elsewhere. The platform already hosts 40% of the largest publicly traded Bitcoin miners and continues to onboard more miners regularly. Additionally, Block Green is actively developing a sustainability evaluation framework to assess the environmental impact of miners' operations. The demand for environmentally friendly BTC among liquidity providers is increasing, with some even willing to pay a premium for it.

LEGAL

Landmark Ruling: Successful Prosecution against a Decentralized Entity, Setting

Arnold, Luna

An industry-wide belief has finally been disproven: The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) recently won its first-ever case against a decentralized automated organization (DAO) called Ooki DAO. A federal judge found the trading platform liable for offering unregistered commodities and operating illegally, leading Ooki DAO to cease the business in the U.S. and with any institutions that are registered with the CFTC. Additionally, the company has to pay a civil penalty of over \$643'000.

CFTC Division of Enforcement Director Ian McGinley has also stated in a release that this should show that decentralized entities can also face legal consequences: "This decision should serve as a wake-up call to anyone who believes they can circumvent the law by adopting a DAO structure, intending to insulate themselves from law enforcement and ultimately putting the public at risk." With this ruling, decentralized organizations should realize that they can face legal consequences and can be held accountable by the law as well.

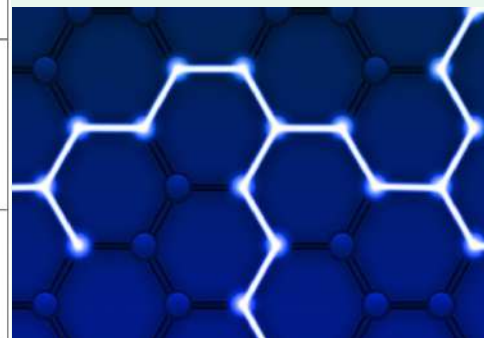
MARKET ANALYSIS

Market Analysis

Prétat, Grégoire

Current top Cryptocurrency and Oracles Tokens by Market Capitalization

	Price	30d change	Trading Volume 24h	Marketcap	Market Share
Bitcoin	\$ 29'817.80	+ 10.84%	\$ 33'796 Mio.	\$ 578'619 Mio.	49.9217%
Etherum	\$ 1'845.27	+ 2.1%	\$ 11'675 Mio.	\$ 221'871 Mio.	19.1579%
Tether	\$ 1.00	- 0.03%	\$ 41'430 Mio.	\$ 83'191 Mio.	7.1855%
BNB	\$ 248.5	- 19.23%	\$ 703 Mio.	\$ 28'860 Mio.	3.3404%
USD Coin	\$ 0.9999	- 0.01%	\$ 6'982 Mio.	\$ 28'439 Mio.	2.4543%
Chainlink	\$ 5.44	- 15.40%	\$ 208 Mio.	\$ 2'965 Mio.	0.2598%
Band Protocol	\$ 1.18	- 20.25%	\$ 11 Mio.	\$ 149 Mio.	0.0129%
UMA	\$ 1.61	- 22.67%	\$ 10 Mio.	\$ 116 Mio.	0.01%
iExec RLC	\$ 1.31	- 22.11%	\$ 6 Mio.	\$ 94 Mio.	0.0082%



CFTC recently won its first-ever case against Ooki DAO

SEC Intensifies Offensive Against Cryptos

Prélat, Grégoire

The US market authority believes that Binance, the world's largest crypto platform, has sold digital assets with potential returns, according to a complaint filed in the US on Monday, May 5. On Tuesday, the SEC sued Coinbase.

Binance, the world's largest crypto platform, has reportedly sold digital assets to US customers without authorization, according to the US capital markets authority. The SEC disclosed 13 charges against the company and its boss, Changpeng «CZ» Zhao, on Monday. A Swiss entity of the group, based in the canton of Zug, is suspected of having been used to artificially inflate Binance's transaction volumes.

The 136 pages of the Securities and Exchange Commission's bill establish a first outrage: Binance has attracted American customers, while it claims not to have done so since its launch in 2017. Crypto enthusiasts based in the United States were required to officially go through a dedicated group entity, Binance.us, to buy and sell digital assets. This distinction allowed the main entity, Binance.com, not to be subject to US regulation. But, says the SEC, this separation was fictitious because the boss, «CZ», had complete control, and the filters he claimed to have put in place to prevent American customers from accessing Binance.com were never effective.

Gain outlook

Furthermore, the market officer considers that the platform should have been registered as a financial actor as it offered regulated services concerning securities, in other words, it has offered and sold «investment contracts» on the American market. The SEC mentions several digital assets that Binance would have offered and sold on the US market by putting forward a return perspective. According to the authority, the purchasers invested their money in a joint venture, managed by third parties, to make a profit from it, which corresponds to the definition of security within the meaning of US

capital market law. The sale of such instruments and the provision of related trading or settlement services trigger registration obligations or SEC authorizations», analyses Fedor Poskriakov, a lawyer at Lenz & Staehelin in Geneva.

The SEC takes the example of the cryptocurrency issued by Binance, called BNB, sold as of June 2017 as an investment in the success of the Binance.com platform itself. Another example, the BUSD «is more surprising, continues Fedor Poskriakov, because it is a stablecoin, whose value is linked to the dollar and intrinsically offers no return». However, the SEC criticises Binance for even selling the BUSD with a performance promise, particularly in the context of other programs offered in its ecosystem.

More surprisingly, the SEC also claims that ten other digital assets are also securities. This list contains some of the largest cryptocurrencies in circulation such as Cardano (7th largest capitalization), Solana (9th), or Polygon (10th). According to the US market gendarme, these cryptos are sold by Binance through investment contracts, which implies holding a license.

In the eyes of the SEC, bitcoin is the only cryptocurrency not to be classified as a security. It is sufficiently decentralized and above all, it is not driven by a person or a group of people who would be vital for its success. His or her supposed creators, using the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto, were never identified.

For Fedor Poskriakov, this case illustrates «the dilemma of the crypto industry, which wants to sell digital assets offering a return and which are clearly investment products – while trying to claim that these instruments are not securities or financial instruments, in order to market them to the public, in the United States and elsewhere in the world, without complying with the requirements of applicable capital market laws.»

The US entity of Binance believes that the SEC's complaint has «no basis», while the group's parent company stresses that the authorities have not responded to its efforts to reach an agreement.

«Wash trading» made in Zug

Finally, Switzerland appears in the SEC complaint, as a Zug-based Binance entity was allegedly used to artificially inflate the platform's activity via wash trading. A serious complaint against Binance, according to Yves Longchamp of SEBA Bank, a Zougnoise bank specializing in digital assets: «Wash trading consists in buying and selling the same security at the same time, to multiply the transactions and thus to inflate the volumes». For what purpose? 'Investors prefer trading platforms that offer greater liquidity, they know they can process transactions at any time and have less impact on asset prices,' says the researcher.

According to the SEC, this manipulation was carried out using the assets of clients, without necessarily warning them. These funds were mixed with those of the company after passing through accounts held by the boss of Binance, who still asserts the authority of the markets, which makes it difficult to know what belongs to each other.

The SEC attacks Coinbase

The US Financial Markets Authority, the SEC, has filed a civil suit against the first cryptocurrency trading platform in the United States, Coinbase, for non-compliance with the regulations, causing its stock to fall on Wall Street and a new jolt for the area.

This is another blow to the sector by the Securities and Exchange Commission, which, failing to see Congress define a legislative framework, has taken on the regulation of cryptocurrencies, which it considers to be under its authority. This repressive offensive strikes a universe already weakened by a series of resounding failures last year, first that of the second global platform, FTX, whose leaders are

accused of using their clients' assets without their knowledge.

Around 3 pm GMT, the Coinbase stock lost more than 12% on Wall Street. The market officer criticizes the company for not registering with him as a trading platform and intermediary for cryptocurrency transactions.

What's next for Binance

Binance's US market has seen a significant drop in liquidity, declining by 78% in just one week following regulatory issues with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

In addition, Binance has applied to withdraw from Cyprus, aiming to align with the upcoming European Union's Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA) legislation. The company plans to focus on larger registered markets like France, Italy, and Spain to ensure compliance with the new European law within the next 18 months.

Binance has also faced regulatory scrutiny in various jurisdictions, including Canada, leading to its decision to exit the market due to new guidelines concerning stablecoins and investor limits. To navigate these regulatory challenges, Binance has assembled a prominent legal team, including a former SEC lawyer, to address the SEC's investigation and other regulatory matters. Despite these regulatory hurdles, Binance continues to position itself as a global cryptocurrency exchange.



The U.S. are not so friendly with Crypto companies

Commentary

This veritable war that the United States is waging against cryptocurrency platforms has reached its climax. Since the fall of FTX in November 2022, the SEC has not stopped these offensive actions and these last two major actions show us how much it does not take the subject lightly. Despite attempts to find common ground with American regulators, these companies are fully subjugating the sentences imposed on them. This atmosphere is a real ordeal for those few who live in the uncertainty of whether their business can continue in the country to the world's leading economy.

One might almost ask whether this refusal to regulate this market is not a disgrace to the American government, or is it perhaps linked to their political system where the "Common Law" is based on a philosophy very different from the European model. In fact, the rules of law have been formed as the judges have made their decisions. These decisions are precedents that the courts use to decide disputes that are close in fact to a previous case. This legal system could therefore explain this wave that we would call "obsession" here in Europe. This wave of uncertainty, or rather... of certainty legal attack could therefore cause these companies to relocate.

By putting in parallel these events in the American market with the wave of European regulation with its famous MiCA law that was accepted. Our old continent may well present itself as a haven for future potential exiles. Will a massive leak of crypto actors, similar to the one that happened in China in 2017/2018, happen again in the United States?

At the same time, the list of criteria to be met by these companies in order to be in agreement with the new regulation is rather long and will require them a major effort of transparency, so this could hinder these companies to settle on our continent. The future will tell us but we can already with certainty note the explosion of the Venture Capital market of the sector in Europe since the beginning of the year.

North Korean Hackers Behind \$35 Million Crypto Heist



Experts worry that potential North Korean hackers will use the money to fund their military

Wagner, Cendrine

Numerous crypto experts have reported to CNN that North Korean hackers were most likely behind the hack and theft of over \$35 million from the renowned cryptocurrency firm Atomic Wallet. Experts worry that the stolen money will be used to fund the North Korean regime's nuclear and ballistic weapons.

Atomic Wallet, an Estonia-based cryptocurrency company, who claims to have 5 million users of its software, fell victim to the hack. While the firm confirmed the attack, reporting that "less than 1%" of monthly users were impacted by it, they have yet to report on the official total amount of losses incurred during the heist.

Countless Atomic Wallet users affected by the attack begged the hackers on Twitter to have mercy on them by posting their public wallet addresses in an attempt to retrieve their funds.

According to reports from the United Nations and other firms, North Korean hackers have stolen billions of dollars from banks and cryptocurrency firms in the past, providing an important source of liquid revenue for their military regime.

WEB 3

Revolutionizing Entertainment: Celebrity NFTs Shake Up the Industry

Pontiggia, Céline

Celebrity NFTs have become increasingly popular as more and more VIPs create or endorse digital collectibles, artwork, and experiences. For example, Elon Musk, known for his ventures in technology and space, sold a tweet as an NFT for over \$1 million. Celebrity NFTs are non-fungible tokens that are created, promoted, or owned by celebrities and can be bought, sold, and traded on NFT platforms. Celebrities from different fields, including music, entertainment, sport, film, and art, use NFTs to connect with fans and generate a new form of income, offering digital art, virtual goods, event access, personal experiences, and more.

Celebrities find NFTs appealing due to their ability to monetize their brands and creative endeavors in the digital realm. By utilizing blockchain technology, they can sell exclusive digital items directly to their fans, eliminating the need for intermediaries and granting them greater authority over their intellectual property. The inherent uniqueness of NFTs adds value to these offerings, enabling celebrities to generate significant profits. Celebrities have embraced NFTs means to strengthen their connection with fans and make a positive impact. For example, legendary singer Ariana Grande released a collection of immersive digital experiences, connecting with her fans through music and interactive artwork. Snoop Dogg collaborated with various NFT projects, releasing his own artwork and digital collectibles that reflect his iconic style and themes from his early career. Moreover, the rapper is introducing the Snoop Dogg Passport Series, an NFT that offers exclusive access to updates on his tour for a price of around \$45 or 0.025 ETH. Additionally, he will release Snoop Selects, a collection of NFT artists' works, for free to all Passport holders, coinciding with the start of his summer tour on July 7. Even renowned athletes from various sports are increasingly becoming part of the NFT community, with tennis legend

Andy Murray being one of them. Murray's NFT capturing his historic Wimbledon victory in 2013 fetched an impressive \$177'777 at auction, and he has also released a series of collectibles on the WENEW platform, offering fans the opportunity to own NFTs showcasing significant moments from his Wimbledon triumph.

Celebrity NFTs have also proven to be a powerful tool for charitable fundraising, Shawn Mendes, Ellen DeGeneres and Paris Hilton have all used their NFTs to generate significant funds for various charitable causes.

Additionally, some celebrities use NFTs as a platform to advocate for social and cultural change, as seen with model Emily Ratajkowski's NFT release emphasizing creators' rights to profit from their own images. Another example could be the American actress Reese Witherspoon's involvement with the World of Women NFT collection, which not only includes purchasing a token but also forming a partnership between her company, Hello Sunshine, and the project, aiming to create additional content and expand on the characters. This could potentially fosters a more impactful movement within the male-dominated world of blockchains, cryptocurrencies, and NFTs.

The involvement of celebrities in the NFT space has had a profound impact on society, bringing NFTs into the mainstream and sparking conversations about digital art and NFTs. Celebrity participation also drives trading volume, with their actions influencing the behavior of impressionable individuals. Celebrity purchases of tokens often encourage others to follow suit. This dynamic has shaped the development of the NFT space, although its impact on traders and their wallets can be both positive and negative.

Indeed, while celebrities play a significant role in driving NFT adoption and normalizing the marketplace, investors and traders should exercise caution. When deciding whether to support celebrity NFTs, it's important to consider their impact on society and their investment potential. Many celebrity NFTs have successfully raised funds for charitable causes, such as Shaq's collection, which generated over \$2 million for children in need. However, it's worth noting that celebrities may have self-promotional motives, and investing in NFTs carries risks, including market volatility and potential scams. Indeed, not all celebrity-endorsed collections have proven to be reliable, and it is important to approach investments, including those associated with celebrities, with skepticism and due diligence.

As the NFT space continues to grow, celebrities like the one mentioned are more and more likely to find new and innovative ways to connect with fans and embrace the digital landscape.

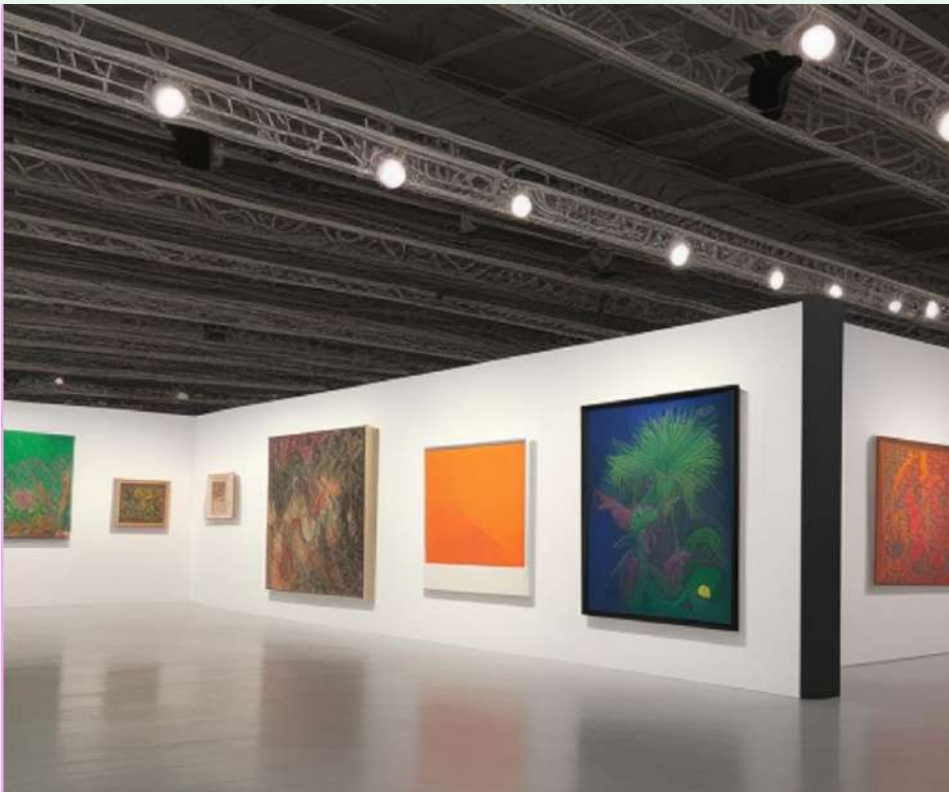


Snoop Dogg's NFT

ART BASEL

Art Basel Exhibitors Exercise Caution as NFTs Take a Backseat: Arcual Emerges as a Trusted Blockchain Solution

Prétat, Grégoire



NFT are taking a break at Art Basel

The impact of the lower attraction for NFT has had a significant impact on the art world, especially at Art Basel, where caution is now dominant among buyers. Art based on NFT's, which had gained immense popularity in 2021, was notably absent from the stands of most exhibitors at the Swiss fair. Tezos, which was a favoured cryptocurrency in the art world, was also absent as an official partner. This drop in interest can be attributed to the general uncertainty on this risky market compared to traditional investments, because the art beyond being a means of aesthetic, is a long-term investment. However, opinions are divided, some buyers see in this trend-declin a decrease in speculation which would go in the direction of more sustainable investment.

However, galleries that had previously adopted cryptographic spaces have taken a step back at Art Basel this year, focusing on traditional art forms such as paintings, sculptures and historical art classics. Although works based on NFT were rare, some galleries continued in this direction. For example, artist Simon Denny presented a painting from his "Metaverse Landscapes" series that seemed traditional on the surface, but incorporated QR codes representing virtual real estate into the metaverse. The work skillfully blended elements of painting, conceptualism and crypto-art to attract a wider audience.

Some galleries have started to use blockchain technology for concrete business strategies. Arcual, official partner

of Art Basel, presented lectures and works focused on the use of blockchain to create ownership chains that benefit artists and merchants.

Arcual as a new legit check

Arcual aims to serve multiple players in the art world, starting with galleries and the artists they represent, by using the blockchain as a site to store information on the entire life of an artwork from its first sale to later resale, loans, and donation. Smart contracts will stipulate the galleries' and the artists' terms, including within sale agreements, outlining resale royalties and documenting any necessary information regarding how the artwork should be shown and documented.

Arcual stands out in the blockchain ecosystem with its knowledge of the world of deep art associated with private blockchain infrastructure. Their focus on privacy and efficiency appeals to galleries and artists, providing secure transactions, instant payments and streamlined processes. They are also exploring opportunities to expand their products to museums in the future.

Despite the current moderate interest in NFTs at Art-Basel, it is recognized that the ease of exchange of these digital works of art have the potential to revolutionize the art world. However, a longer-term stabilization of the market is expected for the market to be established in a sustainable way within the famous Swiss label. Overall, although prudence and conservatism prevail, the art world remains open to exploring the possibilities of technology in art.

Art Basel vs. “Digital Basel”: The Fight Against Unauthorized NFTs Intensifies

Pontiggia, Céline

Art Basel, the renowned art fair staged annually in Basel, Miami Beach, Hong Kong, and Paris, has taken action against an online NFT platform called “Digital Basel” for infringing on its copyright. Digital Basel claimed to be associated with Art Basel and offered unauthorized NFTs of thousands of artists' works. On March 28, it shut down after receiving a cease-and-desist letter from Art Basel and some of its gallery exhibitors, including the David Zwirner Gallery. However, on April 4, Digital Basel returned online.

Digital Basel, active for less than a week before going offline, described itself as a “digital dimension” of Art Basel, combining technology, curatorship, and introducing a new class of art assets. It featured hundreds of galleries associated with Art Basel on its website and offered NFTs or digital versions of over 7'000 original artworks for sale. Art Basel strongly condemned Digital Basel, emphasizing that there was no affiliation or endorsement between them. Art Basel viewed this as a straightforward case of brand infringement and addressed it with the highest importance. The fair promptly notified its legal counsel upon discovering the platform's existence and subsequently issued a cease-and-desist letter.

However, after a week, Digital Basel reappeared online, eliminating all references to Art Basel from its website.

Unfortunately, the platform still features listings of galleries without their permission. The platform plans to poll the remaining galleries featured on the website to determine if they want to keep or remove their profiles. The Artist’s Rights Society is preparing a response to Digital Basel, highlighting the infringement of intellectual property rights. Contrary to the perception that they were selling artworks, Digital Basel asserts that their intention was never to engage in actual sales. The company clarifies that its role is solely that of an intermediary, and they are perplexed as to how the misconception arose regarding its involvement in selling artwork. The platform, which lacks information about its operators, has declined to disclose their identities, citing recent negative media attention and the need to protect all parties involved.

These listings raised concerns about copyright infringement and the potential risks for unsuspecting buyers. Art Basel's response to Digital Basel's infringement is part of a growing trend of copyright disputes in the NFT space. Other cases have involved trademark infringement, such as Hermes winning a case against an artist who created NFTs based on their Birkin handbags and Yuga Labs suing an artist who created unauthorized NFTs based on the Bored Ape Yacht Club collection.

The Rise and Fall of Art-Related NFTs: Exploring the Challenges and Future Directions

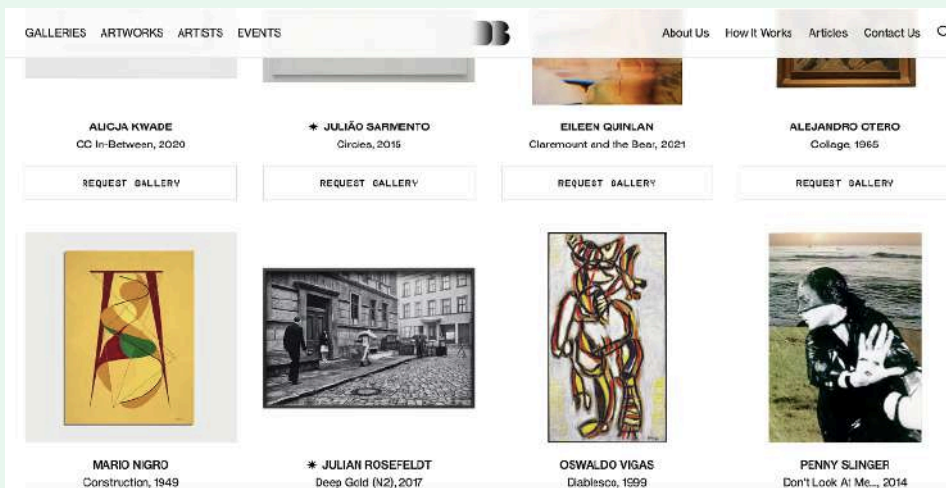
Pontiggia, Céline

In an ever-changing world, artists and collectors have had to adapt to technological innovations, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), to explore new avenues in artistic production. While the artistic value of AI-generated works remains a subject of debate, NFTs have revolutionized the art world by offering artists new opportunities for revenue and establishing digital art as unique collectibles on the blockchain. Many “digital” artists are emerging, and at the very least, have found in NFTs a way to get noticed.

In March 2021, the digital art market made headlines with the sale of Beeple's “Everydays - the first 5000 days” collage for a staggering \$69 million at Christie's auction house. This marked a significant moment for digital art, as it was the first work of its kind to be sold by such a prestigious institution. Mike Winkelmann, known as Beeple, gained recognition as one of the top three most valuable living artists. Traditional art is the realm of the super-rich, who view it not only as a means of aesthetic fulfilment but also as an economic investment. In contrast, NFTs have introduced a sense of democracy by enabling individuals of all backgrounds to participate in the buying and selling of art. However, the rapid growth of the NFT market has presented challenges for artists seeking to navigate this landscape.

The Digital Art Market

The commercialization of digital creative practices became viable in the mid-2010s with the emergence of NFTs. However, since mid-2022, the art-related NFT market has experienced a considerable decline, raising concerns among artists and buyers about its stability. The sales of collectible and art-related NFTs transacted through online platforms reached an impressive \$13.3 billion in 2022, accounting for nearly 20% of the



Digital Basel's unauthorized art gallery website. The controversial NFTs marketplace raises copyright

traditional art market's sales. Yet, these figures mask the sharp drop in sales during the second half of 2022, with an 88% decrease for collectible NFTs and a 75% decrease for art-related NFTs compared to the previous six months.

The decline in NFT sales can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, the market is closely tied to the value of cryptocurrencies, particularly Ether, as NFTs are typically traded and valued in the cryptocurrency of the blockchain they were minted on.

The drop in Ether's value, from \$4'651 in November 2021 to a low of \$993 in June 2022, significantly impacted NFT sales. Another contributing factor is the speculative nature of NFT trading. Speculators have further complicated the market, with quick flips and pump-and-dump schemes becoming more prevalent. In 2022, over 80% of the sales in collectible and art-related NFTs were resales of existing NFTs, indicating a high degree of speculative activity. When prices began to reverse, the demand for NFTs declined. This makes it harder for artists to establish a sustainable market for their work, as opportunistic buyers and sellers focus on quick profits rather than supporting the artistic community. Furthermore, the insolvencies of prominent entities like Terraform Labs and FTX, coupled with legal, tax, and regulatory issues surrounding crypto asset trading, destabilized confidence in the decentralized finance sector, further impacting the NFT market.

Finally, conforming to prevailing market trends can impose limitations on creativity and originality, leading to a surge in imitative works. Furthermore, the proliferation of numerous marketplaces has given rise to market confusion and an excessive supply of art, making it challenging for artists to distinguish themselves and gain visibility.

The art-related NFTs Future

Looking ahead, Nonfungible.com suggests that the era of NFT speculation and profit may be coming to an end.



NFTs works at an exhibition entitled "Indo NFT Festiverse" at the Indonesian Art University.

Instead, emphasis should be placed on the usefulness of tokens in documenting and tracking ownership of digital assets. This aligns with the original purpose of NFTs and opens up opportunities for their application in various industries beyond art. Detaching art-related NFTs from cryptocurrency volatility and complexity by offering them in local currency could increase their appeal to traditional art collectors, who may be hesitant to engage with the crypto market. Melbourne-based crypto exchange Elbaite has developed a methodology for NFT transactions in local currency, providing a way to disconnect settlements and valuations from the cryptocurrency market.

Although the NFT space presents its fair share of challenges, it also offers opportunities for artists. By remaining committed to their artistic vision and producing impactful work, artists can cultivate dedicated communities around their art.

These communities serve as a source of support and validation, particularly in a volatile market. Additionally, conducting thorough market research and acquiring a comprehensive understanding of blockchain mechanics and different platforms are crucial for making well-informed choices regarding pricing, distribution, and marketing strategies.

By addressing the challenges and exploring alternative payment options, the demand for art-related NFTs can potentially be revitalized. This would create a more stable and sustainable market environment for serious artists and collectors, removing a significant barrier to widespread adoption. In conclusion, although the art-related NFT market experienced a rise and subsequent decline, there is still untapped potential waiting to be explored.

INTERNAL

A Dynamic Duo: Marco and Aaron Unveil the Perfect Balance in Accounting Team Management

Pontiggia, Céline; Wagner, Cendrine

For this edition of the SCL's interview, we decided to interview the two co-managers of the Accounting Team: Aaron and Marco. Is working together as easy as they make it seem? Will they know each other? And how do they complement each other in their roles as co-managers? Let's discover it!



Aaron Pozzi	Marco Pecoraro
Welcome to the SCL's interview! The format is we'll make the questions and you'll both quick answer, out of instinct.	
Yeeeh	Uuuuh
Name?	
Aaron	Marco
Other's Surname?	
Pecoraro	Pozzi
Your Nationality?	
Swiss	Half Swiss, Half Italian
Bachelor or Master?	
Master	Master
In what?	
Banking and Finance	Banking and Finance
When is the other person's birthday?	
I don't know, I don't know... I will try with September?	Uuuh, nice question... I think it is November?
When is your birthday?	
August 26 th [1998]	October 1 st [1998]
What does the other person like to do most?	
I think doing sports, of any kind, football or volleyball,...	Either playing tennis or watching ice hockey.
Your best quality?	
I think I'm pretty organized and precise.	I'm caring.
Your best "bad quality", your flaw, the thing you want to improve?	
Sometimes, maybe, I don't have patience with people, even with friends.	Sometimes I'm too instinctive and impulsive.

Aaron Pozzi	Marco Pecoraro
<i>Other person's best quality?</i>	
I think he's very honest, he says what he thinks.	I think he can present very well, and he's organized, and I like that because I'm not.
<i>Other person's best "bad quality"/flaw?</i>	
I'd say that maybe sometimes he's too creative, in the sense of being too spontaneous, because I'm really organized. For this reason, we complete each other's.	I'm creative, very spontaneous so sometimes I want to do certain things, go outside my boundaries and he isn't. But I think that is a positive aspect, we have this trade-off, we're in an equilibrium.
<i>When did you meet each other?</i>	
We met at the beginning of our Master's degree but became friends one year ago.	During the first months of my Master's degree but we became friends last year.
<i>Who came up with the idea of working together in the Accounting team?</i>	
Actually, it was something that Marco proposed to me because he had previously discussed it with Adi. Because he wasn't really interested in the Project and Know-How Management topic and thought it was a good idea to join me in the Accounting team, since we already know each other, and I agreed with him.	I spoke with Adi about the fact that I didn't like the topic [Project and Know-How Management] and she asked me if there was another topic that interested me. I replied that I found the Accounting project really interesting. So, I proposed to work together with Aaron, he was fine with this idea and, in the end, we're here.
<i>Describe your Accounting Team in 3 words</i>	
Funny but serious when we have to work, friendly and also Italian speaking (not Italian).	Flexible, we respect deadlines and hard working.
<i>Have you guys ever argued?</i>	
Not that I remember, we have sometimes some discussions, but we never argued.	No, sometimes he punches [sarcastic] me but it's fine [laughter].
<i>Is it difficult to manage a team with two managers?</i>	
Not at all, since I don't have much experience with the role of "manager". Sometimes I can rely on him and on his ideas. We support each other and I think it's really interesting.	No, I think it's the best thing. You have constant feedback on what you're doing, which is very helpful.
<i>Who is the better of the two?</i>	
No, I can't decide.	No, there isn't.
<i>If you really must decide?</i>	
Me [laughter]	Well, me [laughter]

Aaron Pozzi	Marco Pecoraro
<i>Who is the toughest manager?</i>	
Myself	I think Aaron
<i>Who is the laziest one?</i>	
Honestly, I think we're on the same level of laziness. Maybe sometimes he's lazier on one aspect and other times I'm lazier in another aspect.	We're both lazy, on the same level.
<i>Who is the most charming?</i>	
He has the Italian style...	Yeah, it's probably me [laughter]
<i>Who is the bigger expert in blockchain?</i>	
I'd say we're somewhat on the same level. After this project, I learned more about coding because he was more occupied with the theory aspect of our project.	Right now, I think we're almost at the same level. But before starting the project I had attended some lectures about blockchains, so I probably came more prepared but now we're the same.
<i>Who is the best at coding?</i>	
Me	Aaron
<i>When we interviewed Erik (who is part of your accounting team) a couple of months ago, he gave us a brief overview of your project. How would you say has your project changed since?</i>	
I mean, when we started, we had a general idea of what the project was and what the professor was expecting. But with time and after receiving help from Pedro and Florian, we'd understood the project better and we finished it. Right now, we're working on two other projects, while we're waiting for the Peer Review done by Oliver's group.	I think now it has changed completely, because now we concluded our first project and we are waiting for the Peer Review. So currently we're focusing more on two other projects. One is implementing more features in the codes that we currently have and the other one is to get some opinions about our product, by doing a sort of market research, ask to other companies, startups if there would be interested in this project.
<i>What are the next steps? Do you plan to finish these as well?</i>	
We're starting them and it would be perfect if some of the new members of the July onboarding will join our team, so we'll be able to introduce them to these projects and explain to them our ideas. It's good to keep this " <i>fil rouge</i> ", red thread.	We started and if we won't be able to finish, we'll leave a memo for the future members of SCL.
<i>Are you sad that from August on you will not be working together anymore?</i>	
I have some mixed feelings. Sad because in this project I have learned so much but on the other hand it will mean that I'll be over with my studies - so happy and sad at the same time.	Maybe a little. For me SCL at the beginning was a little messy but now I see my future, my goals and I think it has been very useful for my work future. I'm sad that it's finishing but happy to start a new experience.

Aaron Pozzi	Marco Pecoraro
<i>What is the best advice you've ever received? Do you have a personal motto that you live by?</i>	
I have a motto: <i>“Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better”</i> from Beckett.	I think it’s important to never leave someone behind and sometimes take more time to explain it better. For example, explain to them what we are doing, what our goals are, and our tasks.
<i>Which quality would you like to have of the other?</i>	
His charm, his Italian style of living. He’s really chill and always transmitting this serenity.	I think I would like to be more organized, he’s doing a great job.
<i>Would you like to add something else?</i>	
“S-C-L, S-C-L, S-C-L”	

Pontiggia, Céline

Upcoming Online and Free Events for Everyone

Blockchain - A Revolution for sustainable global supply chains?

- Date: **22.06, 7 PM – 8:30 PM**
- Location: online
- Topic: Webinar with different speakers. Explore industry insights on the practical applications of Hyperledger blockchain technologies. Bridge the gap between academic research and industry practices, fostering mutual learning and collaboration. Stimulate discussions about diverse blockchain applications beyond finance and crypto, particularly in sustainable global supply chains.
- Website: <https://www.meetup.com/de-DE/hyperledger-lugano-bellinzona/events/293890266/>
- Tickets: Free (sign up to get the zoom Link)

Polkadot Decoded 2023

- Date: **28.06 & 29.06, 10 AM – 6 PM**
- Location: online
- Topic: Want to find out why the #1 gaming blockchain is leaving Ethereum to join the Polkadot ecosystem? Curious about the big names that are building on Polkadot, and how they’re utilizing its advanced tech stack to bring about mass adoption? Interested in learning the secret of Web3’s true potential and getting ahead of the curve?
- Website: <https://www.meetup.com/de-DE/polkadot-zurich/events/294012730/>
- Tickets: Free

Virtual Speaking Masterclass Zurich

- Date: **25.06, 7:30 PM – 9 PM**
- Location: online
- Topic: Learn the art of Virtual communication. Learn to confidently connect with the camera, speak naturally, and express your authentic self. Create an active window to build trust, hold attention, and effectively communicate ideas.
- Website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-speaking-masterclass-zurich-tickets-480441863547?aff=ebdssbcategorybrowse>
- Tickets: Free

Join Us This Wednesday and Revive the Coworking Space!

Pontiggia, Céline

Calling all coworking enthusiasts! We understand that the exam season has kept the coworking space quiet in recent weeks, but we're determined to bring back the energy. Experience the power of physical presence at the SCL project's coworking space and join our dynamic community of SCL students. Collaborate, network, and thrive together. Take advantage of this special space and make Wednesdays your most productive day. Let's gather and collaborate to make the coworking space come alive again and create a vibrant atmosphere. See you this Wednesday!



Who is Submitting their Thesis in July?

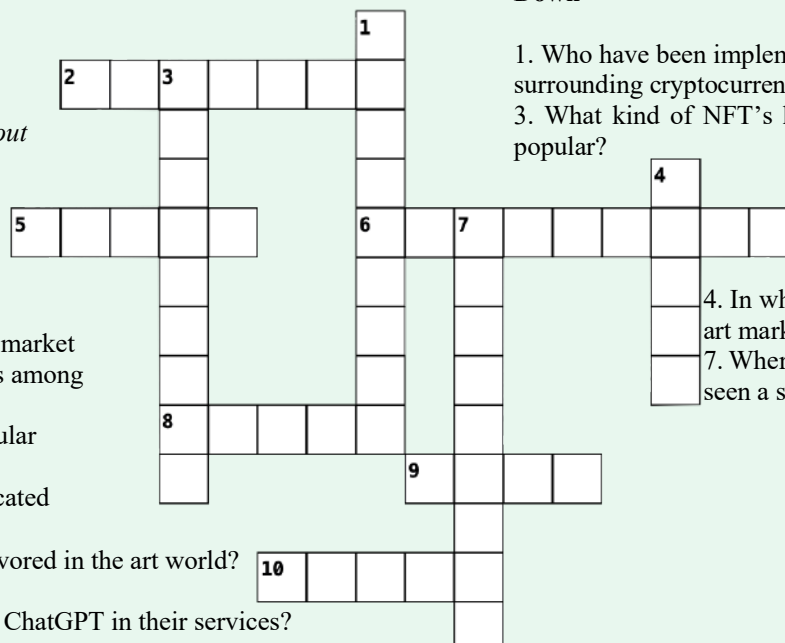
Name	Function	Topic
Ann-Sophie Pfammatter,	Publication	Regulatory Team
Eric Schiess	Operations	Accounting
Luna Arnold	Publication	Newsletter
Noé Fisher	Operations	Market Analysis
Robin Triet	BD	Newsletter

Dang, Nadia

First read the news and try to complete our SCL crossword puzzle! Send us the solutions to gregoire.pretat@uzh.ch to find out if your answers are correct!

SCL-Crossword

Down



- Who have been implementing stricter laws surrounding cryptocurrency?
- What kind of NFT's have become increasingly popular?

Across

- What has the art-related NFT market experienced, leading to concerns among artists and buyers?
- What is the world's first modular blockchain called?
- What can artists do with dedicated communities around their art?
- Which cryptocurrency was favored in the art world?
- CEO of Blockstream?
- Which company aims to use ChatGPT in their services?

- In which month did the digital art market make headlines?
- Where has Binance's US market seen a significant drop?

Impressum

Newsletter of Smart Contracts Lab
Student Project at University of Zurich
SmartContractLab@uzh.com
Rämistrasse 71, CH-8006 Zürich

Authors: Grégoire Prétat, Nadia Dang, Cendrine Wagner
Robin Triet, Céline Pontiggia, Luna Arnold
Market Analysis: Grégoire Prétat

Quality Management: Grégoire Prétat, Nadia Dang, Cendrine Wagner
Robin Triet, Céline Pontiggia, Luna Arnold
Layout & Design: Nadia Dang, Luna Arnold

Adjinacou, L. J. (2023, June 3). Coinbase lancera bientôt des contrats à terme institutionnels sur le bitcoin et l'ether. Cointelegraph. <https://fr.cointelegraph.com/news/coinbase-soon-to-launch-institutional-futures-contracts-on-bitcoin-and-ether>

Di Salvo, M. (2023a, June 2). Coinbase Derivatives to Launch Institutional Bitcoin and Ethereum Futures. Decrypt. <https://decrypt.co/143272/coinbase-derivatives-to-launch-institutional-bitcoin-and-ether-futures>

Malwa, S. (2023, June 2). Coinbase Derivatives Exchange to Offer Institutional Bitcoin and Ether Futures. Decrypt. <https://www.coindesk.com/markets/2023/06/02/coinbase-derivatives-exchange-to-offer-institutional-bitcoin-and-ether-futures/>

Aschwanden, E. (2023, 14. Juni). OECD-Mindeststeuer: Zug setzt Erträge für Blockchain- Institut ein. Neue Zürcher Zeitung. <https://www.nzz.ch/schweiz/zug-will-nicht-pruegelknabe-sein-mit-den-mehreinnahmen-aufgrund-der-oecd-mindeststeuer-schafft-der-kanton-ein-blockchain-institut-ld.1742406>

CvjCh, R. & CvjCh, R. (2023). Zuger Regierungsrat möchte Krypto-Forschung mit 39.35 Mio. CHF unterstützen. Crypto Valley Journal. <https://cvj.ch/aktuell/news/zuger-regierungsrat-moechte-krypto-forschung-mit-39-35-mio-chf-unterstuetzen/>

Regierungsrat will Zug als Zentrum für Blockchain-Technologie etablieren. (o. D.). https://zg.ch/de/news/news~_2023_6_regierungsrat-will-zug-als-zentrum-fuer-blockchain-technologie-etablieren~

Crawford, L. (2023, June 16). Democrats may lose youth votes over anti-crypto sentiments, warns Winklevoss. Blockchain News. <https://blockchain.news/news/Democrats-may-lose-youth-votes-over-anticrypto-sentiments-warns-Winklevoss-6c466227-7f33-4343-b002-b0b47a95b9c8>

Solimano, P. (2023, June 12). Winklevoss Twins Say “War On Crypto” Will Hurt Democrats. Decrypt. <https://decrypt.co/144172/winklevoss-twins-say-war-on-crypto-will-hurt-democrats?amp=1>

Y., C. Y. (2023, June 14). According to the Winklevoss twins, the “crypto war” will harm Democrats. Contribune. <https://www.cointribune.com/en/according-to-the-winklevoss-twins-the-crypto-war-will-harm-democrats/>

The launch of VIA Malle Trésor, which is accessible by crypto payment, is currently limited to France, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and Australia.

Du Luxe, J. (2023, June 7). Louis Vuitton lance une malle NFT à 39.000 euros. Journal Du Luxe. <https://journalduluxe.fr/fr/mode/louis-vuitton-malle-digitale-via>

Lutz, S. (2023, June 7). Louis Vuitton to Sell \$41,000 NFTs to Top Customers. Decrypt. <https://decrypt.co/143654/louis-vuitton-to-sell-41000-nfts-to-top-customers>

Fortis, S. (2023, June 8). EU to use blockchain for educational and professional credential verification. Cointelegraph. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/eu-to-use-blockchain-for-educational-and-professional-credential-verification#:~:text=Jun%2008,%202023-.EU%20to%20use%20blockchain%20for%20educational%20and%20professional%20credential%20verification,verification%20program%20for%20EU%20citizens>

Jenkinson, G. (2023, June 15). Bybit plugs into ChatGPT for AI-powered trading tools. Cointelegraph. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/bybit-plugs-into-chatgpt-for-ai-powered-trading-tools>

Gkritsi, Eliza. (2023, June 15). Crypto exchange Bybit integrates ChatGPT into trading tools. CoinDesk: Bitcoin, Ethereum, Crypto News and Price Data. <https://www.coindesk.com/tech/2023/06/15/crypto-exchange-bybit-integrates-chatgpt-into-trading-tools/>

Munawa, Frederick (2023, June 13). Bitcoin Infrastructure Firm Blockstream to Unveil Its Long-Awaited Mining Rig in 3Q of 2024. CoinDesk. <https://www.coindesk.com/tech/2023/06/13/bitcoin-infrastructure-firm-blockstream-to-unveil-its-long-awaited-mining-rig-in-3q-of-2024/>

Tardi, Carla (2023, May 23). Application-Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC) Miner. Investopedia. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/a/asic.asp>

Gkritsi, E. (2023, June 14). Bitcoin Miner Crusoe Energy Secures 50 BTC on Newly Launched Liquidity Platform Block Green. CoinDesk. <https://www.coindesk.com/business/2023/06/14/bitcoin-miner-crusoe-energy-secures-50-btc-on-newly-launched-liquidity-platform-block-green/>

Jose. (2023). How Crusoe Energy Earned 50 BTC on Block Green, a New Liquidity Platform for Bitcoin Miners. The Cryptocurrency Post. <https://thecryptocurrencypost.net/how-crusoe-energy-earned-50-btc-on-block-green-a-new-liquidity-platform-for-bitcoin-miners/>

Di Salvo, M. (2023, June 7). What's the Difference Between the Binance and Coinbase SEC Lawsuits? Decrypt. <https://decrypt.co/143718/difference-between-binance-coinbase-sec-lawsuits>

Di Salvo, M. (2023c, June 14). Binance Set to Leave Cyprus Ahead of MiCA Legislation. Decrypt. <https://decrypt.co/144595/binance-moves-to-deregister-cyprus-entity-ahead-of-mica-legislation>

Di Salvo, M. (2023d, June 14). Binance US Market Shrinks 78% in Just 7 Days After SEC Lawsuit. Decrypt. <https://decrypt.co/144266/binance-us-market-shrinks-after-sec-lawsuit>

Gladwin, R. S. (2023, June 8). SEC Chair Gensler Offered to Serve as Binance Advisor in 2019, Lawyers Claim. Decrypt. <https://decrypt.co/143805/sec-chair-gensler-offered-to-serve-as-binance-advisor-in-2019-lawyers-claim>

Larigaudrie, A. (2023b, June 7). "Cela a éclaté comme une bombe": le géant des cryptos Coinbase est mal en point. BFM BUSINESS. https://www.bfmtv.com/crypto/cela-a-eclate-comme-une-bombe-le-geant-des-cryptos-coinbase-est-mal-en-point_AV-202306070338.html

Ruche, S. (2023, June 10). La SEC intensifie son offensive contre les cryptos. Le Temps. <https://www.letemps.ch/economie/sec-intensifie-offensive-contre-cryptos>

Tremayne-Pengelly, A. (2023, March 30). 'Digital Basel' Allegedly Violated Intellectual Property of Thousands of Artists. Observer. <https://observer.com/2023/03/nft-platform-issued-a-cess-and-desist-by-art-basel/>

Tremayne-Pengelly, A. (2023b, April 4). 'Digital Basel' Website Accused of Copyright Infringement Returns Online. Observer. <https://observer.com/2023/04/digital-basel-copyright-infringement-back-online/>

Artworks – Digital Basel. (2023, March 21). Digital Basel. <https://digitalbasel.io/artworks>

Azimi, R., & Bellet, H. (2023, June 15). Art Basel 2023, imperméable aux secousses du monde. Le Monde.fr. https://www.lemonde.fr/culture/article/2023/06/15/art-basel-2023-impermeable-aux-secousses-du-monde_6177811_3246.html

Basel, A. (2023, March 10). What's next for the art world blockchain Arcual? | Art Basel. Art Basel. <https://www.artbasel.com/stories/arcual-blockchain-nft-art-world-bernadine-brocker-wieder>

Brown, K. (2023, June 15). At a Post-Crypto-Crash Art Basel, Tech-Based Art Is Trying Hard to Blend in and Look Like... Painting? Artnet News. <https://news.artnet.com/market/art-basel-2023-tech-nfts-2320110>

Martins, J. (2023, June 9). NFT Marketplace Clone Script: How Celebrity NFTs Are Revolutionizing The Entertainment Industry - CryptoSaurus. CryptoSaurus. <https://cryptosaurus.tech/nft-marketplace-clone-script-how-celebrity-nfts-are-revolutionizing-the-entertainment-industry/>

Learn, B. (2022, June). Celebrity NFTs: The Impact Celebrities Have on NFTs. Bybit Learn. <https://learn.bybit.com/nft/celebrity-nfts/#>

Iacovides, I. (2022). Athletes using NFTs for the commercialization of their Name, Image and Likeness in the Crypto space. The Sports Financial Literacy Academy. <https://moneysmartathlete.com/blockchain-technology-and-cryptos/athletes-using-nfts-for-the-commercialization-of-their-name-image-and-likeness-in-the-crypto-space/>

Holmes, R. (2023, June 14). Snoop Dogg launches 'Passport Series' NFT collectible that will be updated with exclusive content. CryptoSaurus. <https://cryptosaurus.tech/snoop-dogg-launches-passport-series-nft-collectible-that-will-be-updated-with-exclusive-content-throughout-his-tour-3/>

Anderson, Z. (2023, June 16). North Korean Hackers Allegedly Behind \$35 Million Cryptocurrency Heist. Blockchain News. <https://blockchain.news/news/North-Korean-Hackers-Allegedly-Behind-35-Million-Cryptocurrency-Heist-5b619cc3-7c51-4478-94bc-ea8d446c0b1b>

Lyngaas, S. (2023, June 7). North Korea hackers suspected in new \$35 million crypto heist. CNN Business. <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/06/06/tech/north-korea-crypto-heist/index.html>

Dr David Challis. (2023, June 13). Shaping the future market for digital art. University of Melbourne. Pursuit. <https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/shaping-the-future-market-for-digital-art>

MVC Magazine. (2023, June 16). NFT, Arte e IA. Il Nuovo Modo Di Produrre Bellezza. MVC Magazine. <https://mvcmagazine.com/nft-arte-e-ia-il-nuovo-modo-di-produrre-bellezza/>

Natalee. (2023). The State of NFTs for Artists in 2023: Challenges, Opportunities, and the Future. NFT CULTURE.
<https://www.nftculture.com/guides/the-state-of-nfts-for-artists-in-2023-challenges-opportunities-and-the-future/>