



“To be an in-circle artist”
White paper

Introduction

To Be an In-circle Artist provides a platform for preserving an artist's permanent identity records. The DApp was released on the Polygon network. This document outlines the concept of the work, the interaction within the DApp, and the design concept of its NFTs.

Concept

To Be an In-circle Artist is a decentralized application (DApp) based on an Ethereum contract, allowing everyone to participate. Participants enter their name and unique wallet address into the circle to become in-circle artists, securing their status on the Ethereum blockchain at the cost of one day's computing power. This system acts as a decentralized authentication system. Upon entering the circle, participants can automatically mint an NFT, known as the artist manifesto NFT, serving as a permanent souvenir or proof of attendance. The project aims to create a fair network that enables anyone to become an in-circle artist, challenging the notion of exclusivity within the circle. However, several questions arise: Although the project aims to foster public discussion, who qualifies to enter the circle? Why do circles exist at all? What does it take to succeed as an artist within the circle? Is authentication necessary? What significance does being authenticated as an artist hold? What does it mean to be an in-circle artist? Is this merely another form of class system, or is it an effort to enhance fairness? Can't anyone be an artist?

1 Why do we need a blockchain to join the circle?

1) Decentralized

Unlike with social circles in real life, where artists must first enter art schools, then have to socialize with curators, and sometimes pay fees to be in exhibitions all to prove their artist identity, in this blockchain-proof circle, the artists do not need to do any of these things. This DApp does not rely on any third-party institution for authenticity of artist identity (repeat for identity) which means it is a decentralized authenticating platform for entering the in-circle. The only cost involved is the one-time handling fee.

2) Record ensures security

Anyone can say they are an in-circle artist but there is nothing to prove it without the blockchain. Because there is a track record that cannot be fabricated or manipulated, the blockchain provides security, trust, and reliability. This ensures that your identity will be kept safe.

Just as in the real world, one's status as an artist must be validated. In the digital world, the historical record plays a crucial role in establishing that validity, and in order to become an "in-circle" artist it is clear decentralized, permanent authentication records are necessary. However, this raises a new question: Is the process of authentication always fair?

2 Why do people need to pay to be an in-circle artist? What is the different in Reality?

Everything requires a cost commitment, like the scarcity of nature leads to the cost of paying. Decentralization relies on the blockchain system, and maintaining such a system relies on consuming natural resources, so the pay in DApp is needed.

In reality, artists pay money for more power and benefits in order to be recognized regardless of the cost. This results in inequality. But what I provided here is a decentralized platform, where anyone can pay a small amount of fee to become recognized.

3 Why do people need a name and wallet address to be an in-circle artist?

In any virtual space, virtual identity is a necessity even when people claim to be anonymous. At the most basic level, with any use of the internet, a string of characters is assigned to represent each person, so there is no complete anonymity. In other words, there are traces of a person online that do not disappear. This is very different from in real life where you can just step into an actual circle. You don't really need to establish an identity because it is already established. While in the virtual world, an identity is established when any action is taken. That is the reason why the name and wallet address which come to represent one's identity are important here.

4. Why would people like to enter the circle? What does it mean to be in the circle?

It's natural to belong to something, to be a part of something. Entering the circle means to "occupy a space", so that people can gain a sense of belonging and identity.

In my work, What I want to emphasize is the process of participation in general. No matter what the circle is, whether an artist circle, a financial circle, the economic circle, etc., people are trying to occupy a place, when they enter the circle. Originally, there is no circle, and the more people enter, a circle is formed. Entering the circle means acquiring identity and recognition for artists. Those who enter the circle now belong to a class of in-circle artists.

Because exclusivity is a natural part of human nature, this DApp tries to attract the audience with the features of decentralization and equality, even the reality will be different.

5. Why do people need to take several steps to become an in-circle artist?

In order to do anything, action is required. The circle does exist, but the conditions for entering the circle are more about actions than desire. Anyone can be an artist, but not everyone is an artist. While this DApp gives people a chance to be in the circle, only those who really want it and take advantage of the chance will get into the circle in the end. People need to take action to achieve anything. Just wanting to do something is not enough. Therefore, to become an in-circle artist, people need to do something, such as stepping into

the physical circle, downloading the wallet and following the instructions to record your identity in the blockchain. The act of entering the circle is the same for everyone, the experience for each person would be completely different.

6. What kind of person can be an in-circle artist?

(Check it in Artist Manifesto)

Interaction

Every participant has their own wallet's address which is their symbol of unique identity. Participants can enter their name and copy their wallet address from MetaMask into the appropriate space on the screen. Once they enter their information and charge some gas to their MetaMask, their artist identity will be recorded into the blockchain. At the same time, an artist manifesto NFT will automatically be minted as the NFT minting process is also included in the contract. The limitation in the contract is that every participant only has one chance to be an in-circle artist. After they enter their information and the NFT has been minted, they will enter the portal where they can view the artist statement from which the NFT quote is taken and be able to see their unique NFT on Opensea.

Design concept of NFT

The Artist manifesto NFT was designed as a permanent souvenir to serve as proof of attendance for every participant (artist). Much like pulling an answer from the Book of Answers, each NFT presents a different sentence from the Artist Manifesto, which was written by the creators, along with a unique motion circle. The minting of the NFT creates a dialogue between the participants and the DApp (while they are interacting with it), with the minted NFT prompting the audience to consider the question of who can be an in-circle artist and what that standard is.

Work's reference

Alberto Greco, "*Vito Dito*", 1962

Jier He, *The person who is standing inside the circle is an in-circle artist* (站在圈内就是圈内艺术家), 2016