Key Questions

• How can Speculative Design be used to provoke users' imagination and create a safe space for the exploration of alternative and decentralized economic & social paradigms?

• How can physical interactions and play be used as pedagogical tools that embody new concepts of value, exchange, and collaboration through the blockchain protocol?

• What types of physical representations best capture: the core functionality of how the blockchain works, the diversity of embedded social, economic, and political ideologies around it, its potential for new understandings of value, currency, ownership & exchange

Design Statement

Our culture is experiencing a paradigm crisis. While technology allows for new, decentralized communication and information sharing platforms, that change is not yet reflected in our economic and social systems. Instead, the digital world has come to reflect traditional power structures rather than disrupting them. I am exploring how emerging technologies, such as the blockchain protocol, can help rework people's understanding of exchange, value, contribution, and investment. However, given the predominance of a centralized and capitalist paradigm in today's world, it is difficult to imagine how a future with more decentralized, peer-to-peer, and open-source technology would actually work.

For this reason, D'Art explores how artistic practice and speculative design can help people visualize how the blockchain protocol supports new, more decentralized paradigms for collaboration and exchanging value. One part of the project, ReSettlers is a workshop that teaches designers how the blockchain technically works through physical interactions and play, helping them to imagine more creative use cases. The other part, D'Light enables a broader audience to create decentralized digital art using the blockchain to collaborate in new ways. I believe both audiences must be addressed as part of a top-down/bottom-up approach to systems change, allowing for the creation of innovative new models that support more equitable economic paradigms for our connected future.

ReSettlers

D'Light