

New Design Brief (D'Light Focused)

Decentralized Art (D'Art)

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 artistic practice and interactive art embody new concepts of value, exchange, and collaboration through the blockchain protocol?
- What types of physical representations best capture: the diversity of embedded social, economic, and political ideologies the blockchain protocol engenders, its potential to create new understandings of value, currency, ownership & exchange, the dreams of more peer-to-peer, decentralized futures it is touted to be the harbinger for.

Design Brief

Our culture is experiencing a paradigm crisis. Technology has laid the foundation for more decentralized systems of communication, empowering individuals to produce and share content in afore unimagined ways, and creating new understandings of value and power in a digital age. Yet, this digital revolution never managed to permeate our economic and social systems; instead, the online world has come to increasingly reflect traditional power structures rather than disrupting them. For this reason, I am exploring how emerging technologies, such as the blockchain protocol, might continue this transformation and help people equally reimagine economics and exchange. However, given the predominance of a centralized and capitalist paradigm in today's world, it is difficult to even imagine what opportunities and challenges a more decentralized, peer-to-peer, and open-source future might bring.

(Concept Statement)

D'Art (Decentralized Art) applies a speculative design methodology to investigate how artistic practice can help people visualize this transformation, using the blockchain protocol as a metaphor and platform for exploring the potential of new, more decentralized paradigms for collaboration and economic exchange. I am building an interactive LED sculpture/installation that allows users to purchase, design, and update their own small section using a web interface and crypto tokens, helping them reimagine artistic collaboration through emerging technological platforms. I particularly seek to highlight accelerating tensions around investment, contribution, and ownership in the increasingly mixed digital/physical landscape we now inhabit.