

NON-FUNGIBLE TOKENS (NFT) AND THE EVOLUTION OF ART

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The internet has democratized access to information, culture and art. You can view the world's famous masterpieces from your computer at almost no cost - something that previously required traveling to cultural sites, paying museum admission fees or buying expensive art books. The concepts of uniqueness and value in the age of wide accessibility of art are difficult to establish for numerous reasons. Physical art pieces now reside in the public domain, free for everyone to see. Digital artworks can be easily copied without any monetary investment. Furthermore, the issue of authorship becomes questionable because artworks created online are typically anonymous or made under a pseudonym. However, there is a growing market for digital art and the need to assign value and authenticity to it. A solution for this problem has come from the new field of blockchain technology in the form of non-fungible tokens (NFTs). An NFT is a unique code that is stored on the blockchain, enabling one to confirm the origin, custody, and history of transfer for a given digital art piece. It gives a digital object the property of uniqueness and creates a layer of ownership and authenticity for transactions involving digital art [1]. The article below explores the origin of NFT technology and its utility in contemporary art world.

Material and methods. Internet resources related to the subject presented were used as materials for this article. The methods were the following: the comparative method, the research method, and the analysis of scientific articles.

Finding and their discussion. Technology is changing every aspect of our lives, including art and culture. Art is becoming increasingly digitalized: there are new art forms and mediums that are emerging at the intersection of technology and art. This changing landscape shapes how we consume, perceive, evaluate, and exchange art. NFTs have been developed in the last several years by enthusiasts of digital technology called blockchain. The primary purpose of NFTs is to assign a unique digital identifier to art pieces that allows their authentication. With that, there is a possibility of establishing "uniqueness" of digital art objects, which consequently allows their traceability, allowing exchange of ownership and payment for otherwise indistinguishable digital files.

Blockchain is a distributed ledger technology that can be used to store information. The technology was first developed as a secure financial transaction system, known as cryptocurrency "Bitcoin". However, since then blockchain technology has branched out into many other applications, including identification, secure storage of information, cybersecurity, gaming and digital art [2].

Blockchain technology allows to verify digital transactions – for example, you can use it to send cryptocurrency from one person to another. In a similar way, blockchain can be used to verify ownership or exchange objects that have a digital identifier assigned to them, like NFTs.

The value of art is subjective and often rooted in 1) creator's personality or 2) the narrative associated with it. An art piece can have cultural significance, history of ownership or personal attachment that could be the value drivers. At the same time, the artist's reputation and brand could also be the key factors in establishing the artistic value of their products. The same factors that are taken into consideration when evaluating physical art apply to the digital world, but until now were difficult to track in art that is shared online. With NFTs, piece of digital art can be traced back to the original artist who created it and used to determine how its value changes through time.

As the digital economy gains more and more relevance in our lives, things that used to only have meaning as physical objects are starting to be explored for their digital impact. For example, one's online persona, assets like websites, domains and social media profiles, friend and professional networks, being able to make money by participating in digital economy – all of these have tangible impact on our physical lives. For some people, their digital lives are as if not more important as their “real” lives.

Video games and virtual reality (VR) introduce another layer of involvement in the digital economy. Many people find ways to express and fulfill themselves in the virtual world that may not be accessible to them in the physical. Investing in resources that have meaning and value in virtual reality brings a lot of potential to digital creators. With an NFT attached to a desirable video game avatar, the creator has the ability to exchange the digital currency associated with that token to widely accepted fiat currencies.

As art creation moves more into digital mediums and, in many instances, there is no physical object associated with it, the creators of these art objects need to find a way to get paid for their work in currency that has real-world value. NFTs can function as a way to translate value from the digital world into physical world. The author may exchange a unique NFT for digital currency like Ethereum, which in turn, can be exchanged into fiat currencies. In many ways, NFTs serve as a bridge between the digital and physical world as we transition more and more into having digital identities, property, and lives. This technology reflects the evolution of human experience, culture, and civilization.

Conclusion. As the digital world becomes an inseparable part of our life, we need to find ways to bridge the gap between the physical and digital existence. For art creators, NFTs offer that link, and in tangible ways: just recently, a digital artwork by artist named Beeple was sold for \$69.3 million dollars to a collector [3]. The same way blockchain can guarantee the security of cryptocurrency transactions, digital artists can expect more security and a higher value for work that is assigned an NFT. This new medium allows independent artists to launch and expand

their art careers by giving them a new mechanism and market to sell their art. Some people believe that blockchain could be the future of art and that artists should start adapting. At this point, it is too early to tell if blockchain becomes a staple in digital artists' portfolios or will be replaced by another mechanism.

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THE MAIN STAGES AND GERNRES IN THE DEVELOPMENT HISTORY OF CHINESE OPERA

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Chinese opera, Greek tragedy and comedy, and Indian Sanskrit opera are collectively known as the world's three ancient theater cultures. After long-term development and evolution, it has gradually formed the five major opera types of "Peking Opera, Yue Opera, Huangmei Opera, Ping Opera, and Henan Opera" as the core. Baihuayuan of Chinese Opera [1].

The main goal of our research is to analyze the main stages in the development of Chinese opera and the traditions of various schools.

Material and methods. The material for this study was the history of the development of Chinese opera, the stages and traditions reflected in the studies of various scientists. Historical and chronological methods are used in this work.

Finding and their discussion. Ancient Chinese opera refers to Yuan, Ming and Qing operas, including Yuan Zaju, Yuan Sanqu, and Ming and Qing Legends. Various imitative performance forms in ancient Chinese sacrificial music and dance formed one of the sources of Chinese classical opera. The history, main traditions and singers of Chinese opera are reflected in separate studies of art historians [2, p. 17].

The development of Chinese classical opera is divided into eight stages, which is a long historical period, namely: the budding period-the pre-Qin to the Tang dynasty, the embryonic period-the Song and Jin period, the mature period from the Yuan Dynasty to the beginning of the Ming Dynasty, the development period-the Ming Dynasty Jiajing and During the Longqing period, the prosperity period-Wanli of the Ming Dynasty, the integration period-the beginning of the Qing Dynasty, the transition period-the middle of the Qing Dynasty, and the end period-the modern period.