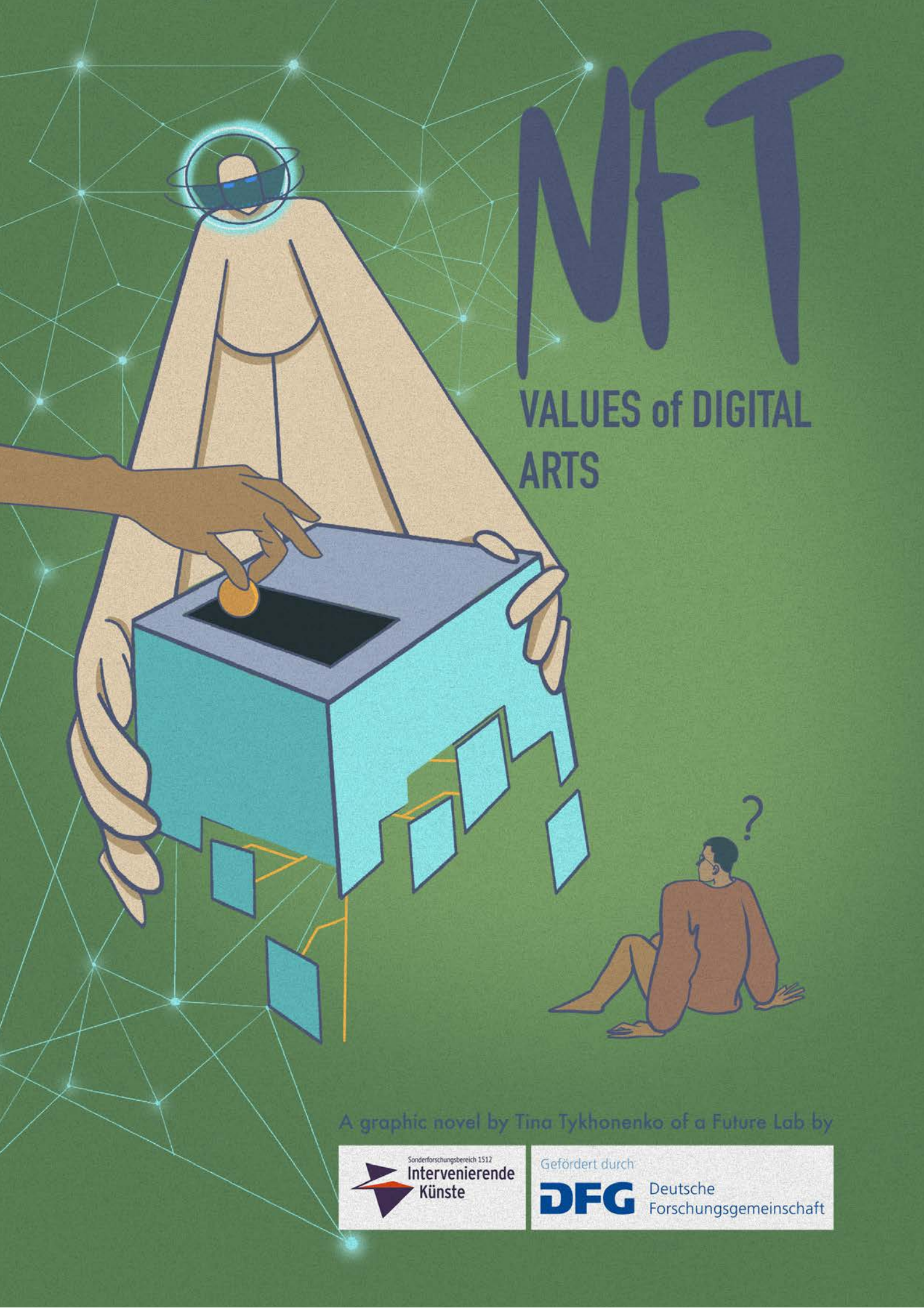
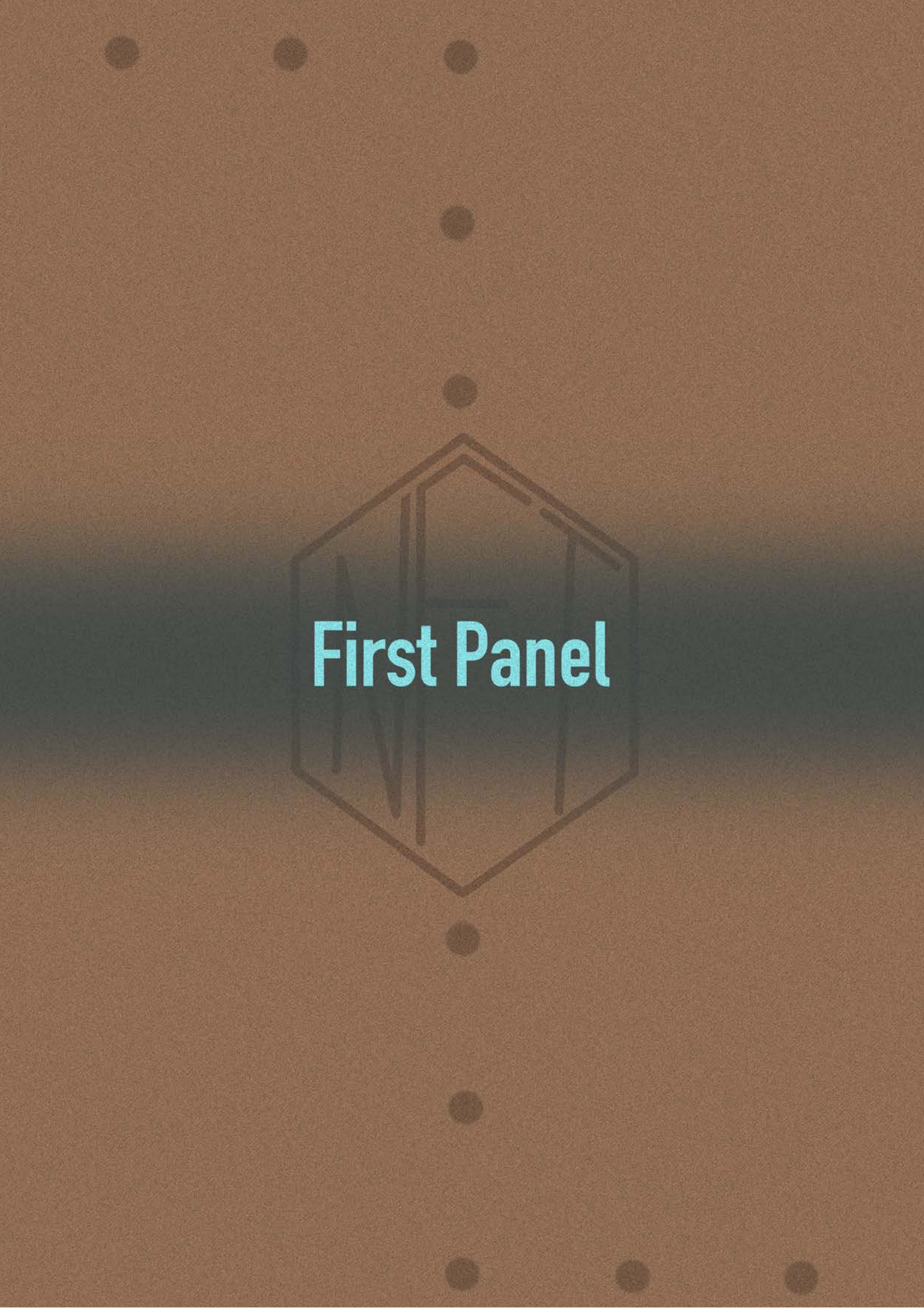
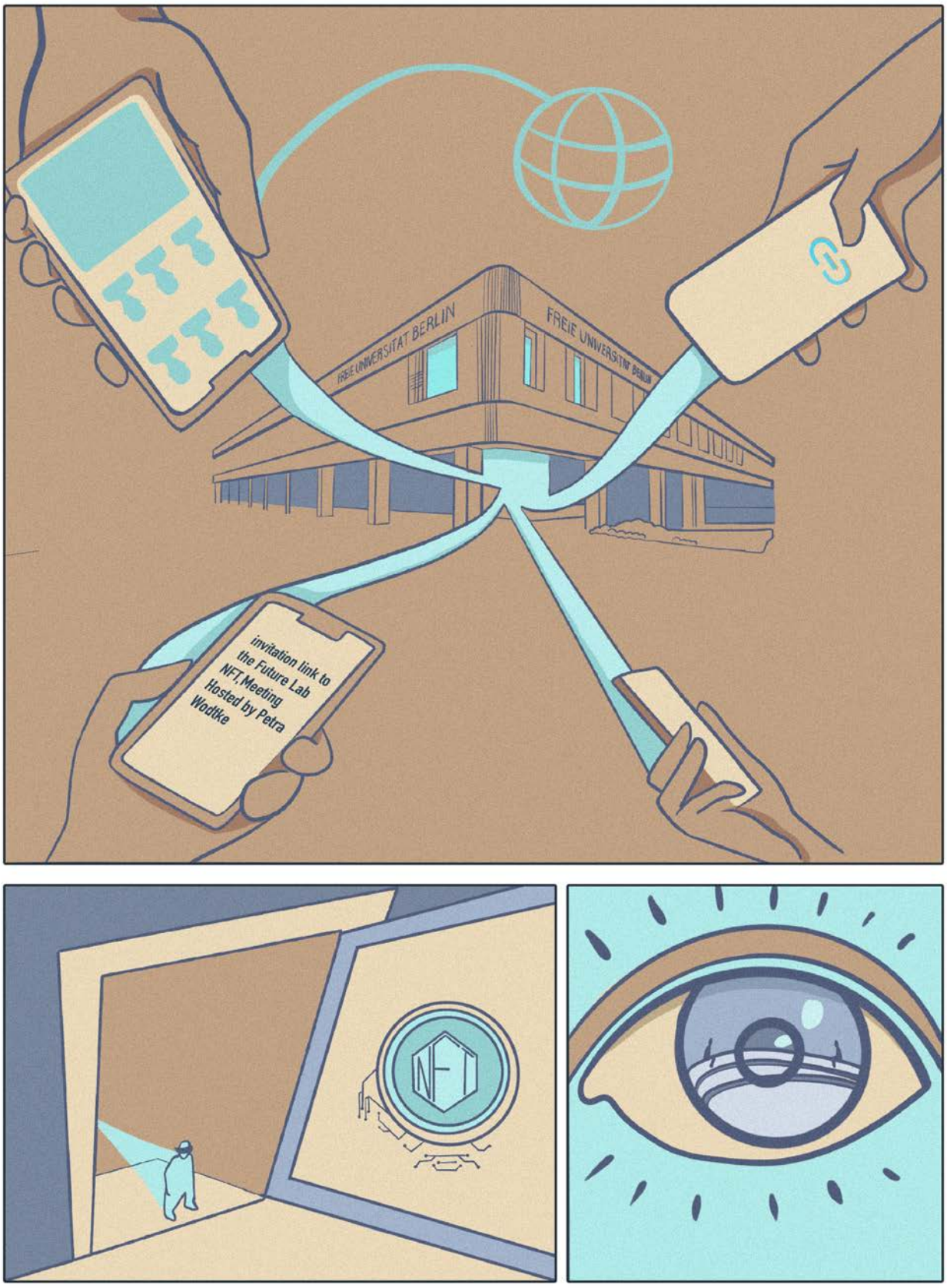


A graphic novel by Tina Tykhonenko of a Future Lab by

Sonderforschungsbereich 1512
Intervenierende Künste

Gefördert durch
DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft


First Panel


FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN
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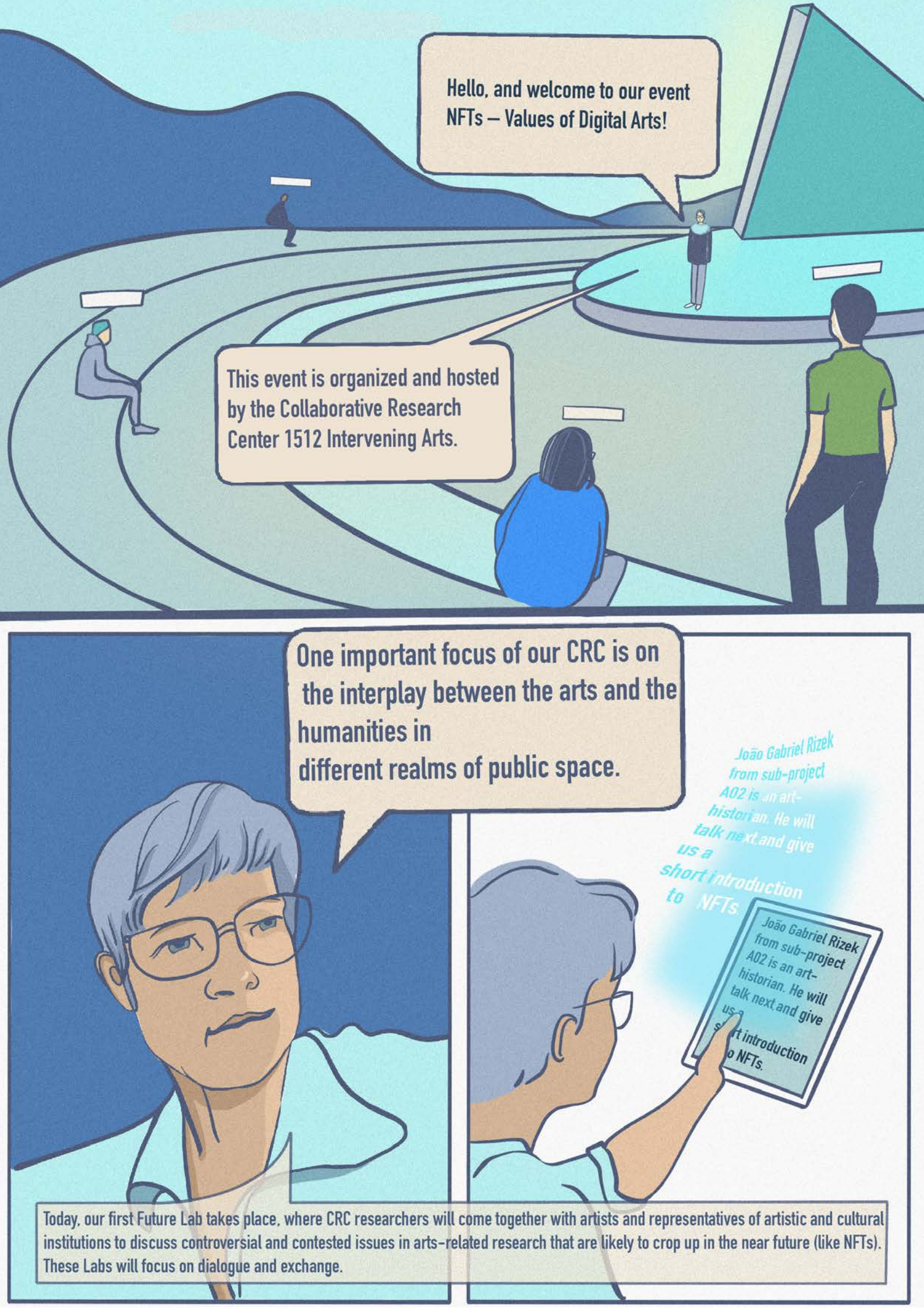
invitation link to the Future Lab NFT Meeting Hosted by Petra Wodtke
NFT


Hello, and welcome to our event NFTs – Values of Digital Arts!
This event is organized and hosted by the Collaborative Research Center 1512 Intervening Arts.
One important focus of our CRC is on the interplay between the arts and the humanities in different realms of public space.
João Gabriel Rizek from sub-project A02 is an art-historian. He will talk next and give us a short introduction to NFTs.
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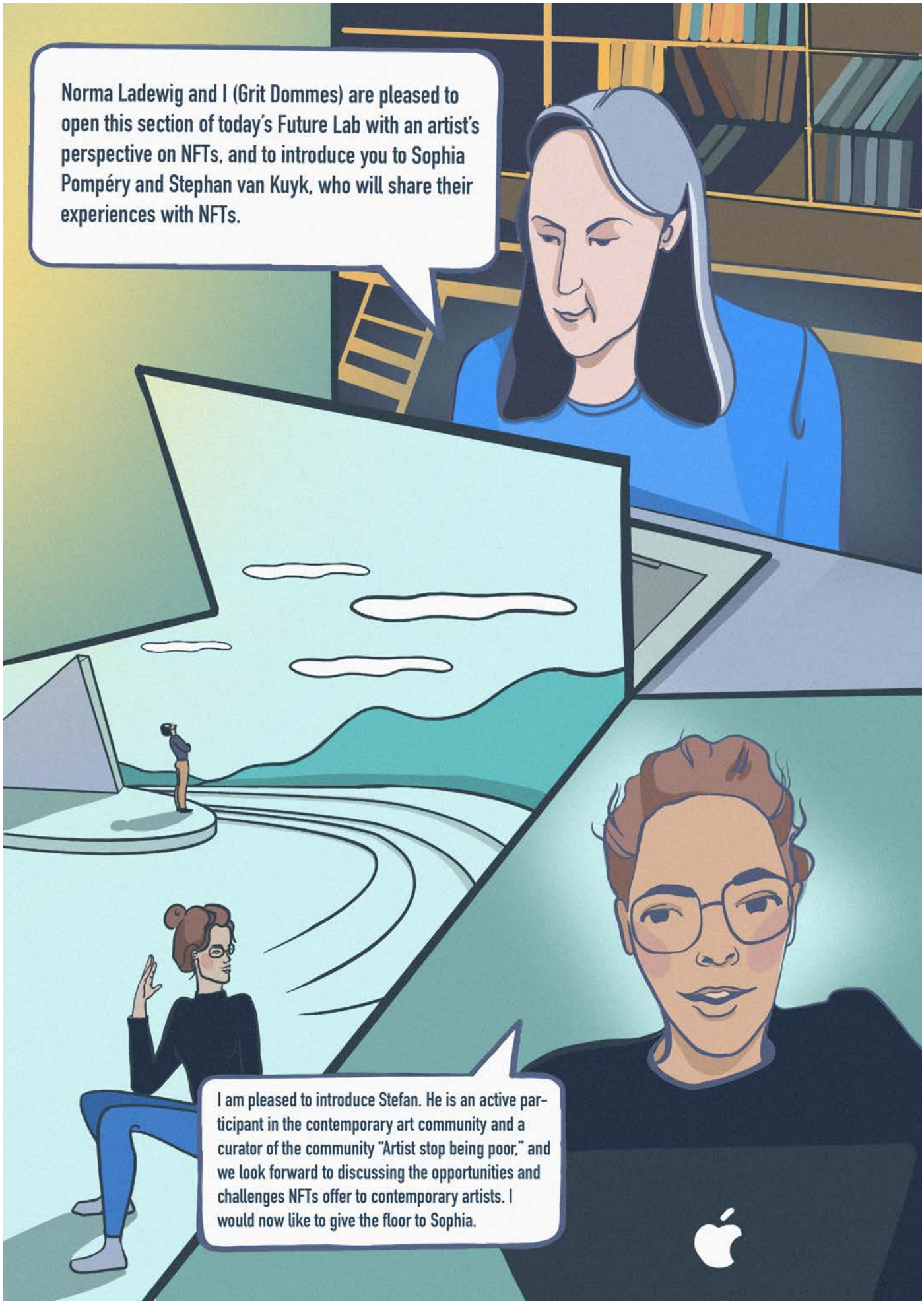
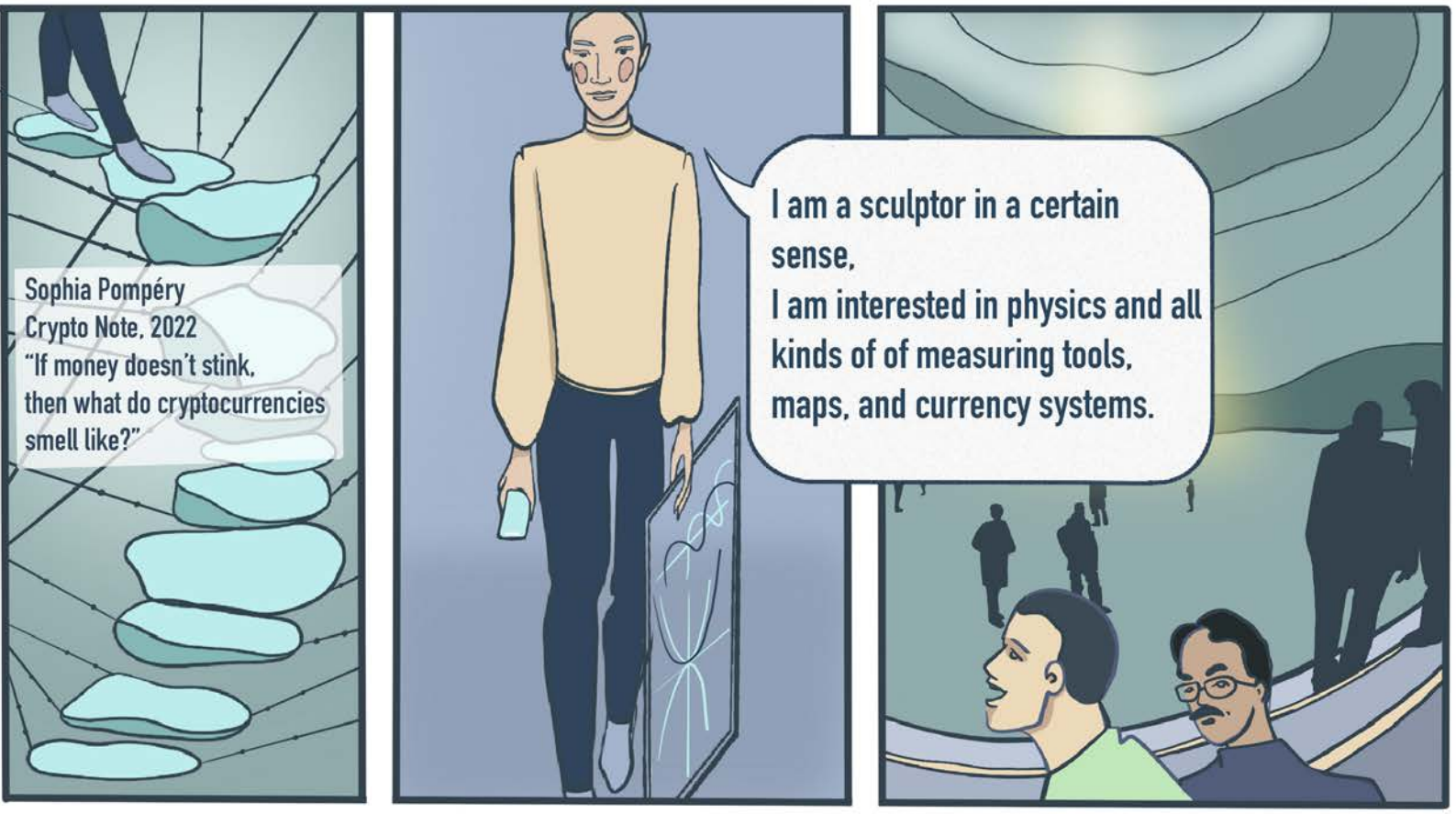
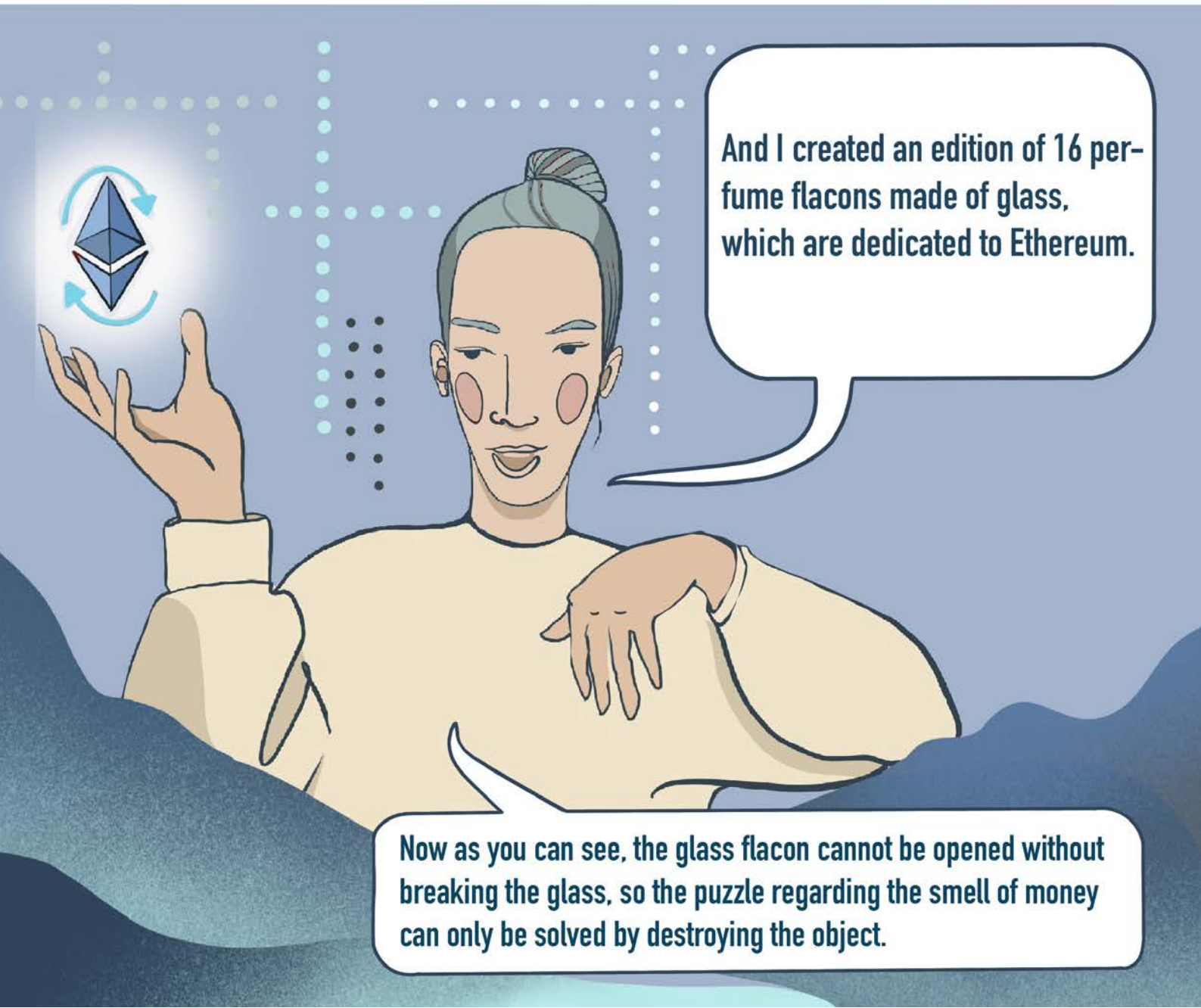
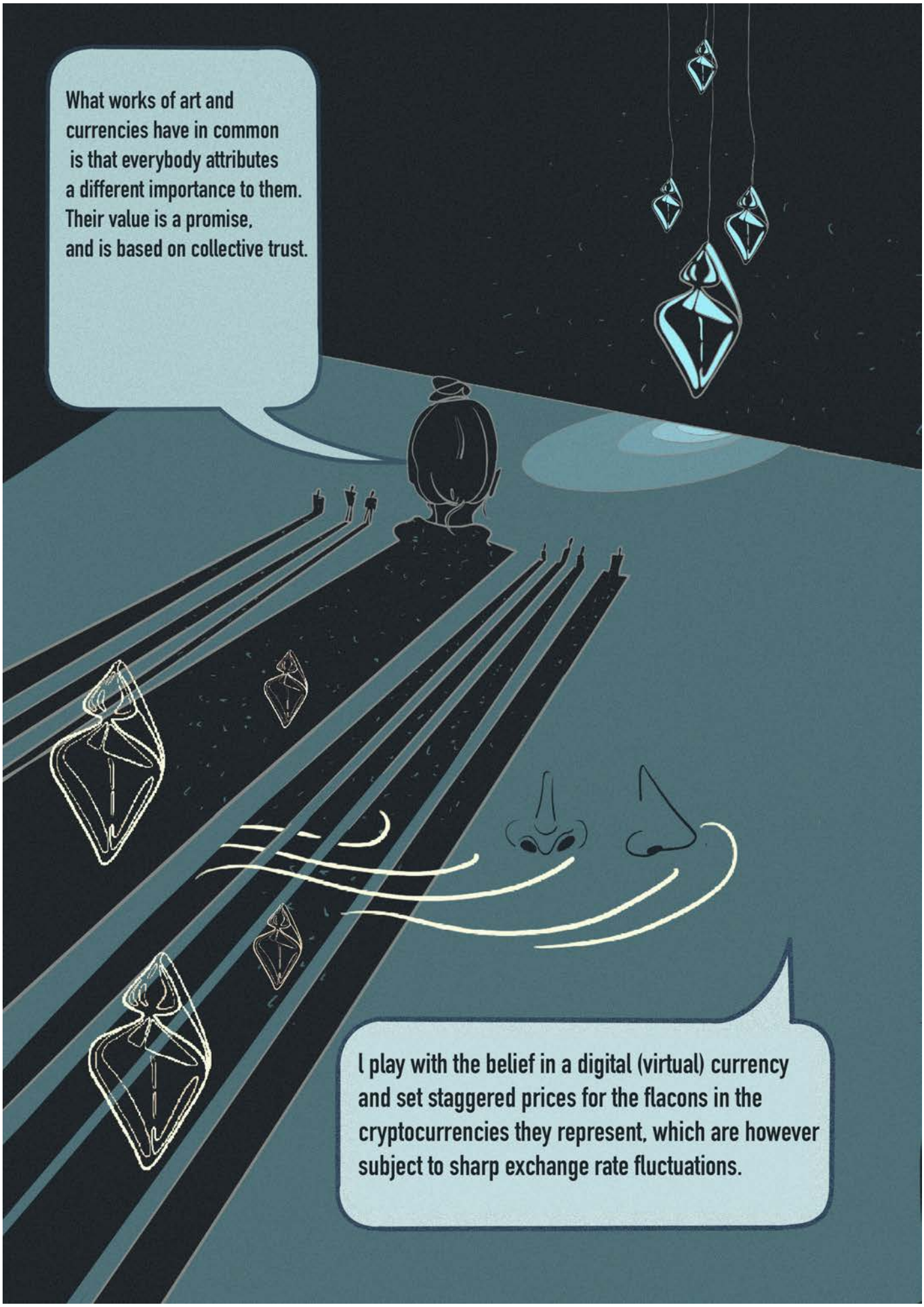
t introduction
o NFTs.
Today, our first Future Lab takes place, where CRC researchers will come together with artists and representatives of artistic and cultural institutions to discuss controversial and contested issues in arts-related research that are likely to crop up in the near future (like NFTs). These Labs will focus on dialogue and exchange.

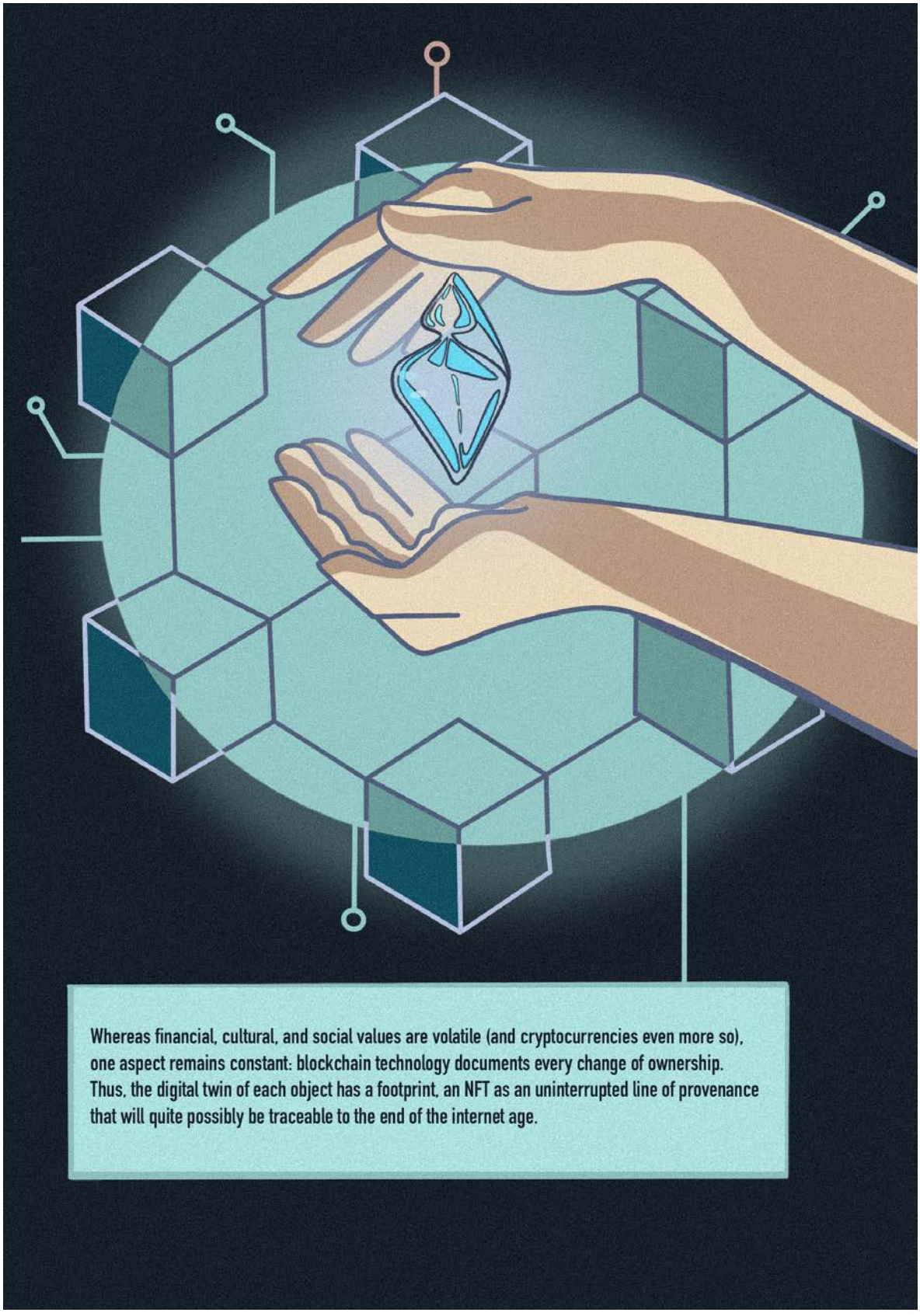
NFT
Let me start with the fact that NFTs blew up the internet and revolutionized digital marketing.
João Gabriel Rizek
Also, NFTs have their own financial rules.
It looks like a utopia.
But we will discuss this topic and try to find out if this is really the case. Hopefully today we can talk about the pros and cons of NFTs, the problems that are associated with them, and the potential of NFTs.


Norma Ladewig and I (Grit Dommes) are pleased to open this section of today's Future Lab with an artist's perspective on NFTs, and to introduce you to Sophia Pompéry and Stephan van Kuyk, who will share their experiences with NFTs.
I am pleased to introduce Stefan. He is an active participant in the contemporary art community and a curator of the community "Artist stop being poor," and we look forward to discussing the opportunities and challenges NFTs offer to contemporary artists. I would now like to give the floor to Sophia.


Sophia Pompéry
Crypto Note, 2022
"If money doesn't stink,
then what do cryptocurrencies
smell like?"
I am a sculptor in a certain sense,
I am interested in physics and all kinds of of measuring tools, maps, and currency systems.

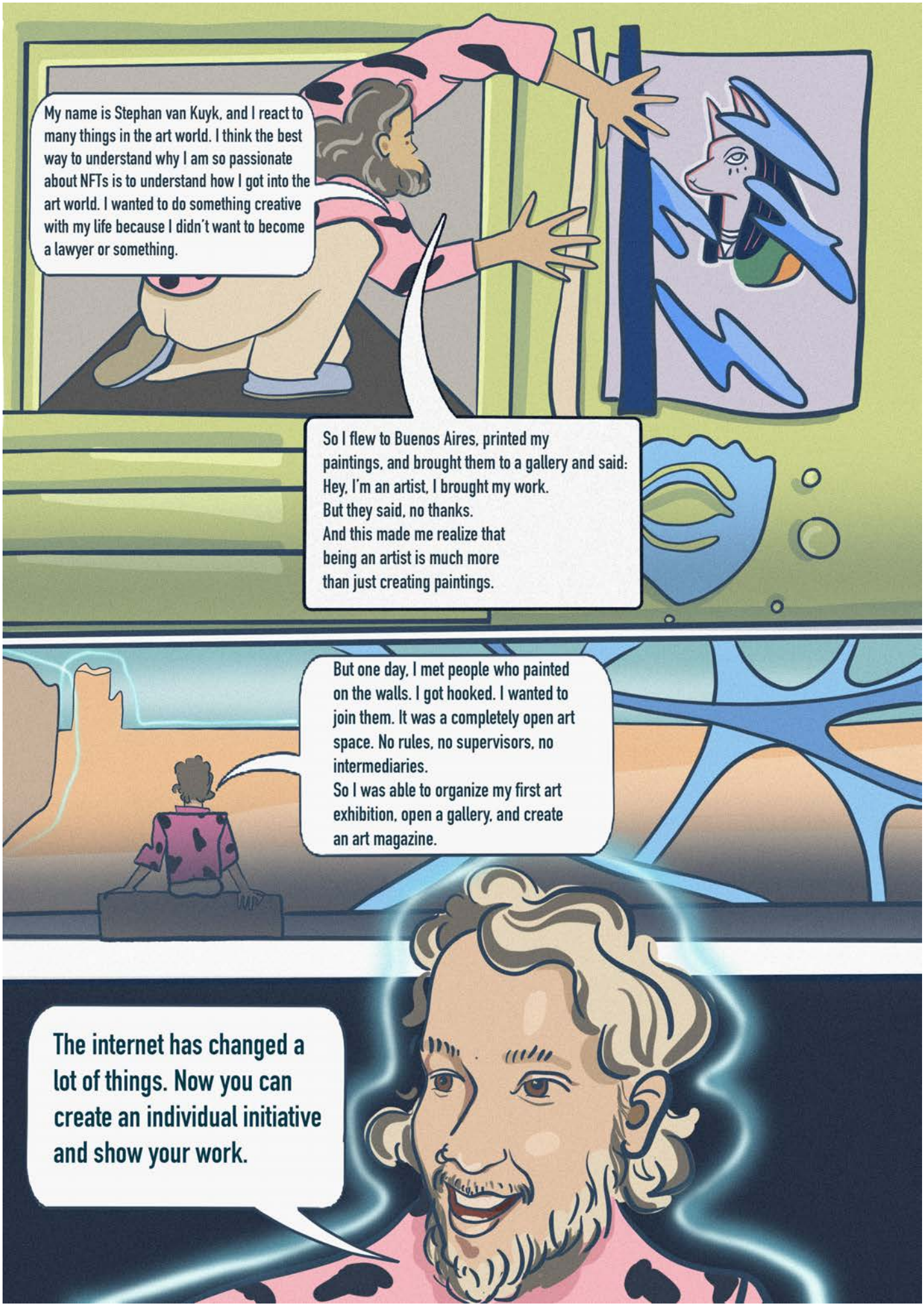

And I created an edition of 16 perfume flacons made of glass, which are dedicated to Ethereum.
Now as you can see, the glass flacon cannot be opened without breaking the glass, so the puzzle regarding the smell of money can only be solved by destroying the object.


What works of art and currencies have in common is that everybody attributes a different importance to them. Their value is a promise, and is based on collective trust.
I play with the belief in a digital (virtual) currency and set staggered prices for the flacons in the cryptocurrencies they represent, which are however subject to sharp exchange rate fluctuations.



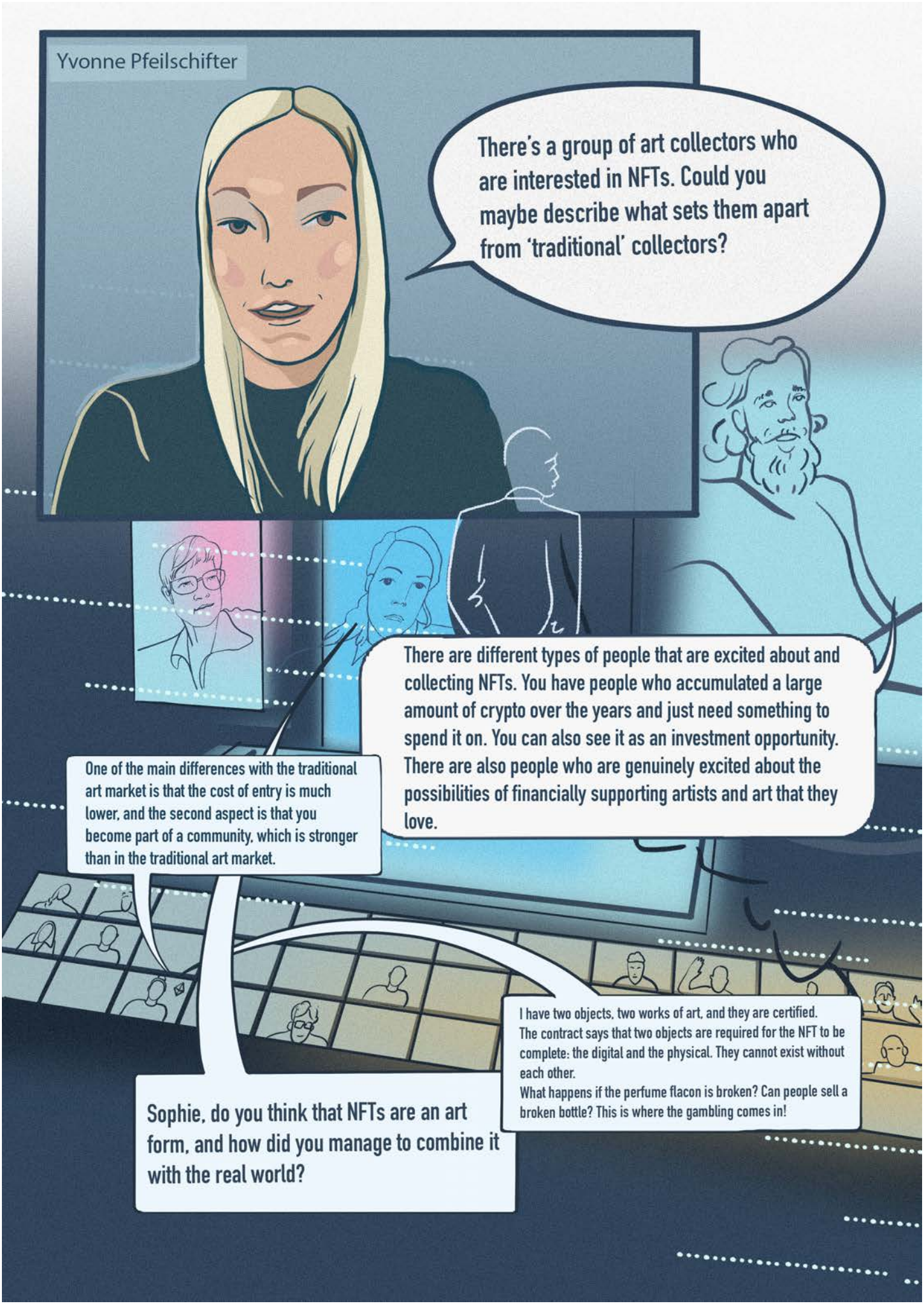
Whereas financial, cultural, and social values are volatile (and cryptocurrencies even more so), one aspect remains constant: blockchain technology documents every change of ownership. Thus, the digital twin of each object has a footprint, an NFT as an uninterrupted line of provenance that will quite possibly be traceable to the end of the internet age.

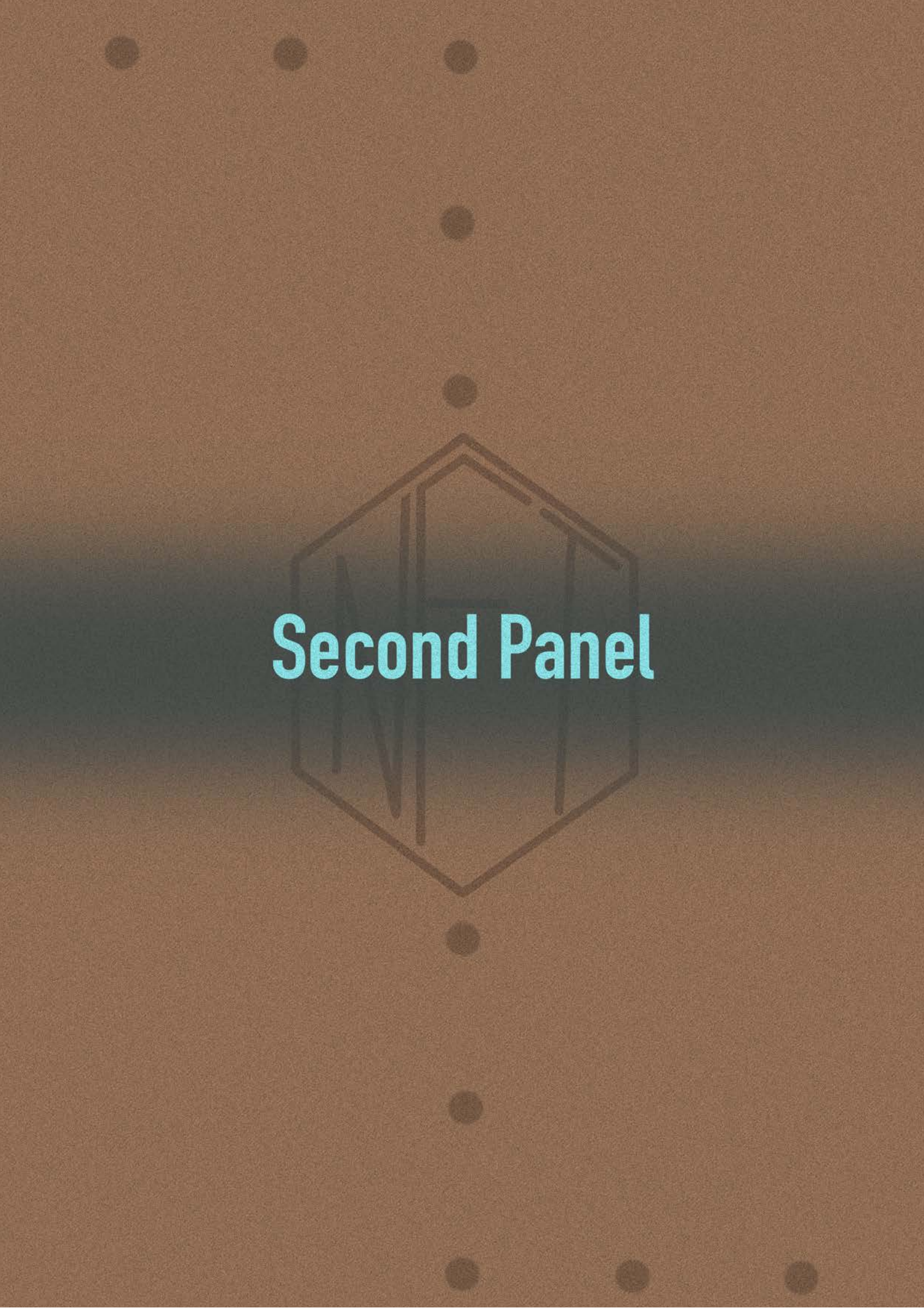
Sophia, we are already have many questions and a lot to talk about, but before we enter into discussion with you, we would like to hear from Stephan. Stephan, the floor is yours.
THINK

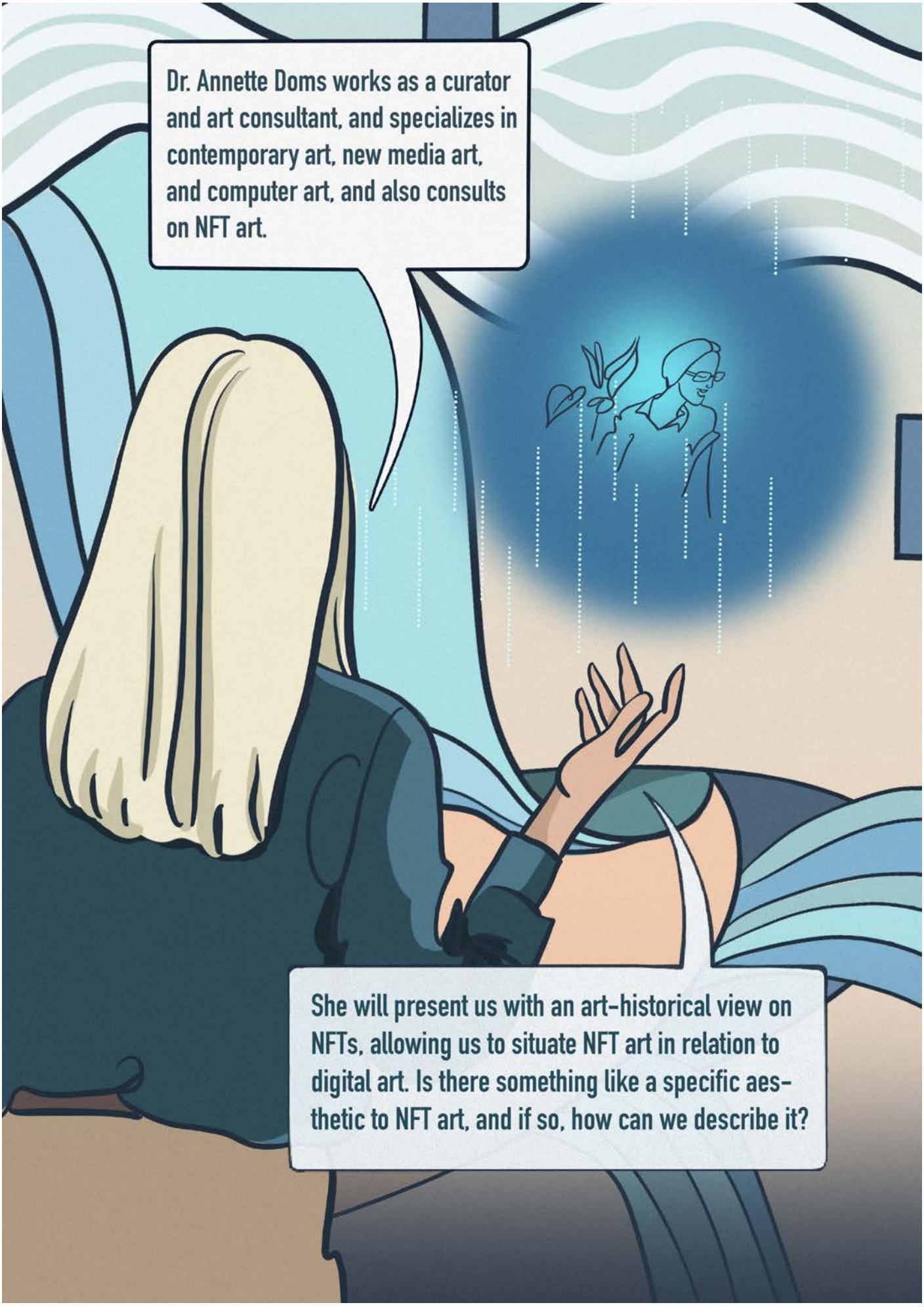

My name is Stephan van Kuyk, and I react to many things in the art world. I think the best way to understand why I am so passionate about NFTs is to understand how I got into the art world. I wanted to do something creative with my life because I didn't want to become a lawyer or something.
So I flew to Buenos Aires, printed my paintings, and brought them to a gallery and said: Hey, I'm an artist, I brought my work.
But they said, no thanks.
And this made me realize that being an artist is much more than just creating paintings.
But one day, I met people who painted on the walls. I got hooked. I wanted to join them. It was a completely open art space. No rules, no supervisors, no intermediaries.
So I was able to organize my first art exhibition, open a gallery, and create an art magazine.
The internet has changed a lot of things. Now you can create an individual initiative and show your work.

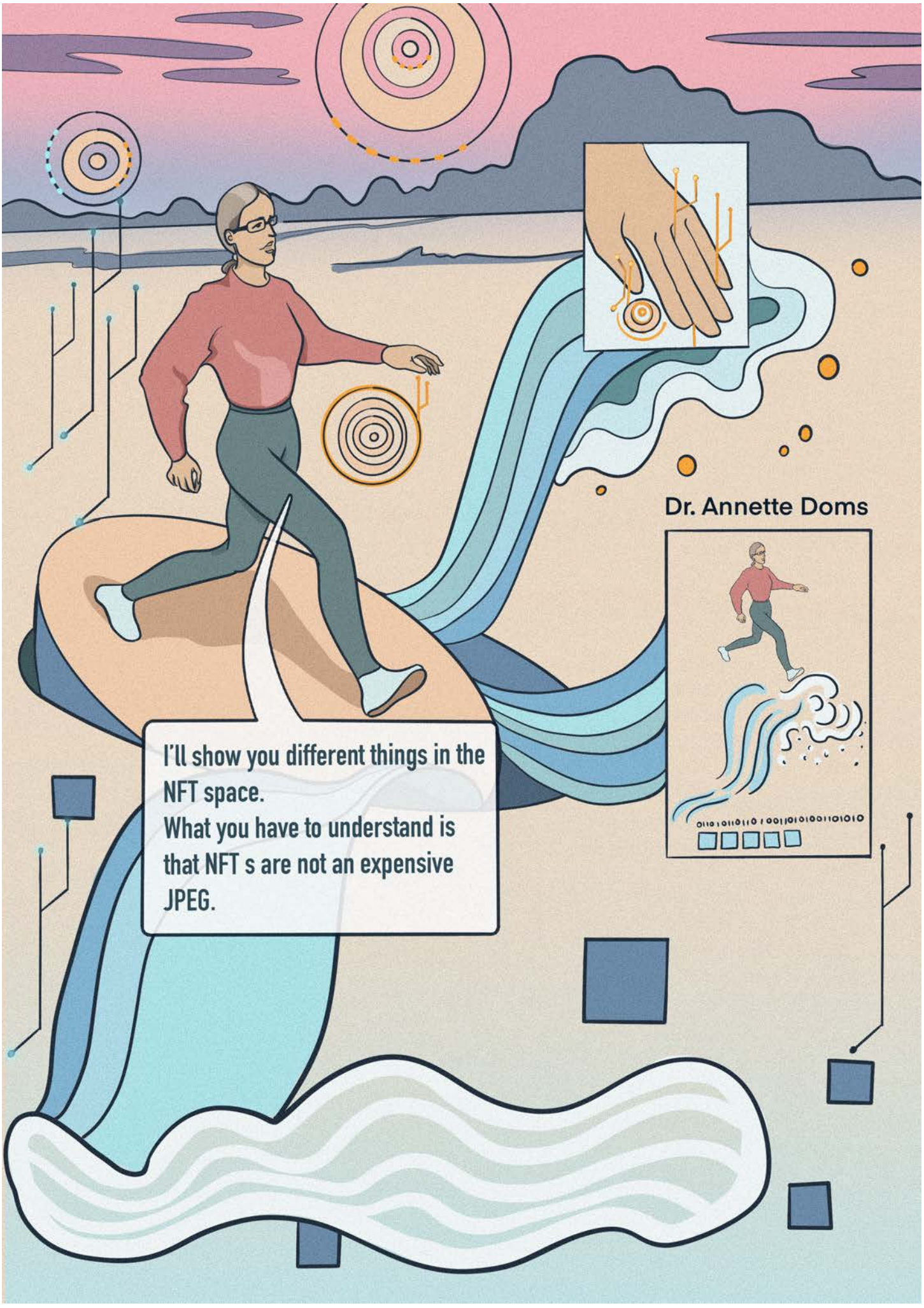
Now we are seeing a new level with NFTs. An important aspect to mention is secondary sales. When you sell an artist's NFT, you are entitled to a percentage of that secondary sale forever, for as long as the internet exists.
I think that for a lot of artists, NFTs can be what street art was for me. And in those days, you know, like in the Wild West, you didn't need permission to participate in the art market, you just showed up, did your work, told your story, and then interacted directly with the audience, instead of waiting for people to give you permission and, you know, give you space. You created your own space.

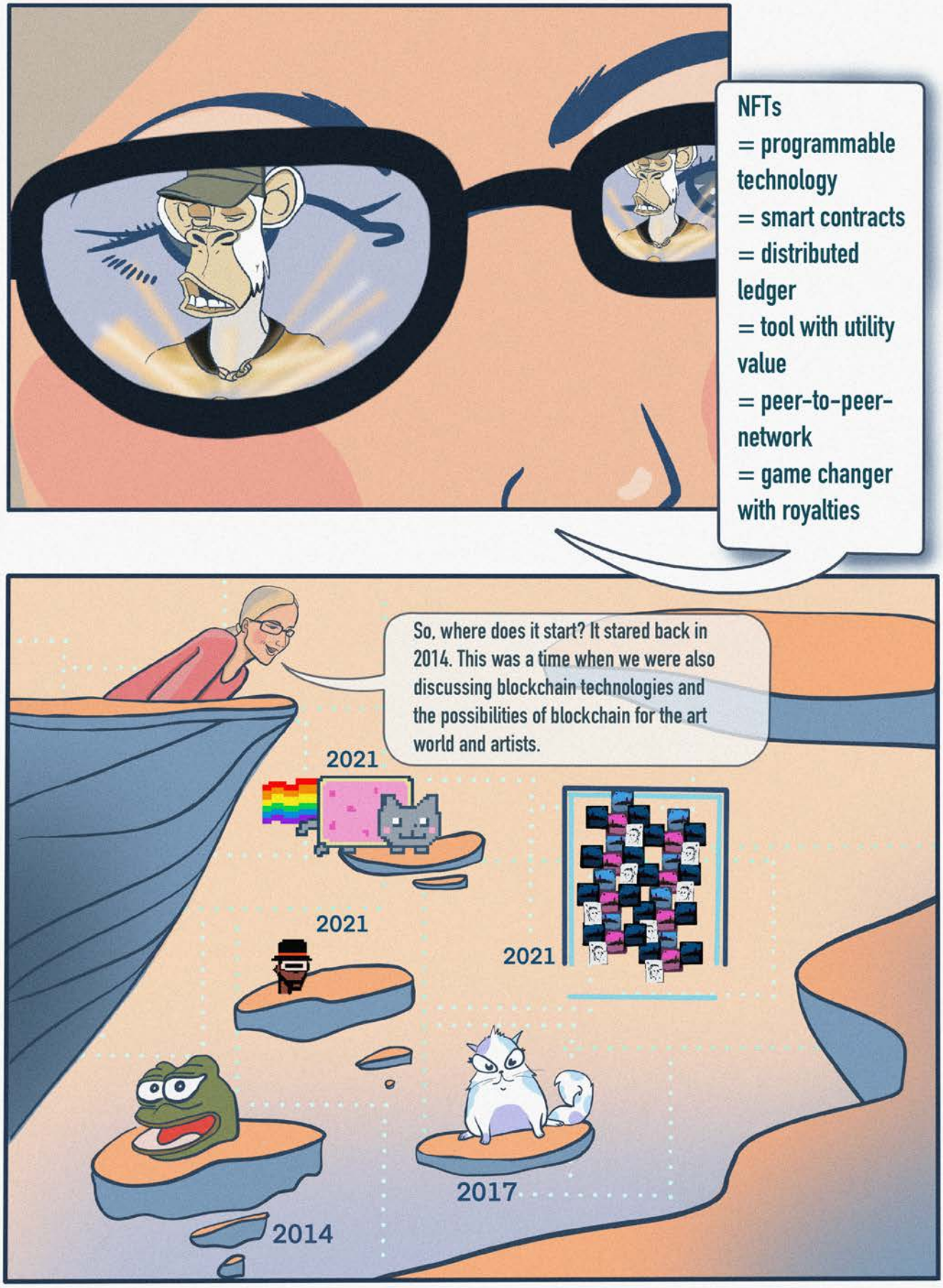
• Florian Schlittgen

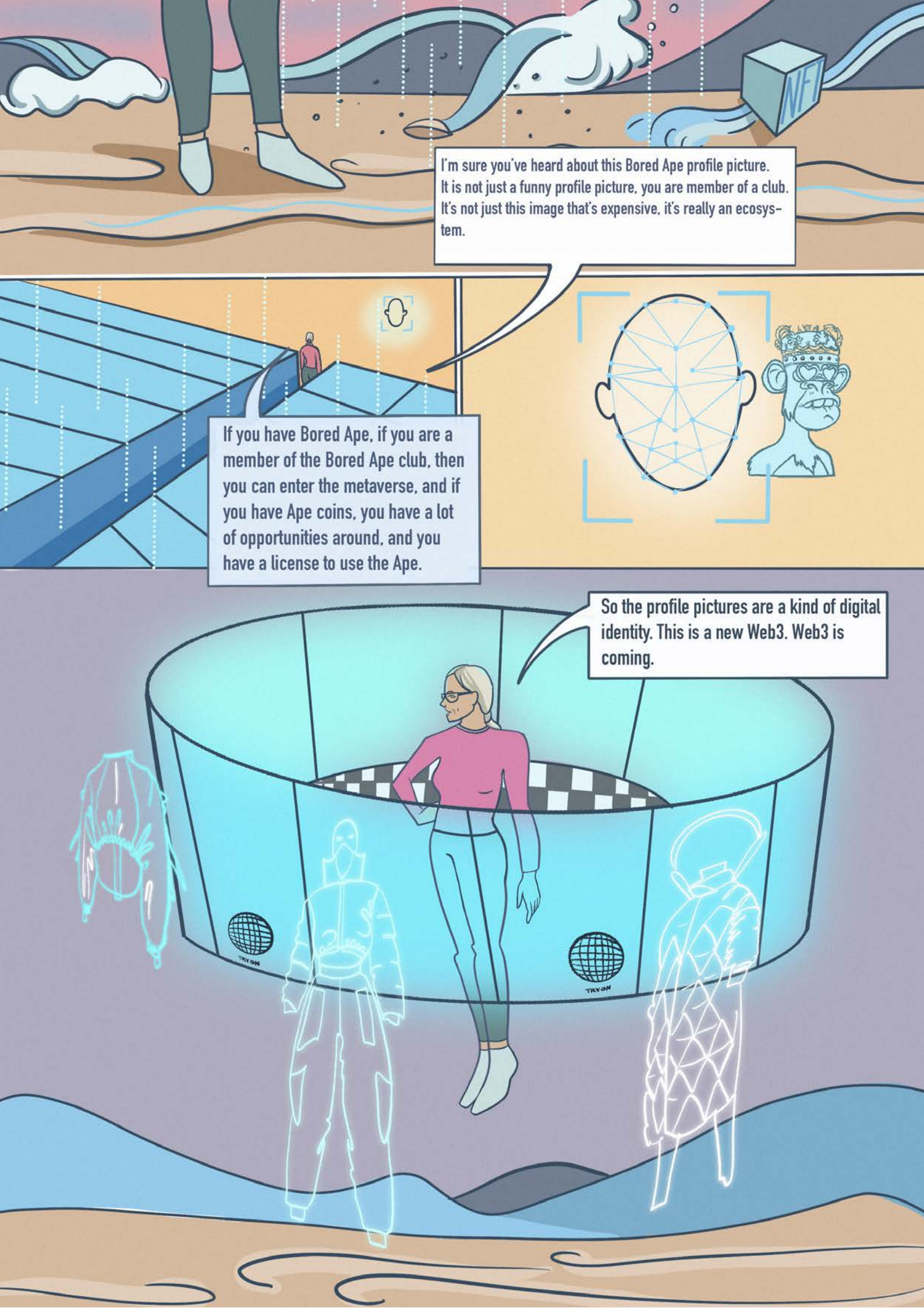

Yvonne Pfeilschifter
There's a group of art collectors who are interested in NFTs. Could you maybe describe what sets them apart from 'traditional' collectors?
There are different types of people that are excited about and collecting NFTs. You have people who accumulated a large amount of crypto over the years and just need something to spend it on. You can also see it as an investment opportunity. There are also people who are genuinely excited about the possibilities of financially supporting artists and art that they love.
One of the main differences with the traditional art market is that the cost of entry is much lower, and the second aspect is that you become part of a community, which is stronger than in the traditional art market.
I have two objects, two works of art, and they are certified. The contract says that two objects are required for the NFT to be complete: the digital and the physical. They cannot exist without each other.
What happens if the perfume flacon is broken? Can people sell a broken bottle? This is where the gambling comes in!
Sophie, do you think that NFTs are an art form, and how did you manage to combine it with the real world?

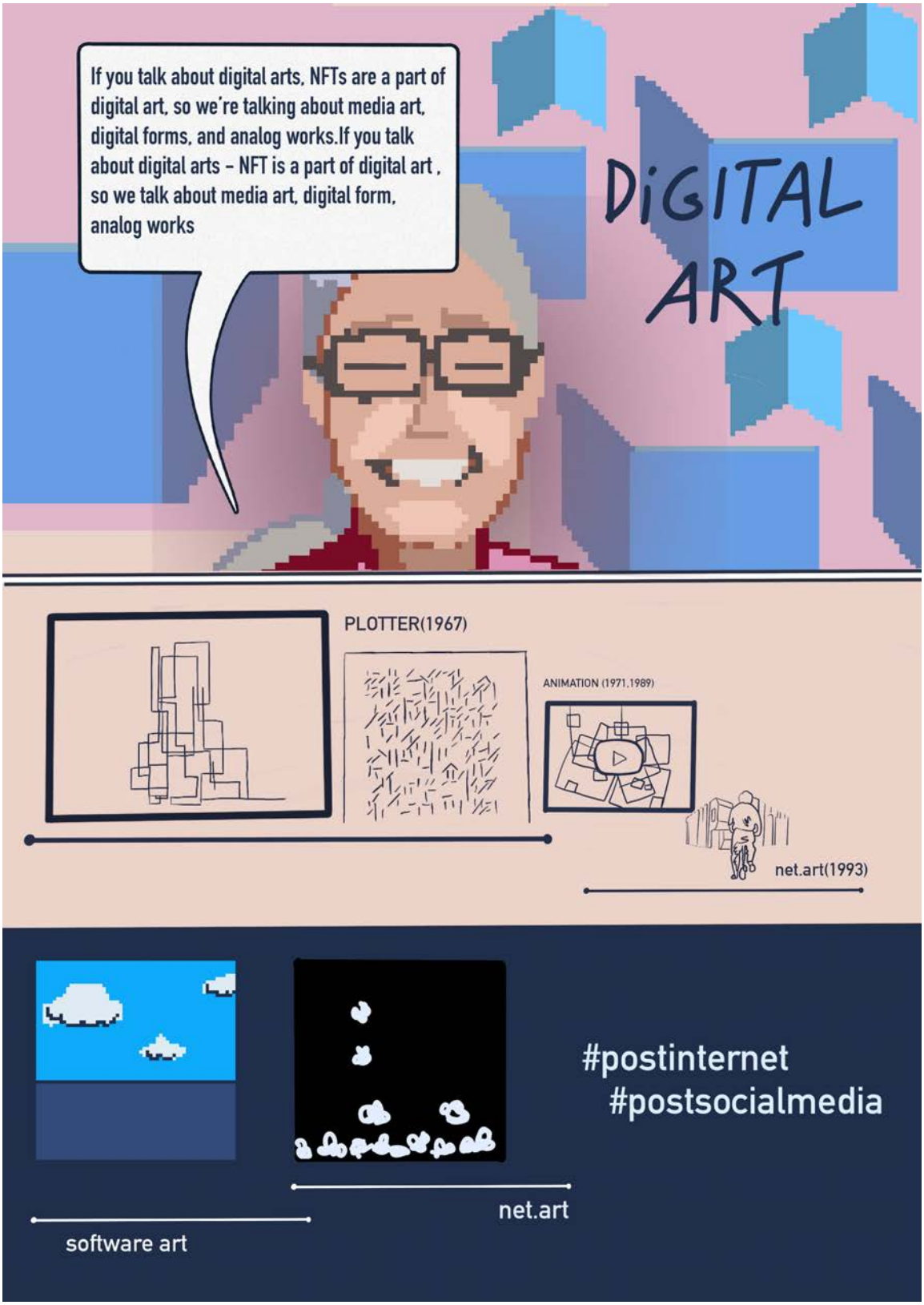

Second Panel

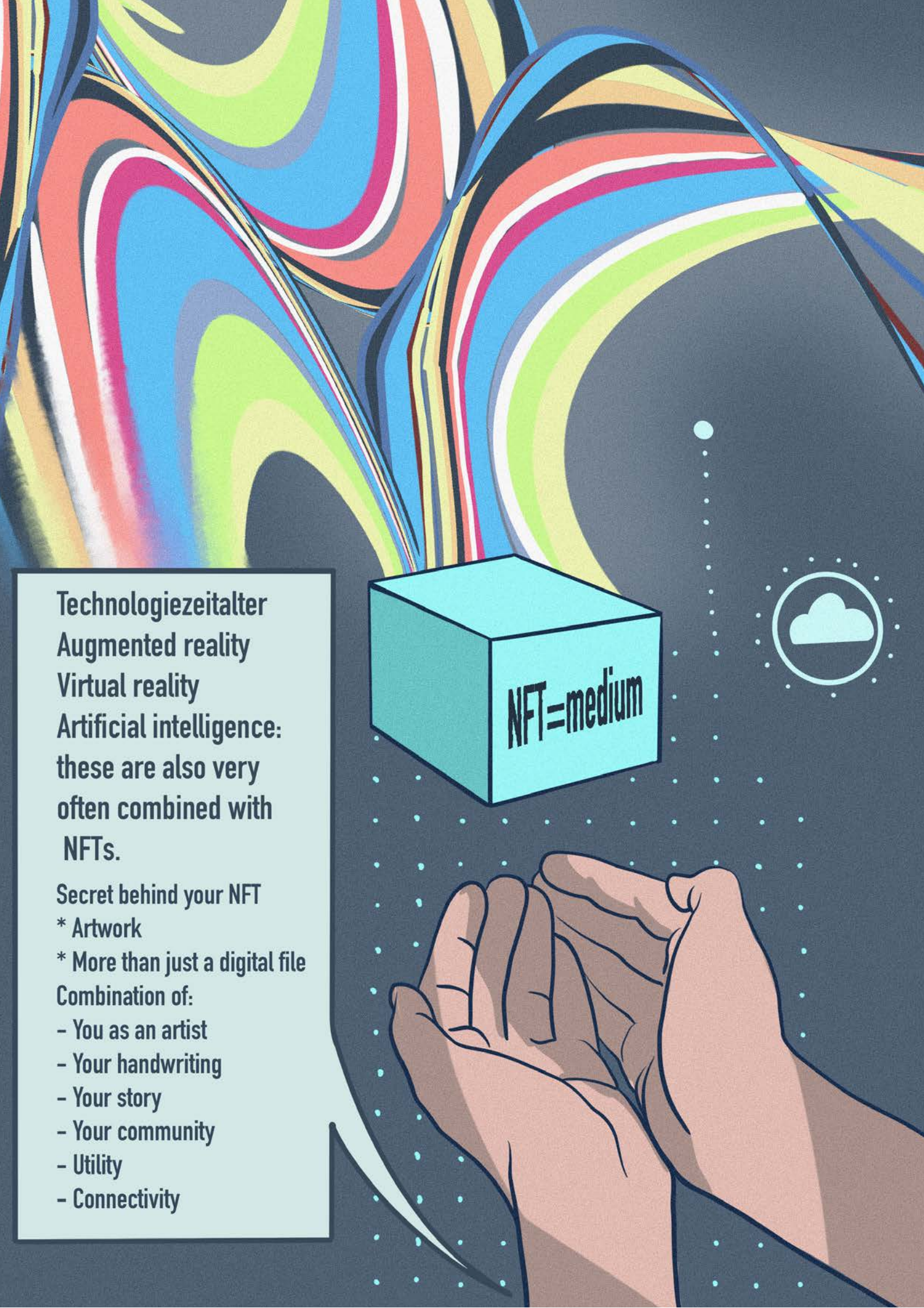

Dr. Annette Doms works as a curator and art consultant, and specializes in contemporary art, new media art, and computer art, and also consults on NFT art.
She will present us with an art-historical view on NFTs, allowing us to situate NFT art in relation to digital art. Is there something like a specific aesthetic to NFT art, and if so, how can we describe it?


Dr. Annette Doms
I'll show you different things in the NFT space.
What you have to understand is that NFT s are not an expensive JPEG.


NFTs
= programmable technology
= smart contracts
= distributed ledger
= tool with utility value
= peer-to-peer-network
= game changer with royalties
So, where does it start? It stared back in 2014. This was a time when we were also discussing blockchain technologies and the possibilities of blockchain for the art world and artists.
2021
2021
2021
2017
2014

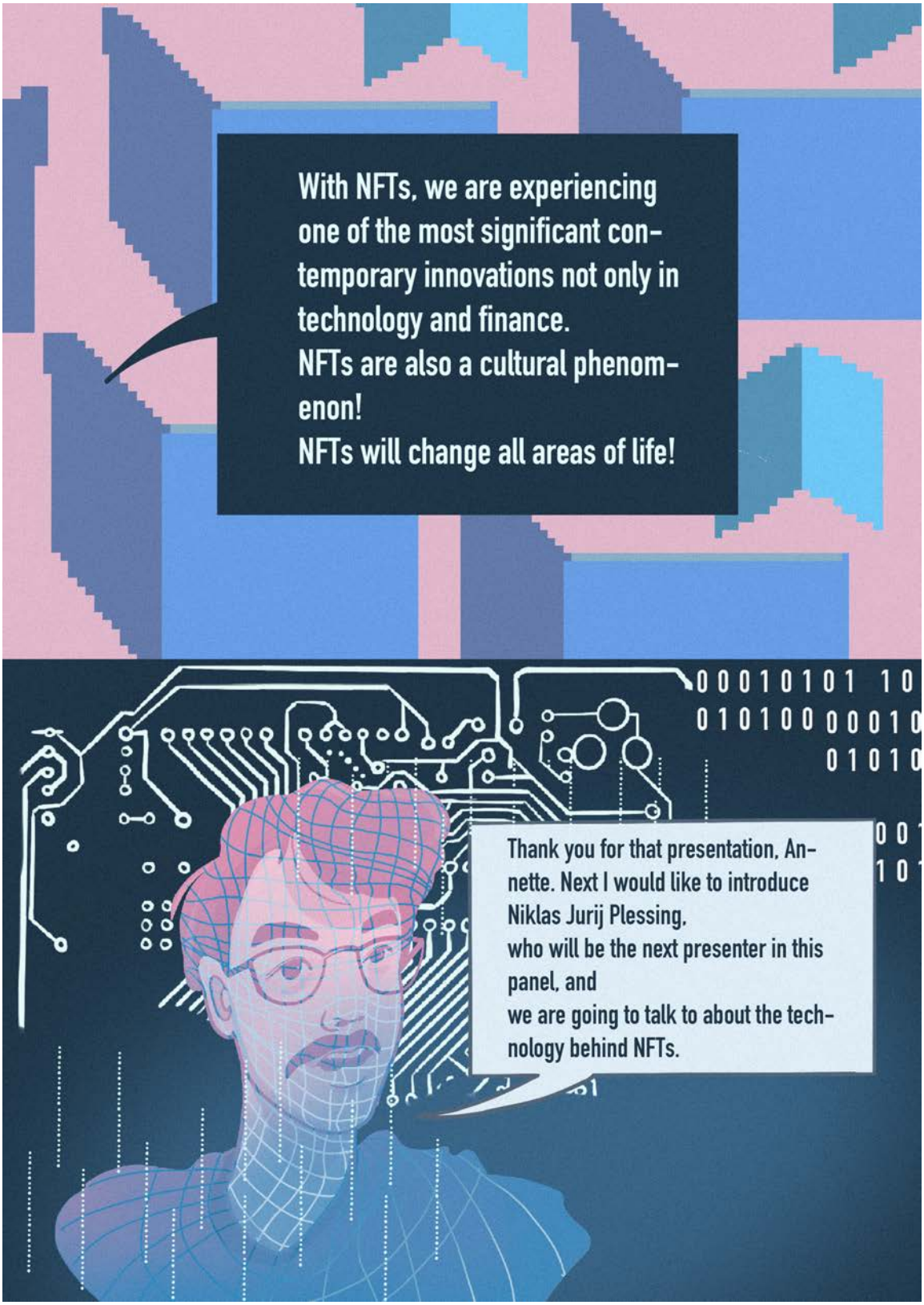

NFT
I'm sure you've heard about this Bored Ape profile picture. It is not just a funny profile picture, you are member of a club. It's not just this image that's expensive, it's really an ecosystem.
If you have Bored Ape, if you are a member of the Bored Ape club, then you can enter the metaverse, and if you have Ape coins, you have a lot of opportunities around, and you have a license to use the Ape.
So the profile pictures are a kind of digital identity. This is a new Web3. Web3 is coming.
TRY ON
TRY ON

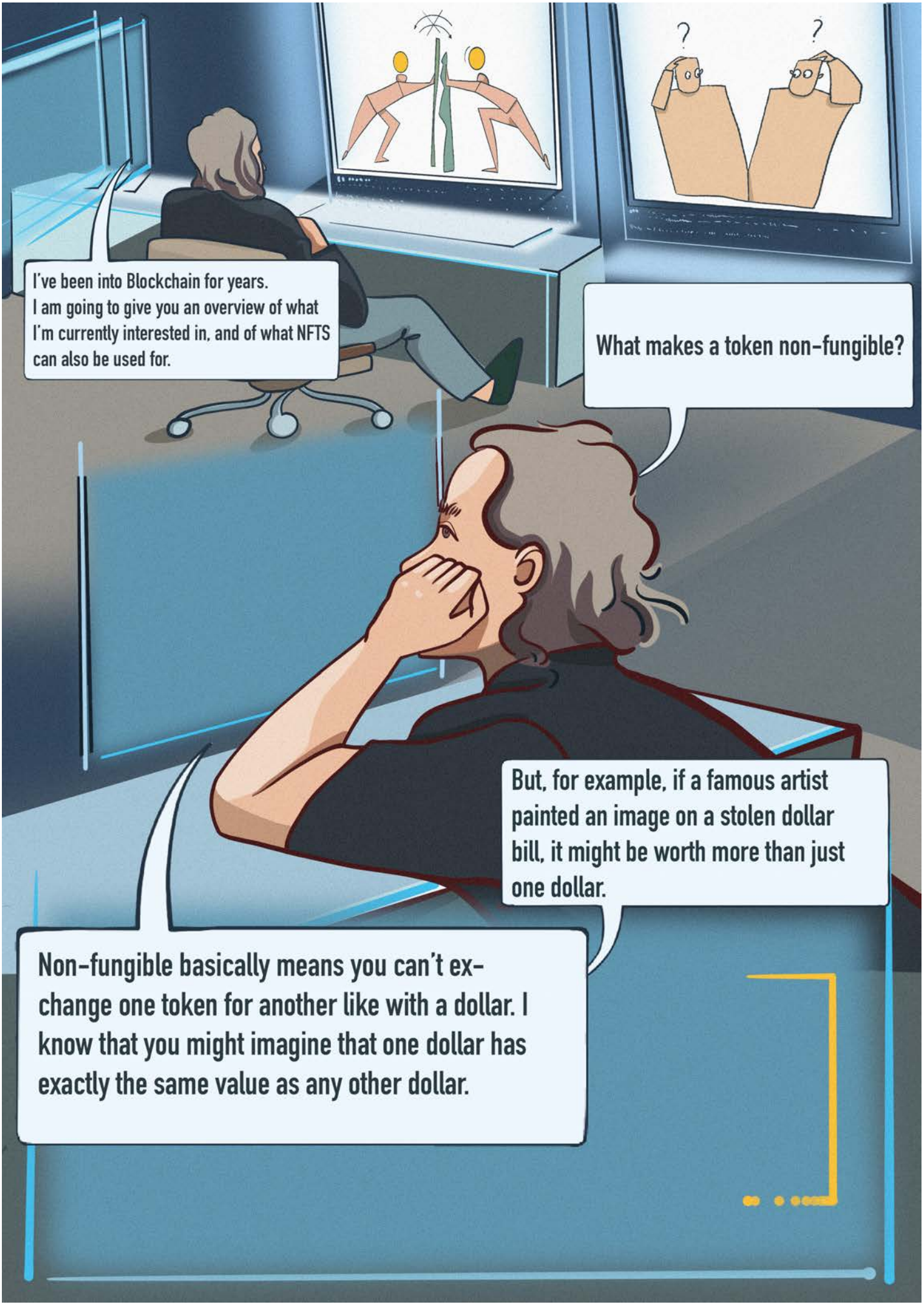

If you talk about digital arts, NFTs are a part of digital art, so we're talking about media art, digital forms, and analog works.If you talk about digital arts - NFT is a part of digital art , so we talk about media art, digital form, analog works
DIGITAL ART
PLOTTER(1967)
ANIMATION (1971,1989)
net.art(1993)
#postinternet
#postsocialmedia
net.art
software art

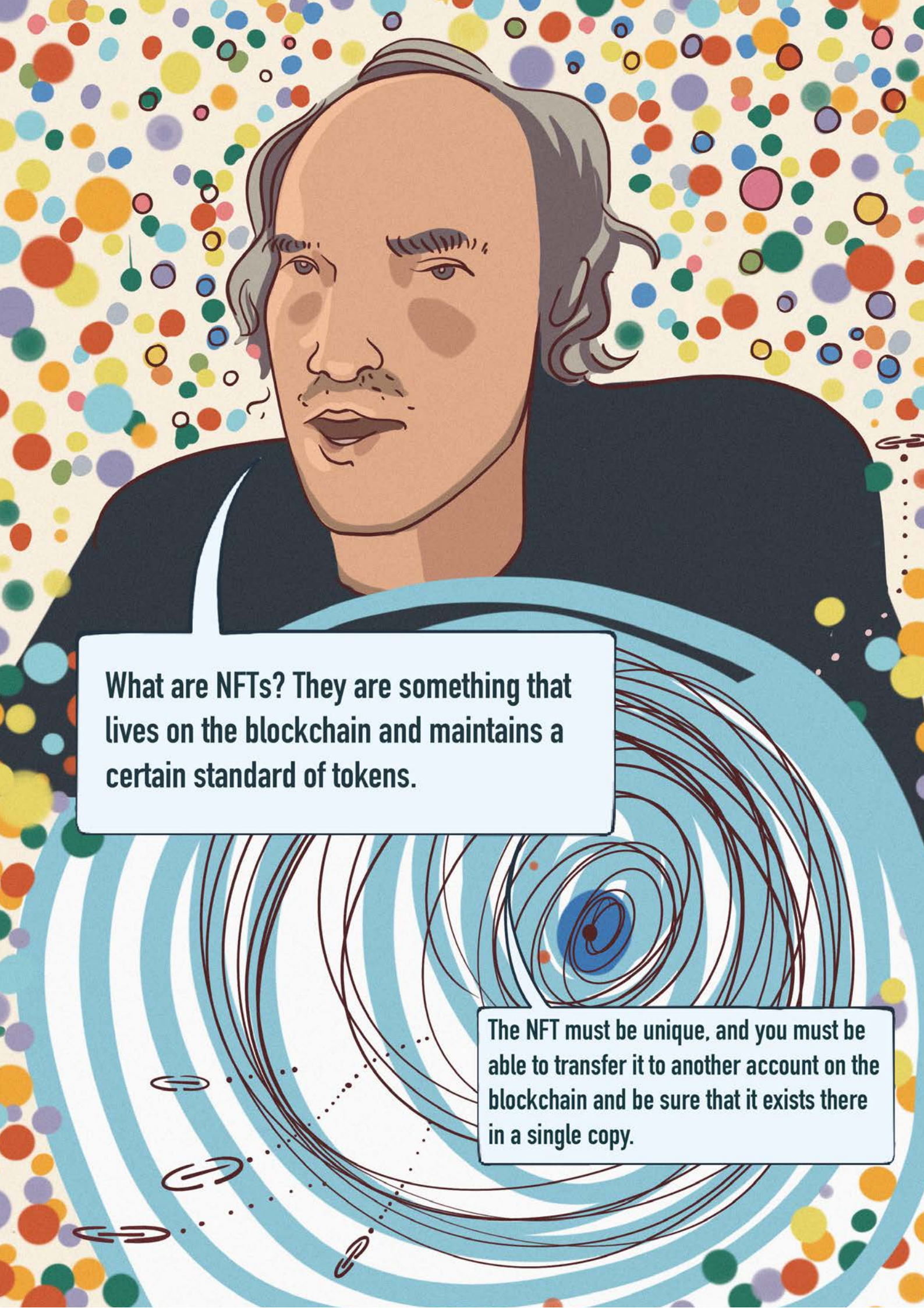


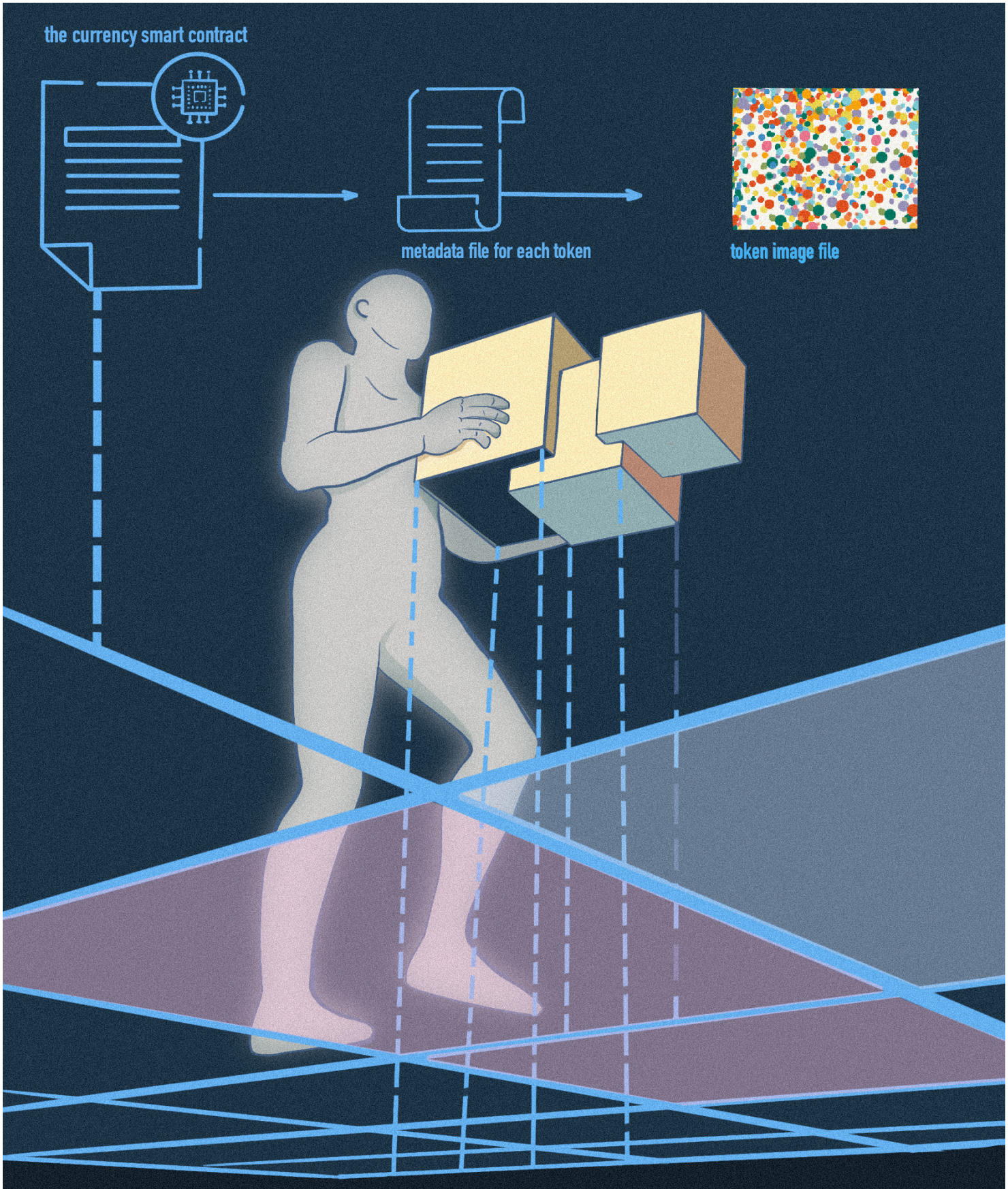
Technologiezeitalter
Augmented reality
Virtual reality
Artificial intelligence:
these are also very
often combined with
NFTs.

Secret behind your NFT
* Artwork
* More than just a digital file
Combination of:
- You as an artist
- Your handwriting
- Your story
- Your community
- Utility
- Connectivity

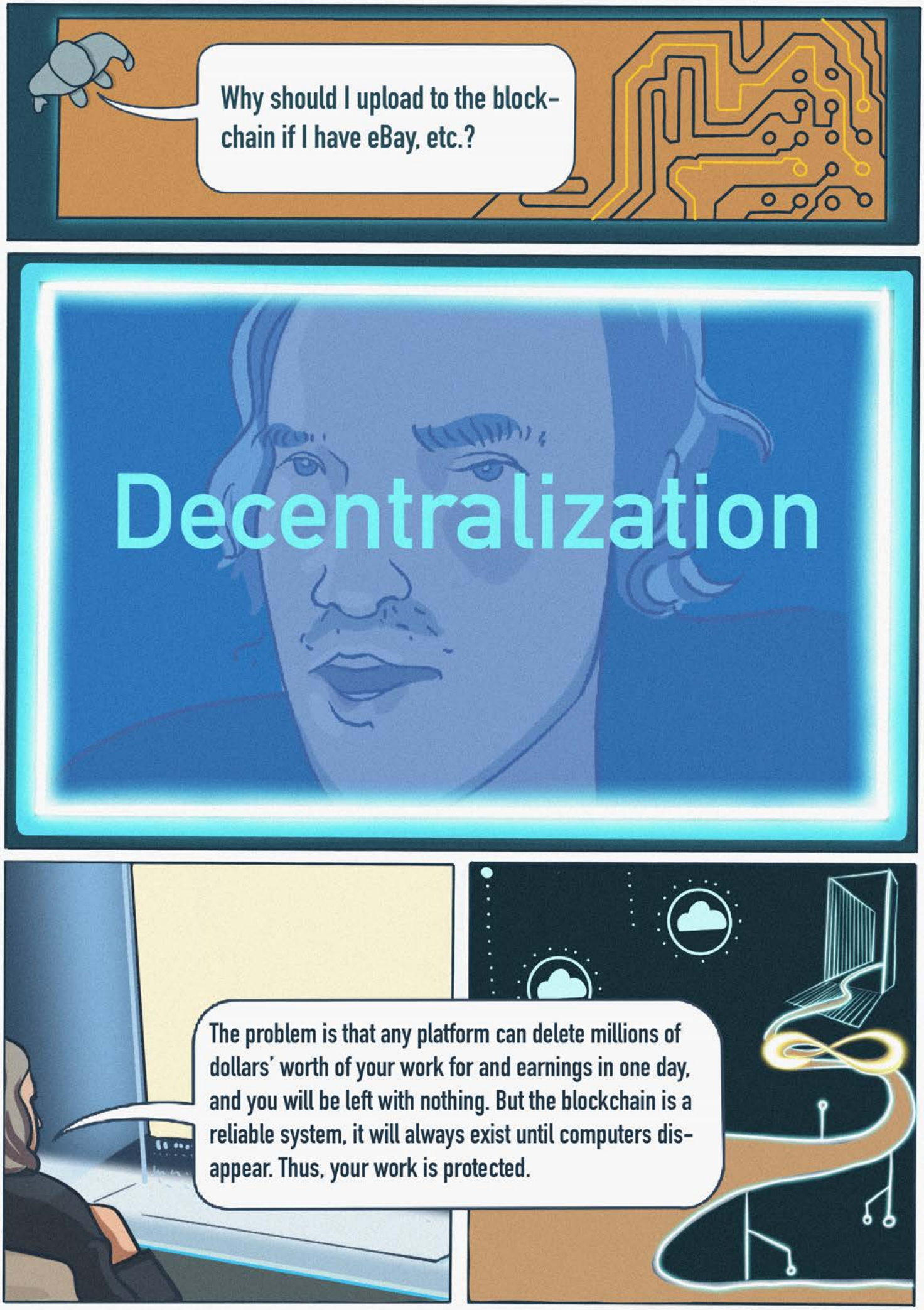

With NFTs, we are experiencing one of the most significant contemporary innovations not only in technology and finance.
NFTs are also a cultural phenomenon!
NFTs will change all areas of life!
Thank you for that presentation, Annette. Next I would like to introduce Niklas Jurij Plessing,
who will be the next presenter in this panel, and
we are going to talk to about the technology behind NFTs.

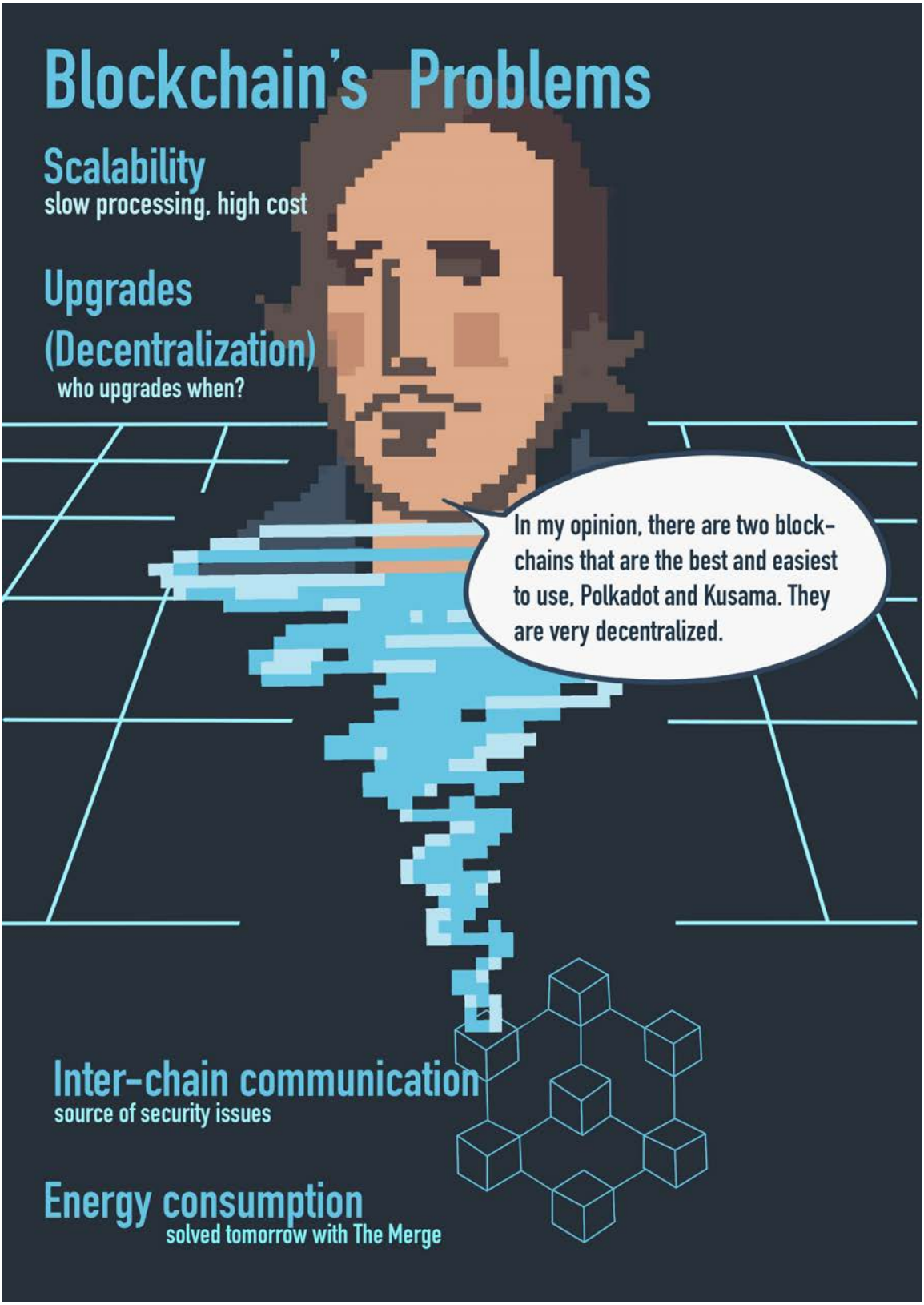

I've been into Blockchain for years.
I am going to give you an overview of what I'm currently interested in, and of what NFTS can also be used for.
What makes a token non-fungible?
But, for example, if a famous artist painted an image on a stolen dollar bill, it might be worth more than just one dollar.
Non-fungible basically means you can't exchange one token for another like with a dollar. I know that you might imagine that one dollar has exactly the same value as any other dollar.

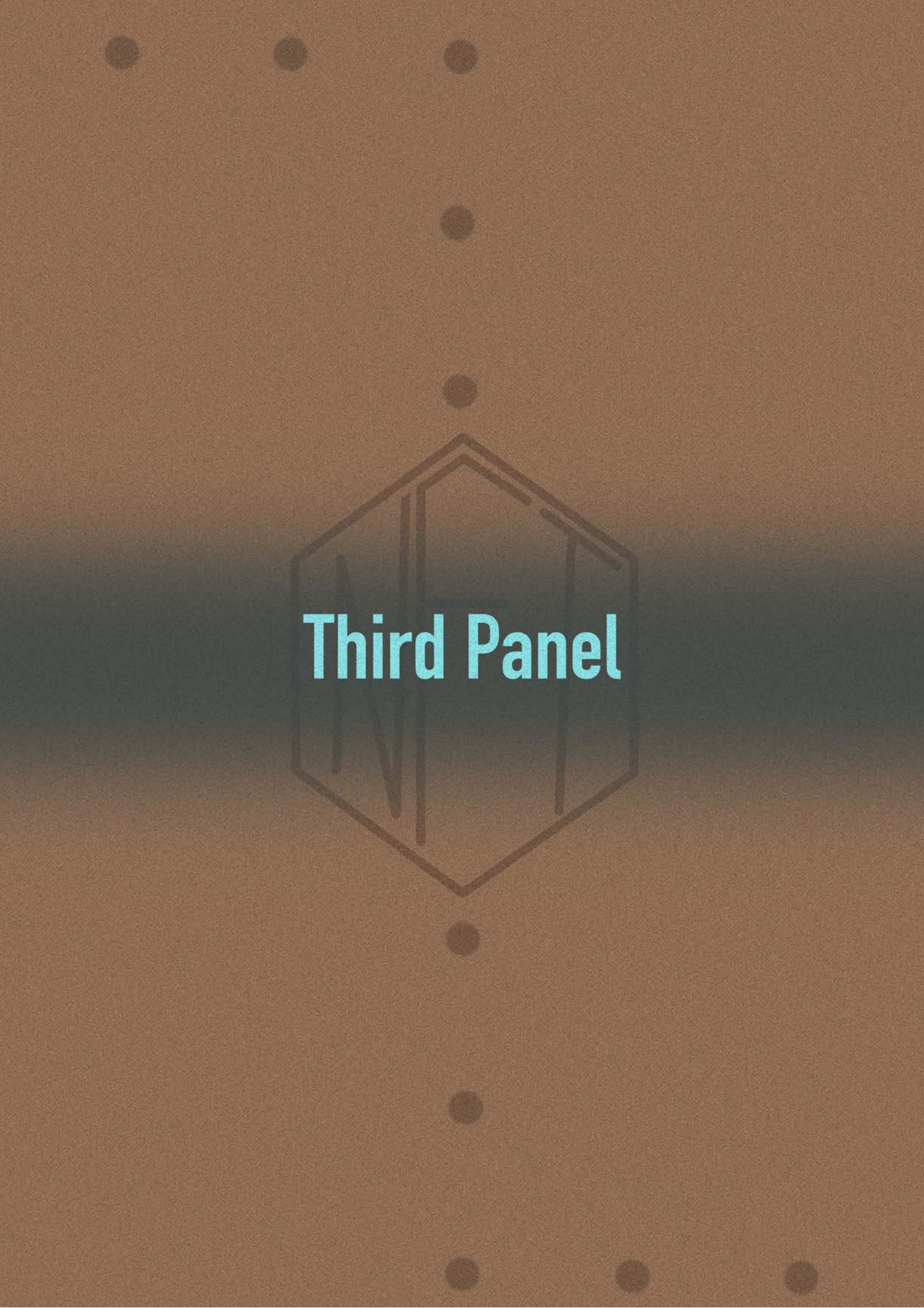

What are NFTs? They are something that lives on the blockchain and maintains a certain standard of tokens.
The NFT must be unique, and you must be able to transfer it to another account on the blockchain and be sure that it exists there in a single copy.

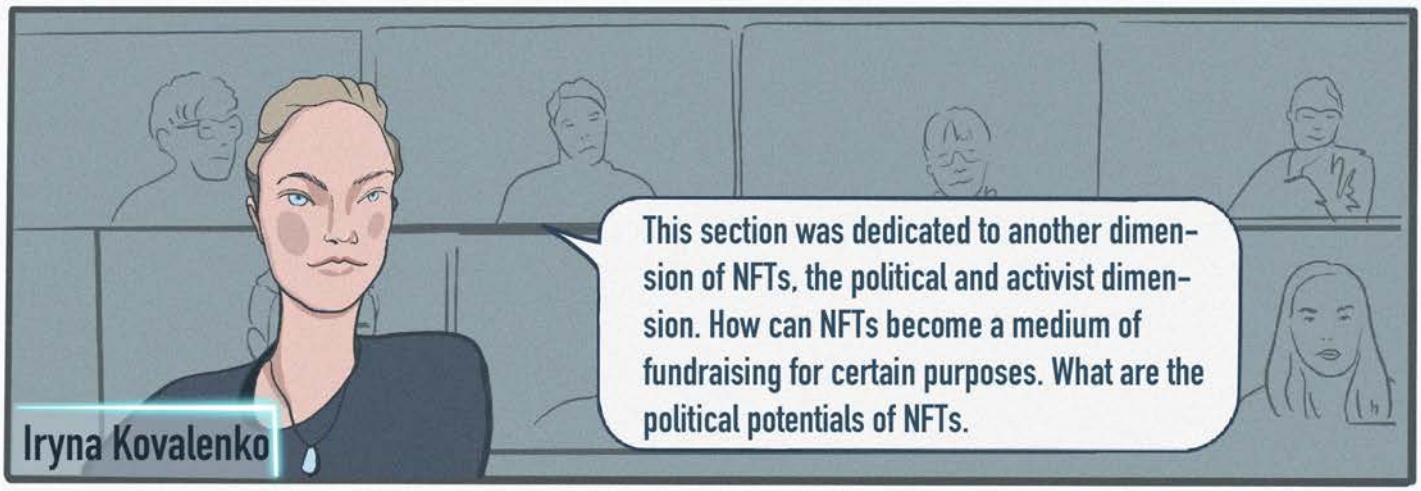


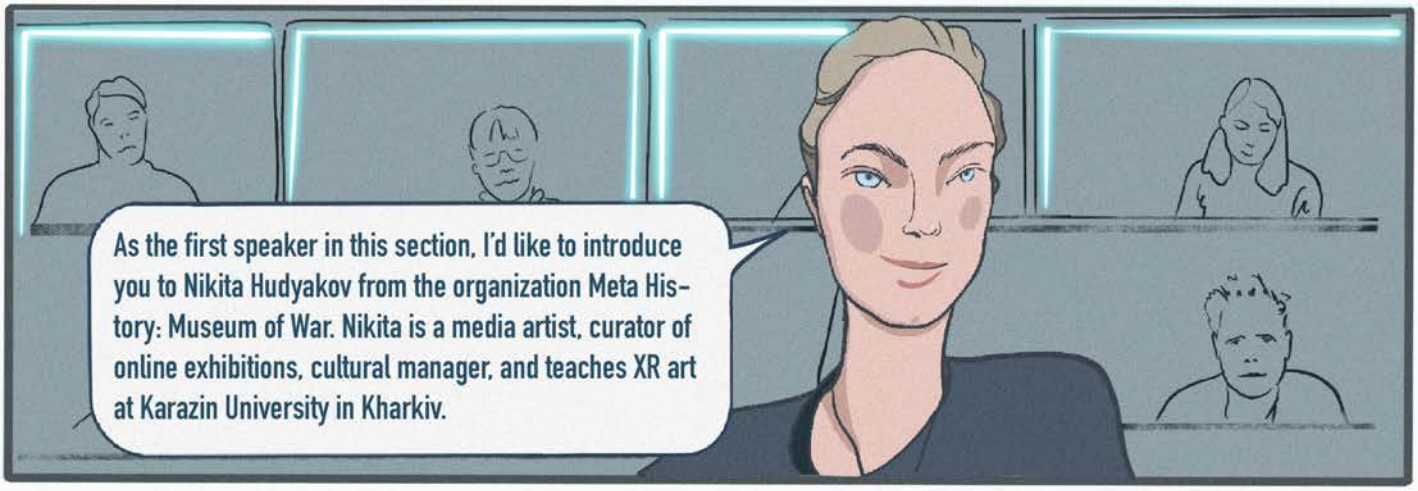
A smart contract is simply a program that can be run on a blockchain.
You can simply upload a smart contract program to the blockchain,
and then everyone who has Ethereum in their wallet will be able to enter these programs.
Each smart contract has a unique token, a unique address, and anyone can view its source code.

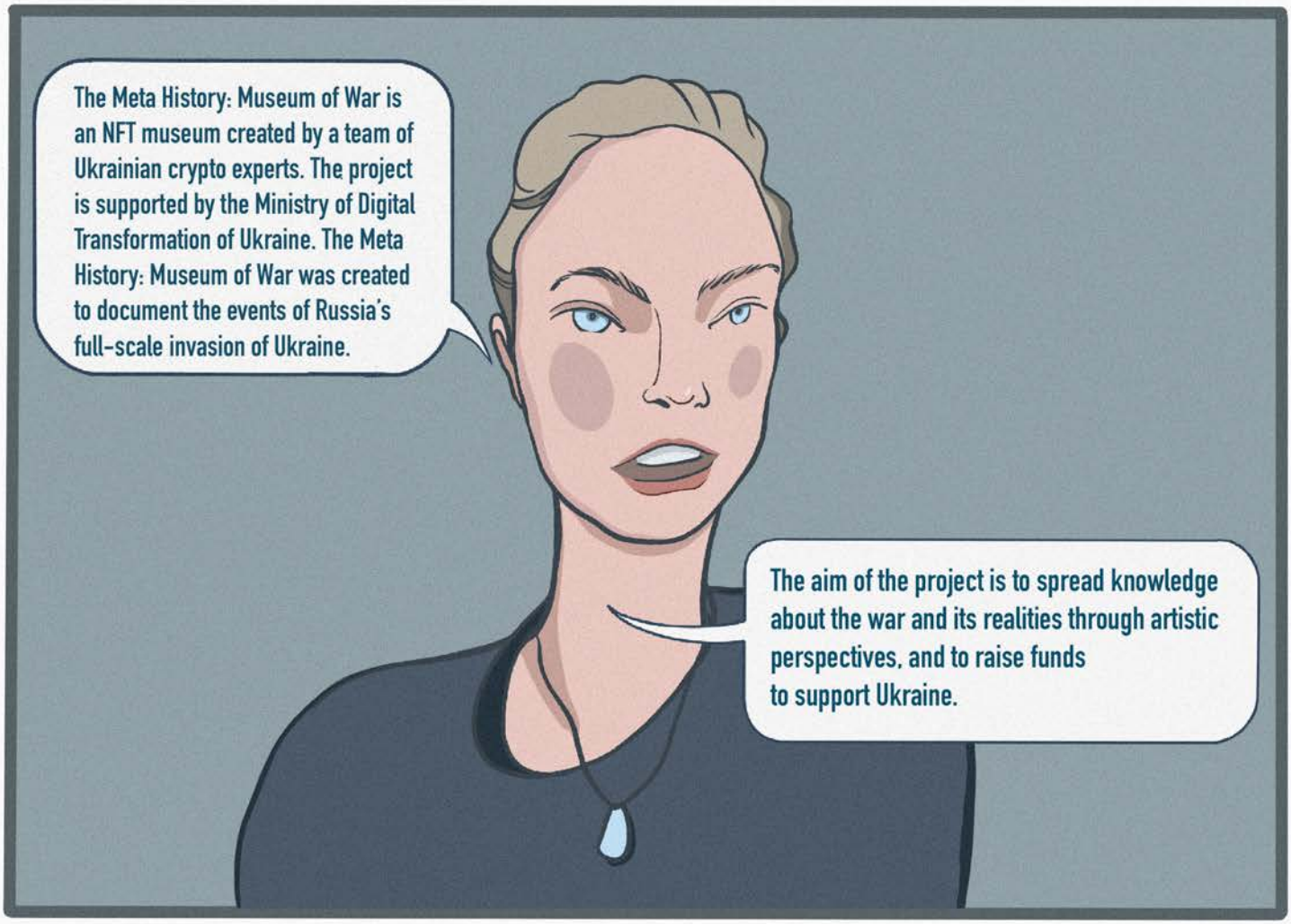

Why should I upload to the block-chain if I have eBay, etc.?
Decentralization
The problem is that any platform can delete millions of dollars' worth of your work for and earnings in one day, and you will be left with nothing. But the blockchain is a reliable system, it will always exist until computers dis-appear. Thus, your work is protected.

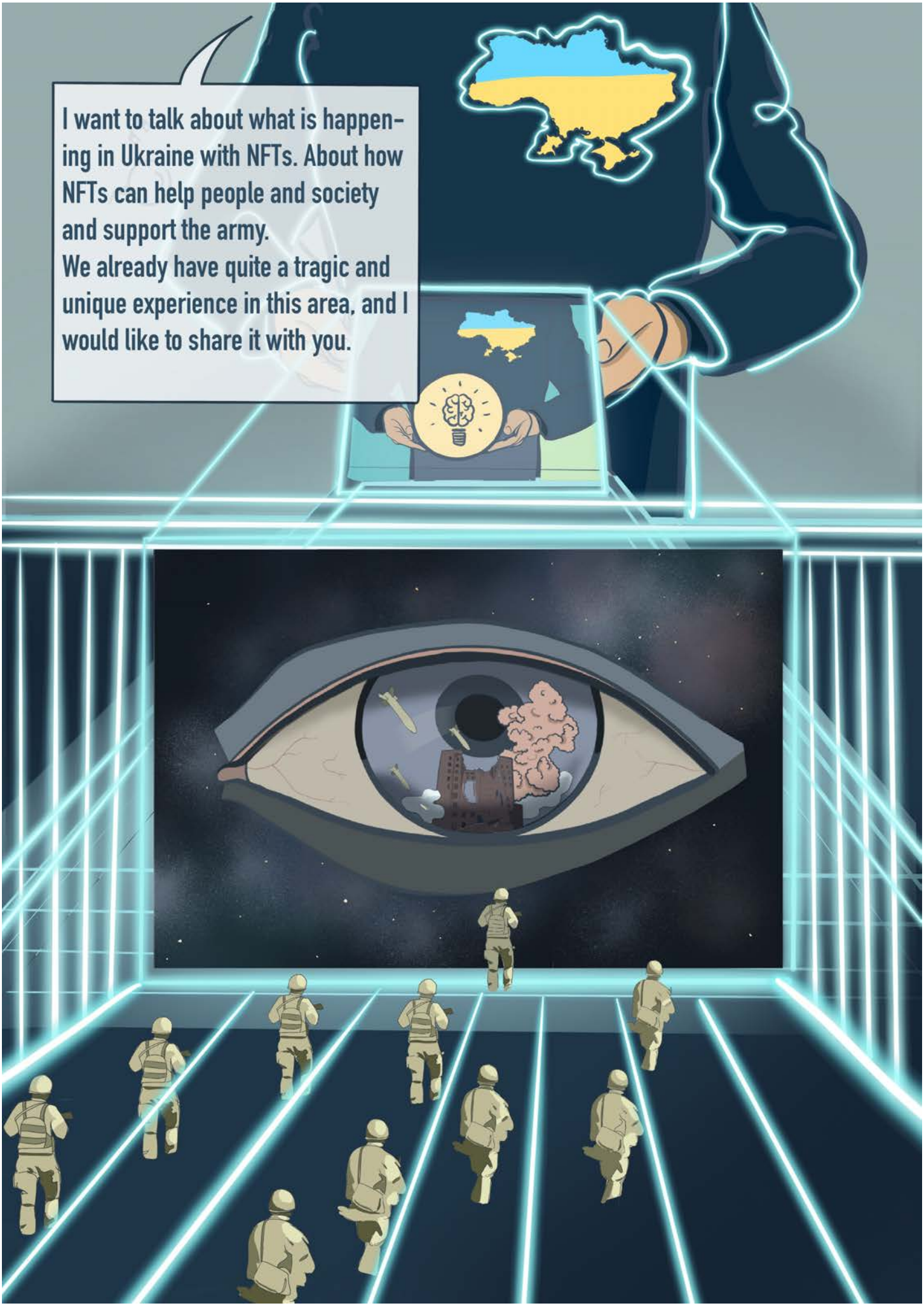

Blockchain's Problems
Scalability
slow processing, high cost
Upgrades
(Decentralization)
who upgrades when?
In my opinion, there are two block-chains that are the best and easiest to use, Polkadot and Kusama. They are very decentralized.
Inter-chain communication
source of security issues
Energy consumption
solved tomorrow with The Merge


Third Panel

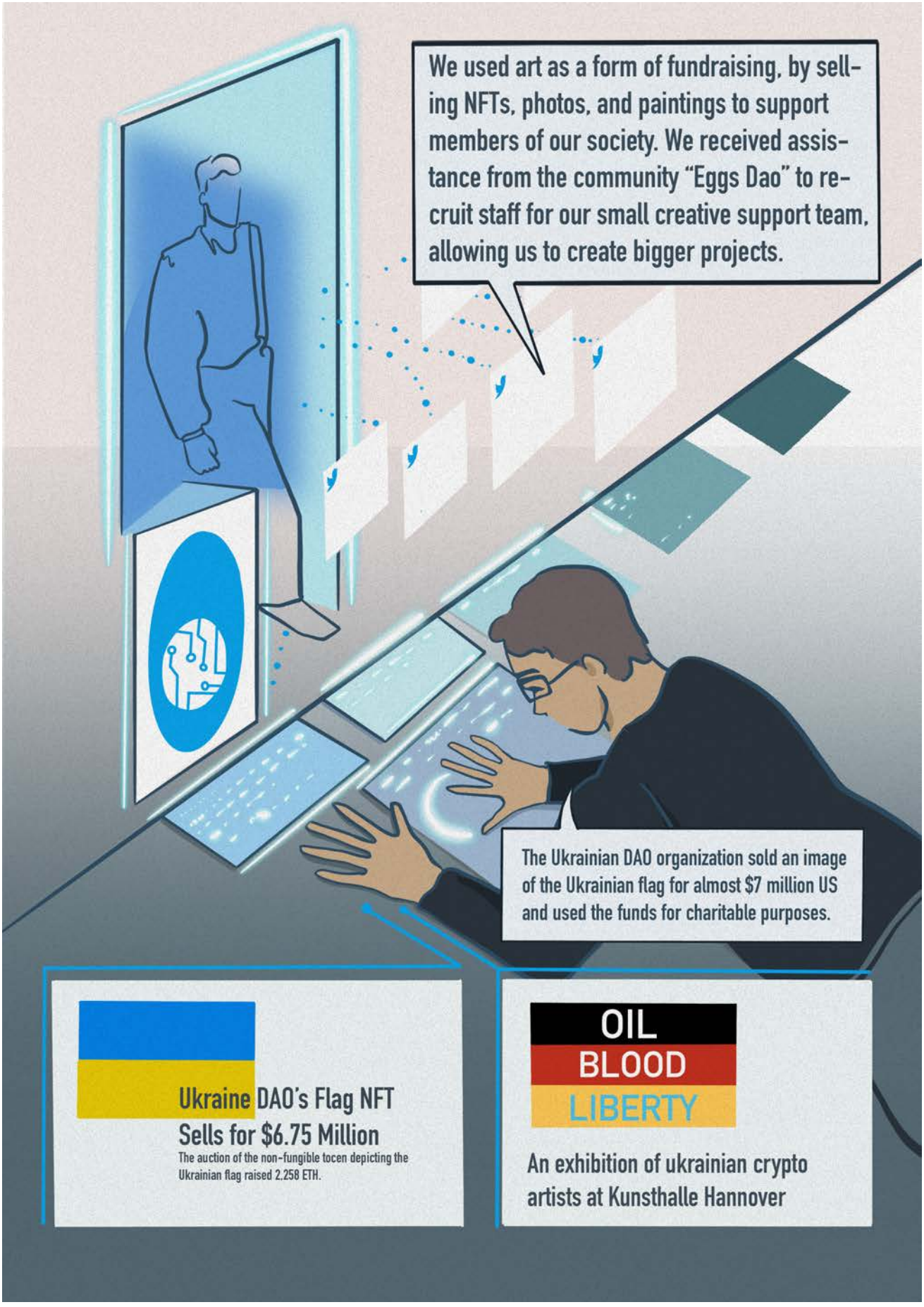

Iryna Kovalenko
This section was dedicated to another dimension of NFTs, the political and activist dimension. How can NFTs become a medium of fundraising for certain purposes. What are the political potentials of NFTs.

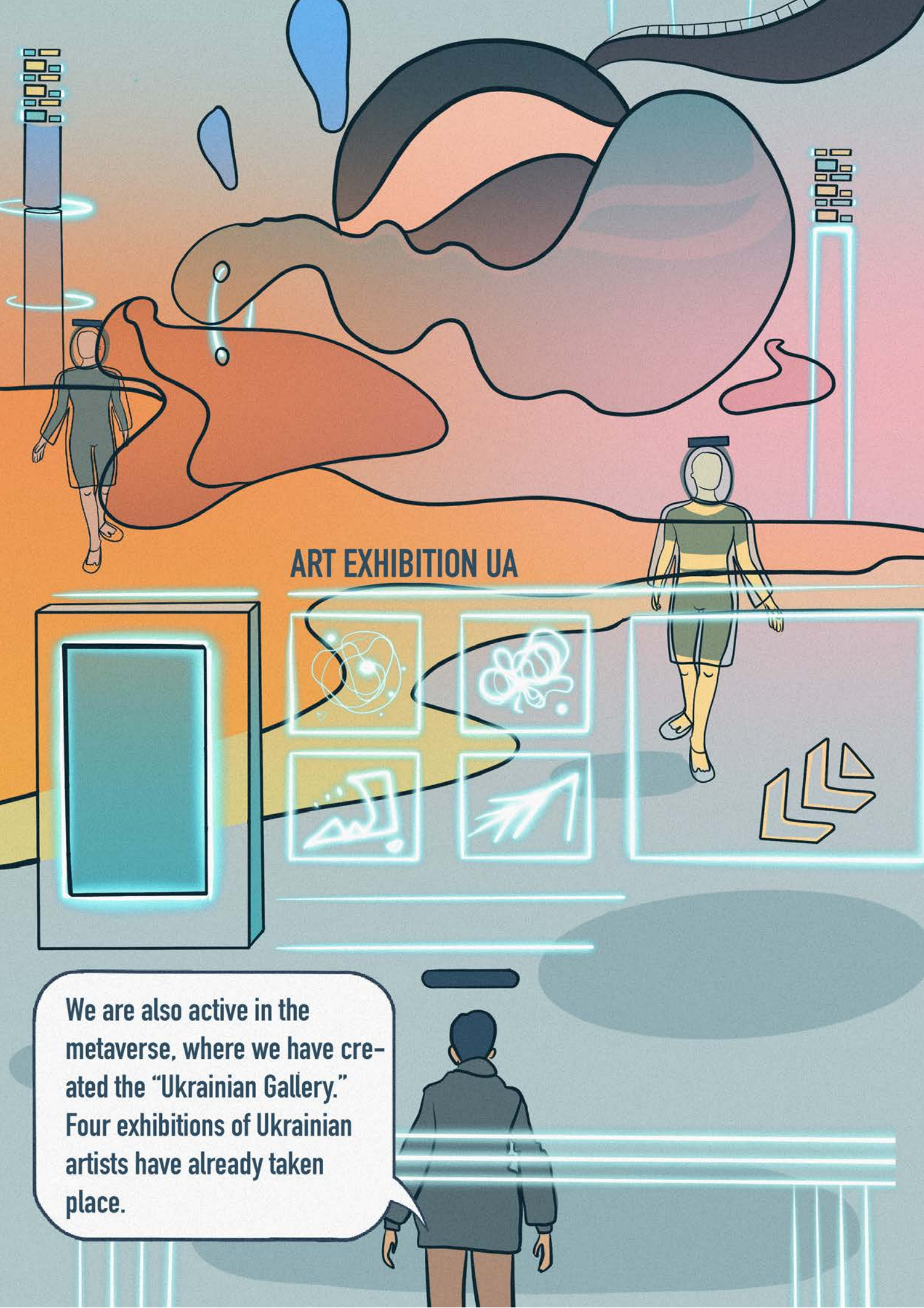

As the first speaker in this section, I'd like to introduce you to Nikita Hudyakov from the organization Meta History: Museum of War. Nikita is a media artist, curator of online exhibitions, cultural manager, and teaches XR art at Karazin University in Kharkiv.


The Meta History: Museum of War is an NFT museum created by a team of Ukrainian crypto experts. The project is supported by the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine. The Meta History: Museum of War was created to document the events of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.
The aim of the project is to spread knowledge about the war and its realities through artistic perspectives, and to raise funds to support Ukraine.


I want to talk about what is happening in Ukraine with NFTs. About how NFTs can help people and society and support the army.
We already have quite a tragic and unique experience in this area, and I would like to share it with you.

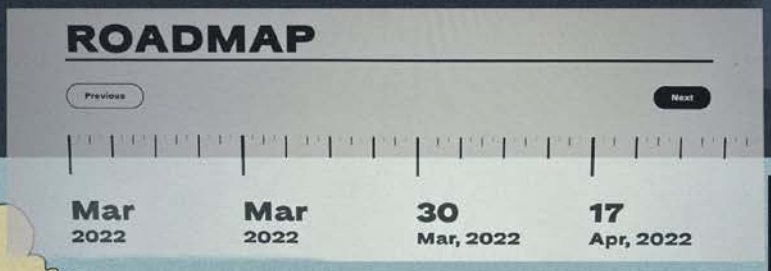
Artists, including crypto artists, have received strong support from colleagues during the war. Sales of NFT collections provided financial support for the army and for artistic development.
We have our own community, "CryptoArt Ukraine," where more than 1,000 artists share their experience and knowledge, actively trying to help each other.
CryptoArt Ukraine
This is a group on Telegram where we share what we do in cryptographic art, but we also have meet-ups and art exhibitions.


We used art as a form of fundraising, by selling NFTs, photos, and paintings to support members of our society. We received assistance from the community "Eggs Dao" to recruit staff for our small creative support team, allowing us to create bigger projects.
The Ukrainian DAO organization sold an image of the Ukrainian flag for almost $7 million US and used the funds for charitable purposes.
Ukraine DAO's Flag NFT Sells for $6.75 Million
The auction of the non-fungible tocen depicting the Ukrainian flag raised 2.258 ETH.
OIL
BLOOD
LIBERTY
An exhibition of ukrainian crypto artists at Kunsthalle Hannover


ART EXHIBITION UA
We are also active in the metaverse, where we have created the “Ukrainian Gallery.” Four exhibitions of Ukrainian artists have already taken place.

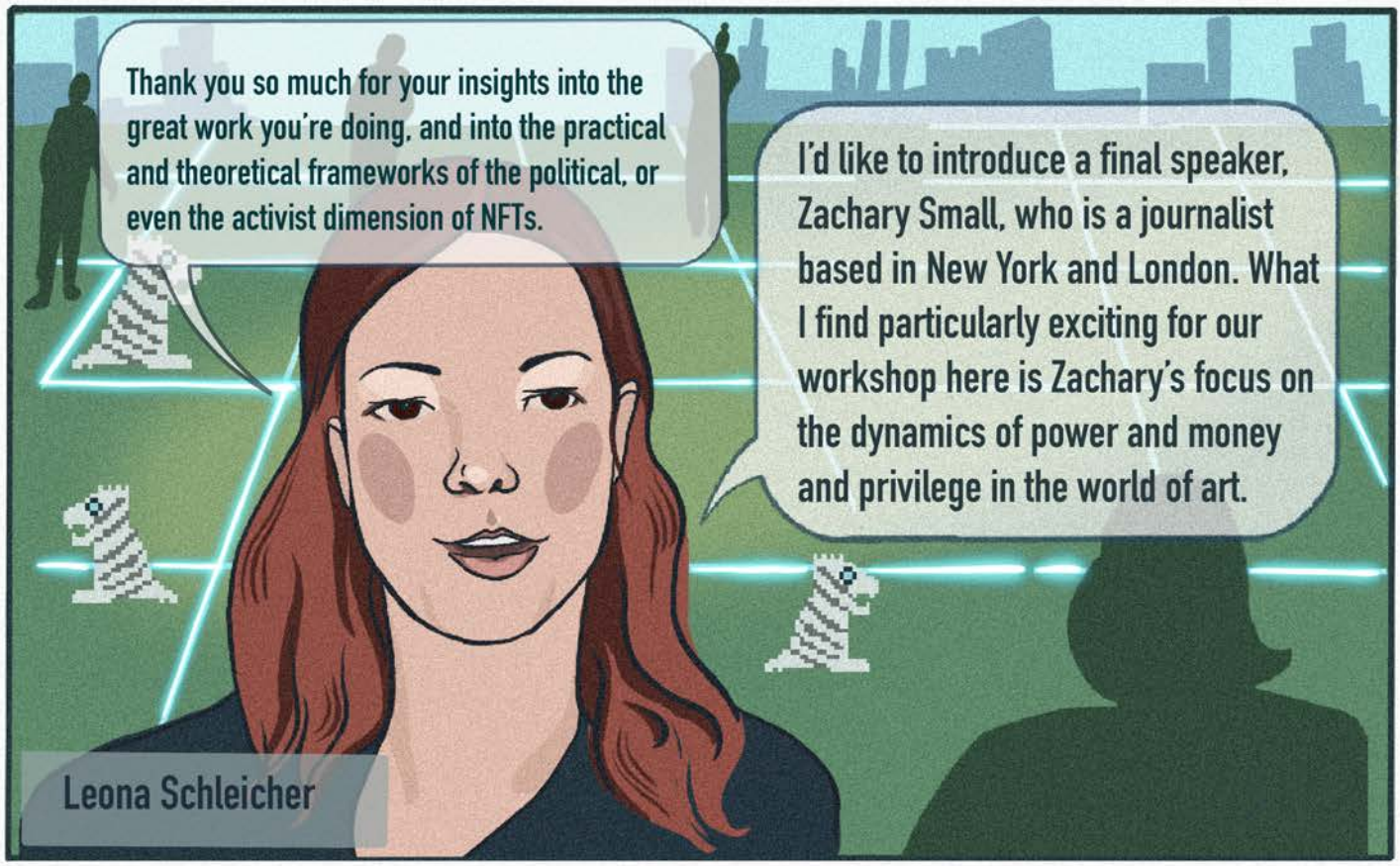
META HISTORY

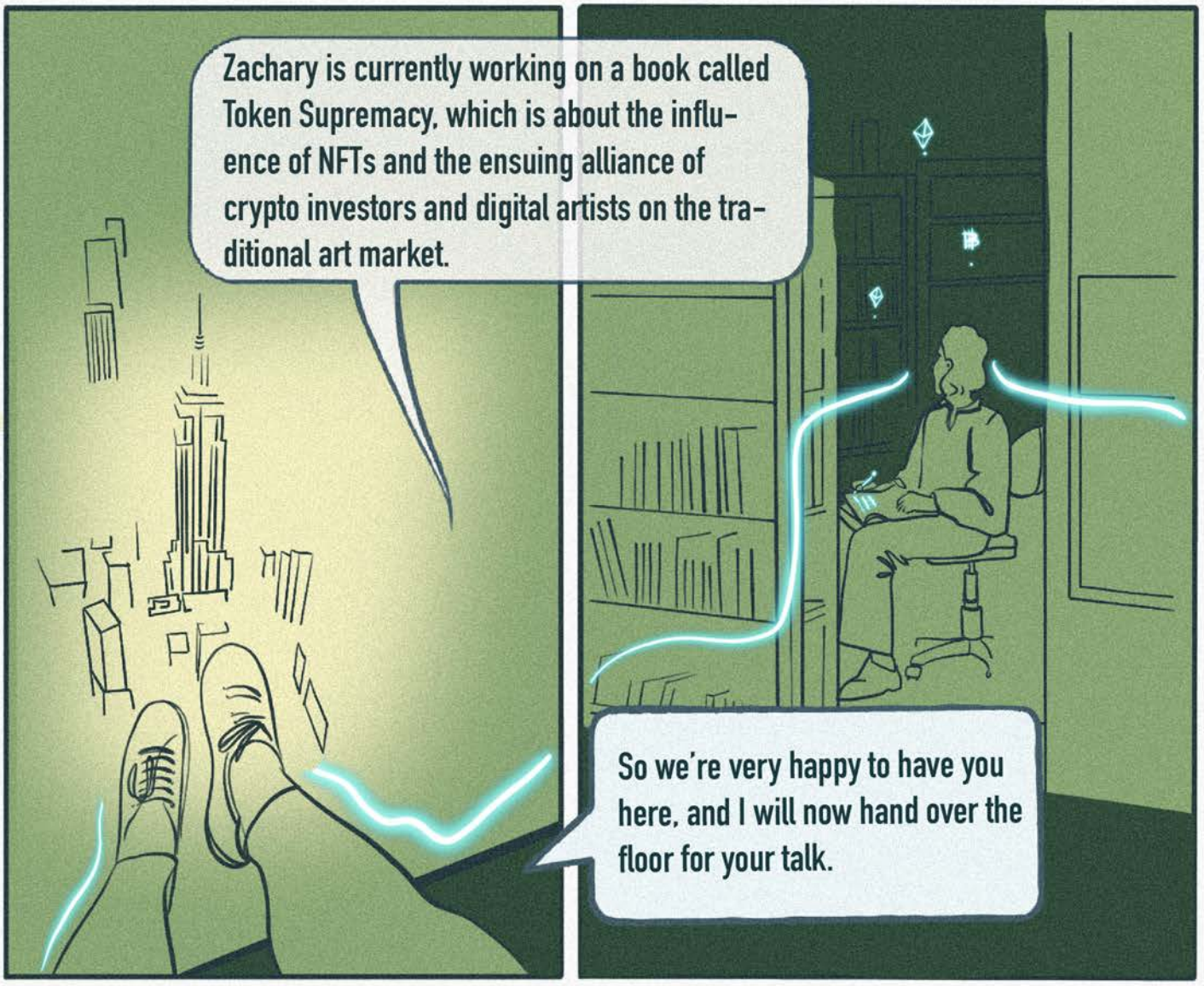
MUSEUM OF WAR

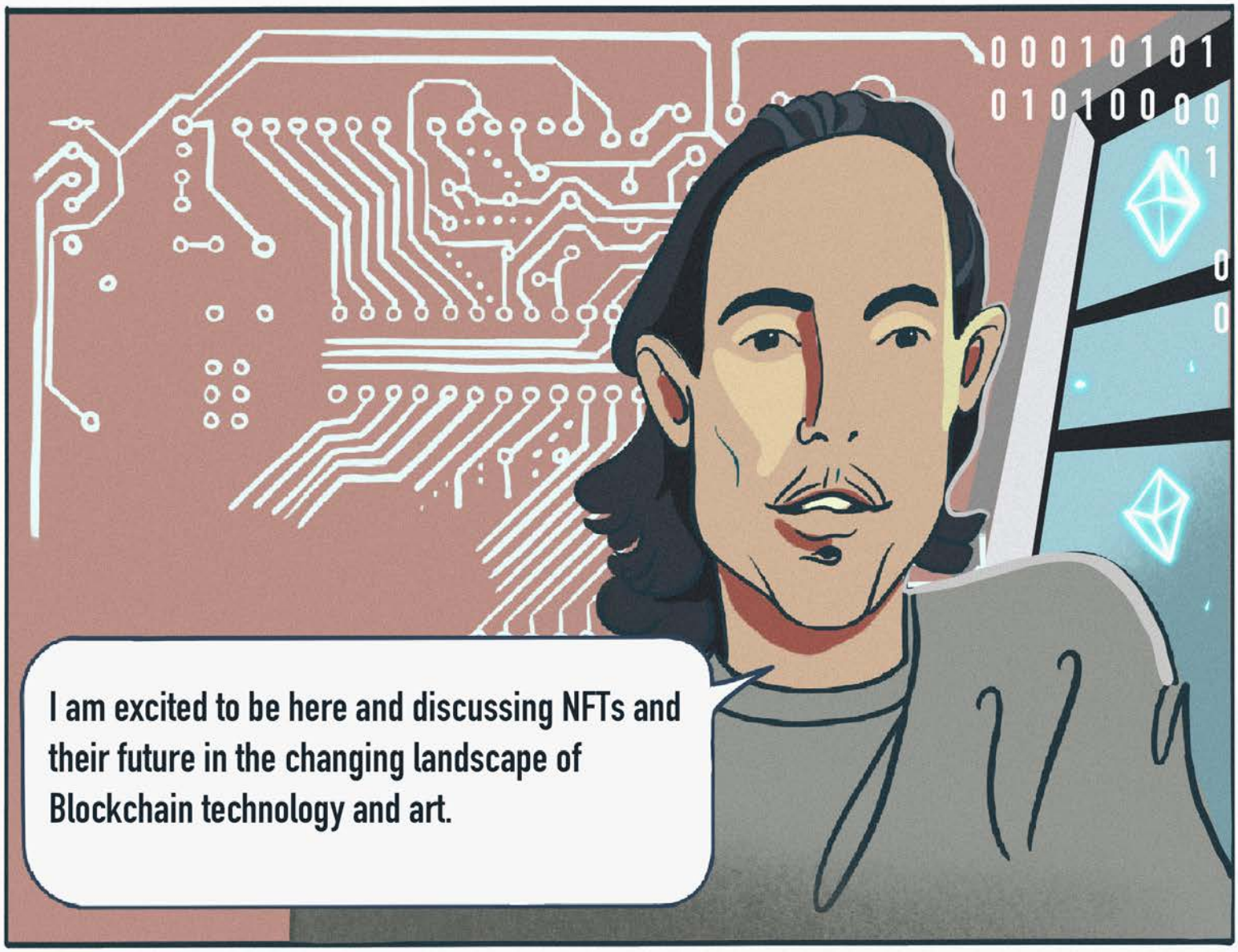


And we can't fail to mention the project known as Meta History, an institution with a range of different projects. I was involved in the project as an art director for one of the streams in this institution, which is called "war line." The concept is that we have a pair, an image and a tweet, to document a detailed timeline of events. You can find tweets from the president, tweets from the official Twitter accounts of the parliament, and lots of other institutions and personalities, illustrated by different artists from the community.

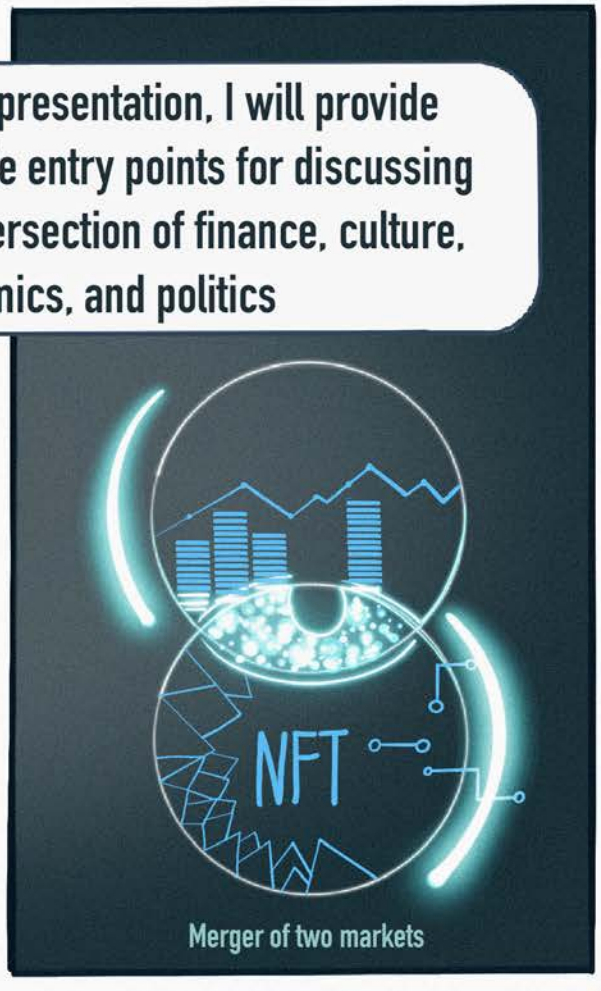
The war is still going on, and we have new events to include in the timeline. It is quite a challenging thing to create so many images. The challenge for Ukraine in general is to draw attention to its situation. It can be tiring to work in the context of the news about the war for such a long time, so it became harder and harder to work with this topic. What we're trying to do now is create a sustainable NFT project.


Thank you so much for your insights into the great work you're doing, and into the practical and theoretical frameworks of the political, or even the activist dimension of NFTs.
I'd like to introduce a final speaker, Zachary Small, who is a journalist based in New York and London. What I find particularly exciting for our workshop here is Zachary's focus on the dynamics of power and money and privilege in the world of art.
Leona Schleicher


Zachary is currently working on a book called Token Supremacy, which is about the influence of NFTs and the ensuing alliance of crypto investors and digital artists on the traditional art market.
So we're very happy to have you here, and I will now hand over the floor for your talk.


I am excited to be here and discussing NFTs and their future in the changing landscape of Blockchain technology and art.

In this presentation, I will provide multiple entry points for discussing the intersection of finance, culture, economics, and politics


NFT
Merger of two markets

Beggar Seated on a Bank, 1630
Rembrandt van Rijn, Dutch, 1606-1669
Etching

Beggar Seated on a Bank, 1630-1640
Jan Lievens Dutch, 1607-1674
Etching

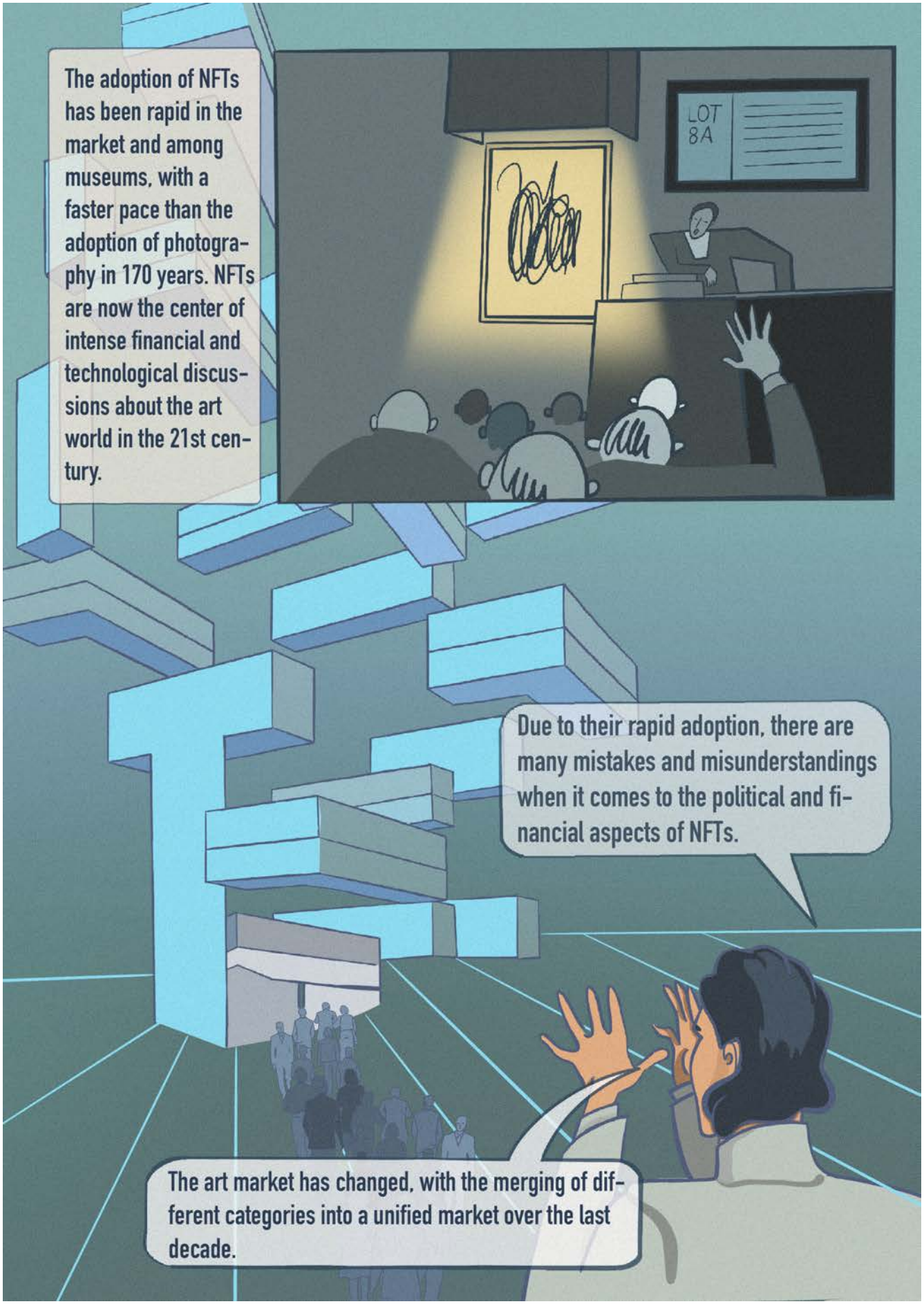
"We are still so early"
in #crypto

4 8 23

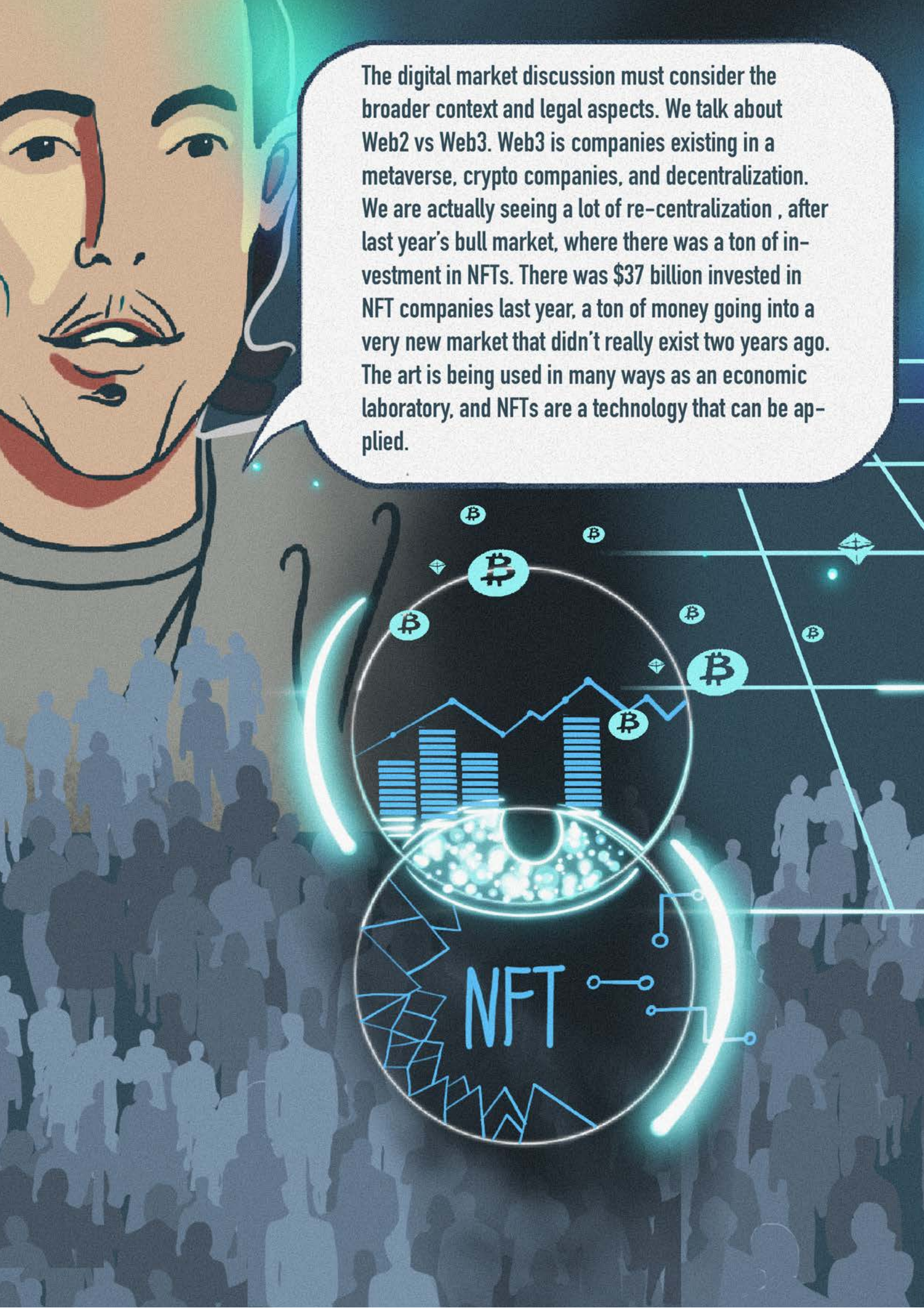
I will start with the circulation of ideas and the circulation of images among the cultured population and the self-image of the artist as a struggling artist. Rembrandt imagines himself as this beggar sitting on a bench, and then, on the other hand, a satire on this work by one of his competitors.
So there's always been a tension in our market about who has access to the money, power, and wealth of the collectors, and I think we see that in the NFT market as well.

1816: The first photograph
1928: The Met starts collecting photographs
1992: The Met establishes photo department

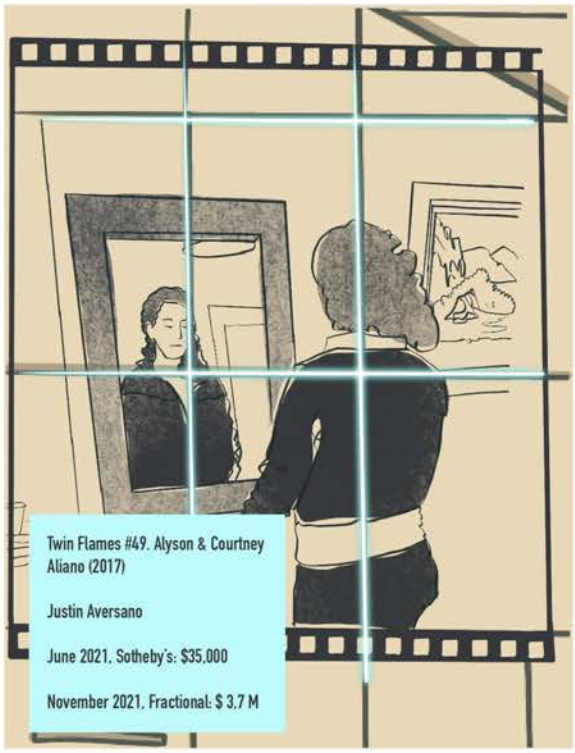
That's a lot of time


The adoption of NFTs has been rapid in the market and among museums, with a faster pace than the adoption of photography in 170 years. NFTs are now the center of intense financial and technological discussions about the art world in the 21st century.
LOT 8A
Due to their rapid adoption, there are many mistakes and misunderstandings when it comes to the political and financial aspects of NFTs.
The art market has changed, with the merging of different categories into a unified market over the last decade.

Art sells what is in demand on the market.
NFTs will be auctioned off as long as they make companies money, which was true in early 2021.
This is still true today.
The adoption of NFTs also fills a niche in the market that was lacking. We're seeing of lack of inventory in the category of modern masters.
NFTs provide a niche that is appealing to millennials, who are more used to digital technology and open to buying digital art.


The digital market discussion must consider the broader context and legal aspects. We talk about Web2 vs Web3. Web3 is companies existing in a metaverse, crypto companies, and decentralization. We are actually seeing a lot of re-centralization , after last year's bull market, where there was a ton of investment in NFTs. There was $37 billion invested in NFT companies last year, a ton of money going into a very new market that didn't really exist two years ago. The art is being used in many ways as an economic laboratory, and NFTs are a technology that can be applied.
NFT

I do want to focus on some of the financial high jinx that are happening because I think some of the biggest threats that NFTs are facing economically and politically today are about the question of what NFTs are, are they truly non-fungible, or are they securities? Are they commodities, and if so, who should regulate them and who should go to jail after misusing them and why?



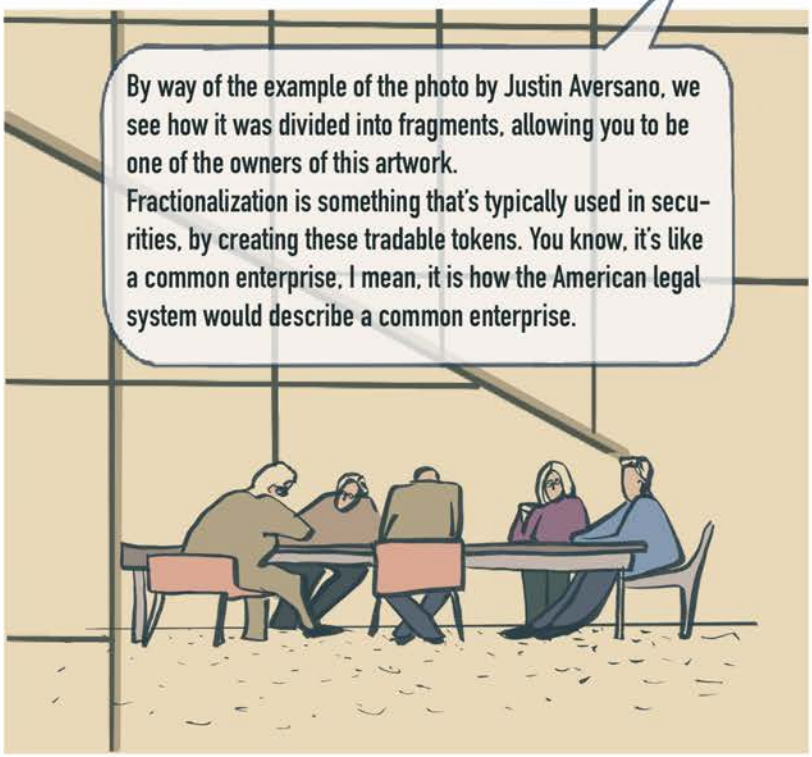
Twin Flames #49. Alyson & Courtney Aliano (2017)

Justin Aversano

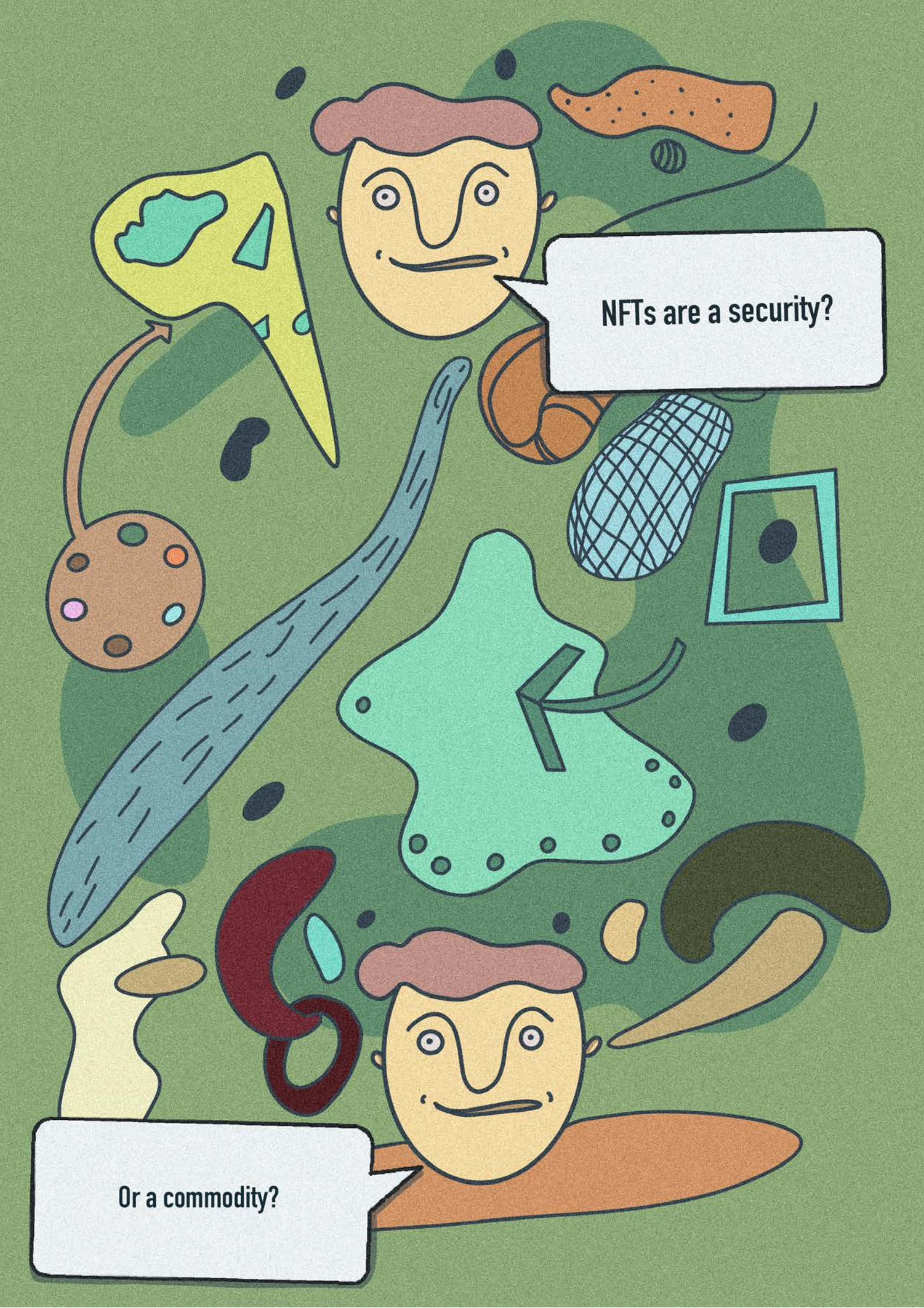
June 2021, Sotheby's: $35,000

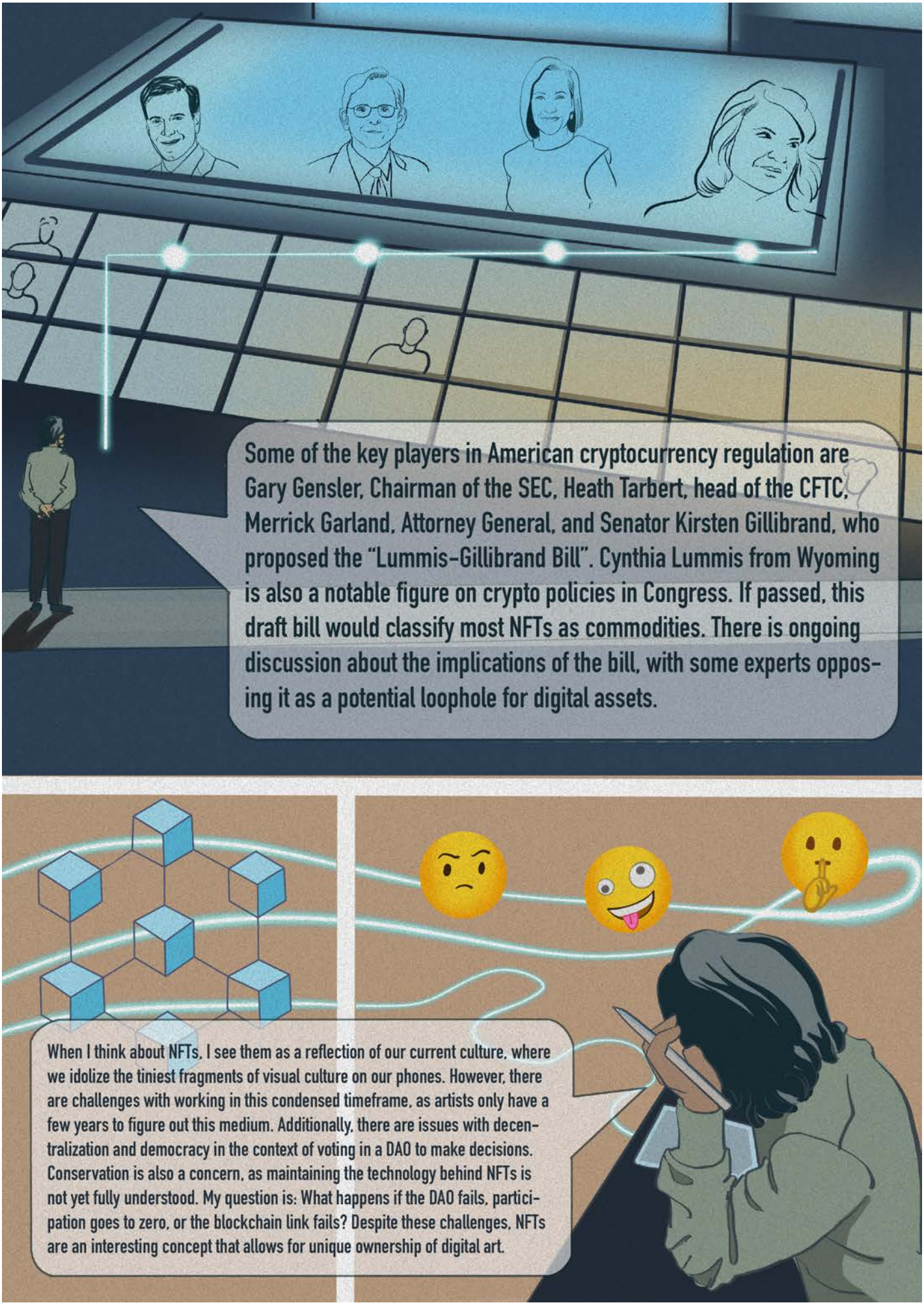
November 2021, Fractional: $ 3,7 M

By way of the example of the photo by Justin Aversano, we see how it was divided into fragments, allowing you to be one of the owners of this artwork.
Fractionalization is something that's typically used in securities, by creating these tradable tokens. You know, it's like a common enterprise, I mean, it is how the American legal system would describe a common enterprise.



Some people see NFTs as art, others see them as securities, and still others see them as a commodity. The rapid changes in the financial world of art and NFTs have led to much conversation and speculation about their future.


NFTs are a security?
Or a commodity?


Some of the key players in American cryptocurrency regulation are Gary Gensler, Chairman of the SEC, Heath Tarbert, head of the CFTC, Merrick Garland, Attorney General, and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, who proposed the "Lummis-Gillibrand Bill". Cynthia Lummis from Wyoming is also a notable figure on crypto policies in Congress. If passed, this draft bill would classify most NFTs as commodities. There is ongoing discussion about the implications of the bill, with some experts opposing it as a potential loophole for digital assets.
When I think about NFTs, I see them as a reflection of our current culture, where we idolize the tiniest fragments of visual culture on our phones. However, there are challenges with working in this condensed timeframe, as artists only have a few years to figure out this medium. Additionally, there are issues with decentralization and democracy in the context of voting in a DAO to make decisions. Conservation is also a concern, as maintaining the technology behind NFTs is not yet fully understood. My question is: What happens if the DAO fails, participation goes to zero, or the blockchain link fails? Despite these challenges, NFTs are an interesting concept that allows for unique ownership of digital art.

P.S. The meta world is a system that is constantly changing and evolving. During my work on this graphic novel, a key event was held in the world of NFT. That is what Zachary Small reported about it in his social media.

zacharyhsmall 2 год.

HUGE news for the NFT world, and not what anyone in the industry wanted to see

Hermès Wins MetaBirkins Lawsuit, With Jurors Deciding NFTs Aren't Art

Legal experts have been monitoring the First Amendment ramifications of a fashion brand's lawsuit against the creator of a digital project that blurs the line between art and business.

Eight examples of MetaBirkins, the NFTs that Mason Rothschild sold online for $450 apiece. via Mason Rothschild

By Zachary Small

Feb. 8, 2023, 11:30 a.m. ET

zacharyhsmall 2 год.

NFTs ≠ Art
(According to the jurors)

The case's ramifications extended far beyond Hermès. In some of the first litigation to scrutinize the nature of digital assets sold on the blockchain, up for debate was whether NFTs, or nonfungible tokens, are strictly commodities or art protected by the First Amendment.

On Wednesday, a nine-person federal jury in Manhattan determined that Rothschild had infringed on the company's trademark rights and awarded Hermès $133,000 in total damages. The jurors also found that the MetaBirkin NFTs were not protected speech.