Archiving the NFT Community

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The rise of early Net Art in the 1990s was a pivotal moment with drastic changes in the way art was made and shared. However, much of the digital art produced decades ago has all but disappeared, with the exception of works that were actively archived by Rhizome and the Internet Archive. We are witnessing a similar moment today with the emergence and popularization of NFTs. While some information is embedded in the blockchain itself, not all artwork is securely stored on-chain. There are also other facets of the space that deserve to be recorded. Ephemera can be collected, off-chain publications can be saved, and oral histories of NFT visionaries can be conducted. Archivists, librarians, and historians have the necessary skills to begin archiving this rapidly evolving community before numerous voices are lost.

About the author:

Andrea Kutsenkow is an arts professional interested in information management and issues of legacy. She has experience working in the development of archives for major institutions, including the Vilcek Foundation, Pace Gallery, AFS Intercultural Programs, and New York University. She is a member of the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York (ART), the Catalogue Raisonné Scholars Association (CRSA), the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the College Art Association (CAA), the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and Art Table. She earned her Master of Arts in Archives and Public History at New York University and a Masters in the History of Art and the Art Market (Modern and Contemporary) from Christie's Education, New York. Recently she has actively explored NFTs and blockchain technologies. She is a core collaborator on OneBigZoo with multimedia specialist and crypto artist Michael Palmer and is interested in the decentralized and independent proof that digital ownership allows, as it enables worldwide distribution of digital artwork.