

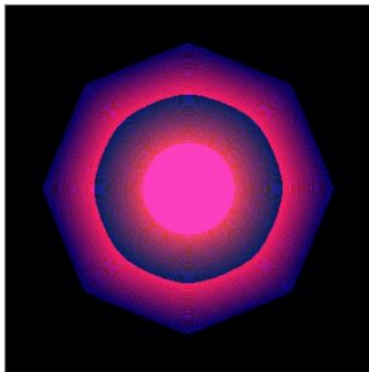
SOTHEBY'S TO PRESENT NATIVELY DIGITAL: A CURATED NFT SALE

Highlighted By:

The First NFT Ever Minted, Kevin McCoy's *Quantum*

CryptoPunk #7523 by Larva Labs

The Shell Record by Leading Generative Artist Anna Ridler



Left to right: *Quantum* by Kevin McCoy, *CryptoPunk #7523* by Larva Labs, *The Shell Record* by Anna Ridler

Online Auction 3 - 10 June 2021

NEW YORK, 6 May 2021 – Sotheby's is pleased to announce [Natively Digital: A Curated NFT Sale](#), representing the first time a major auction house will bring together a group survey of the leading NFT artists to auction. Hosted directly through Sotheby's online auction platform, *Natively Digital* will feature some of the most sought after works made throughout the seven-year history of the medium; the curated auction will be highlighted by Kevin McCoy's *Quantum*, the first NFT ever minted, the only existing masked "Alien" *Cryptopunk* by Larva Labs, and *The Shell Record* by leading generative artist, Anna Ridler. The additional NFT artists and artworks included in the auction will be unveiled in the lead up to the sale, which will be open for bidding from 3 – 10 June.

Natively Digital marks Sotheby's second dedicated sale of NFTs, following ['The Fungible' Collection](#) with digital artist Pak, which achieved a total of nearly \$17 million across a multi-day sale event that attracted more than 3,000 unique buyers. Following the announcement earlier this week that Sotheby's will accept cryptocurrency via Coinbase as a form of payment for Banksy's *Love is in the Air*, buyers will have the option to pay with fiat or cryptocurrency (Bitcoin or Ether). Bidding for all works in *Natively Digital* will begin at \$100, highlighting the spirit of openness central to the crypto community.

Co-curated by Sotheby's and [Robert Alice](#), *Natively Digital* presents a remarkable collection of early genre-defining artworks alongside the latest conceptual and aesthetic developments in the space. In a first for Sotheby's, the sale will feature one artist who is nominated by the crypto and digital art communities, to showcase their work on the global stage. More information about the community driven portion of *Natively Digital* will be revealed in the weeks prior to the sale.

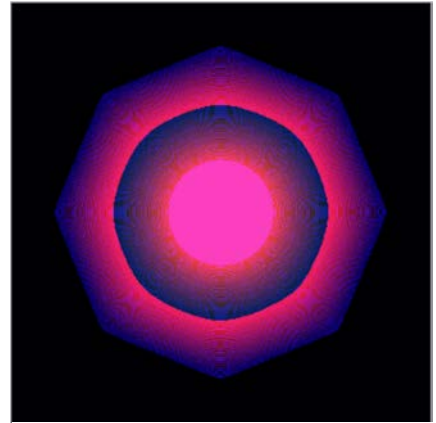
Michael Bouhanna, Sotheby's Contemporary Art Specialist commented: "We are honored to host the first curated NFT auction at Sotheby's, following the tremendous success of our debut NFT sale with the crypto designer-native artist Pak. *Natively Digital* will bring to auction a talented, diverse and disruptive collection of artists and digital creators in a celebration of the medium and the various movements forming within the NFT space. From the avant-garde crypto native creators, to the generative, conceptual and the pop / futurist digital artists, the collection showcases some of the most brilliant creators to emerge from the crypto art space, as well as early pioneers of the digital art movement. To spread awareness among a wider audience of crypto native collectors as well as collectors new to the category, we are thrilled to display this collection in not only the physical world in a multi-venue show, but also within the virtual realm via popular decentralized metaverses."

Sotheby's will donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale to the [Sevens Foundation](#), a nonprofit focused on evangelizing digital artists and empowering young talent to create with new paradigm shifting mediums, such as NFTs. Alongside Sotheby's efforts, the artists of *Natively Digital* will donate a portion of their profits to charitable organizations benefitting crypto artists, such as the [Mint Fund](#), a resource for crypto artists outside of the US and EU to offset the costs associated with creating NFT art. Sotheby's will also engage in a carbon offset study with Regen Network, a blockchain based carbon offset platform, to accurately offset the minting and transaction costs of the sale.

The pre-sale exhibition will be viewable at Sotheby's headquarters in London, New York and Hong Kong and across the metaverse, making it the largest multi-venue NFT exhibition to date.

KEVIN MCCOY, *QUANTUM*, 2014

Leading the sale is one of the most historically significant artworks of the NFT movement, *Quantum*, which was created by Kevin McCoy – one of the leading new media artists of his generation. Universally regarded as the first NFT ever created, the animated *Quantum* is timestamped 05-03-2014 09:27:34. Reflecting the immutability of the blockchain timestamp, *Quantum* offers an unrivalled opportunity to acquire the very genesis of the NFT space. In 2014, during a Rhizome conference, McCoy created what he and his collaborator, Anil Dash, called at the time 'monetized graphics' – or moneographs – by codifying provenance into an original digital work using blockchain technology. *Quantum* was the first work minted in this way. Generatively built entirely by code, *Quantum* prefigures the explosion of digital creativity through NFTs and will be available as the seminal work in *Natively Digital*. Kevin McCoy's work has been widely exhibited in the US and internationally, including the Pompidou Center, the Museum of Modern Art in New York. His work can be seen in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Milwaukee Art Museum, the 21C Museum, and the Speed Museum.



View the animated version [here](#)

LARVA LABS, *CRYPTOPUNK #7523*, 2017



CryptoPunk #7523, one of nine "Alien" punks and the only of those nine with a medical mask. *CryptoPunk #7523* was created in 2017 by artist studio Larva Labs that unknowingly accessorized

this CryptoPunk with what would become the ubiquitous symbol of the COVID-19 era, making #7523 one of the most desirable objects of the collection. The current owner and seller of *CryptoPunks* #7523 is Sillytuna, a pseudonymous crypto evangelist and NFT collector. Sillytuna will donate 5% of their sale proceeds to the development of projects that support Larva Labs' efforts to expand CryptoPunks and Meebits, two of their community driven art initiatives. In addition, another 5% of the proceeds will be donated to organizations involved with the ongoing COVID relief across the world.

ANNA RIDLER, *THE SHELL RECORD*, 2021

The auction will also feature digital artist **Anna Ridler**, a leading figure in the world of generative art and AI who is renowned for her use of datasets to create new and unusual digital artworks. One of her most notable crypto artworks was *Bloemenveiling*, an online auction of short videos of tulips generated by machine learning that used smart contracts on the Ethereum network to sell the work and bots to help drive speculative prices. For *Natively Digital*, Ridler presents *The Shell Record*, a continuation of her exploration of this technology, while focusing its attention on the history of



barter and exchange through one of its earliest mediums— shells. *The Shell Record* features a series of images of different shells gathered from the foreshore of the river Thames which form part of a dataset for a moving image work created using generative adversarial networks (GAN), a recent innovation in machine learning. Her work has been exhibited at cultural institutions worldwide including the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Barbican Centre, and the Centre Pompidou.

About Robert Alice, Co-Curator of *Natively Digital*

Robert Alice is a London based artist and pioneer in the crypto art and NFT space. He is best known for the landmark work, *Portraits of a Mind* (2019 -). A global art project to decentralize Bitcoin's codebase into 40 fragments, the project is currently globally decentralized to 15 cities on 4 continents, from San Francisco to Tokyo, including a number of institutional collections to be announced later this year.

About Sotheby's

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include Contemporary Art, Modern and Impressionist Art, Old Masters, Chinese Works of Art, Jewelry, Watches, Wine and Spirits, and Interiors, among many others.

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Images are available upon request

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