

Exit Strategy

MFA Thesis Exhibition by Eric Barry Drasin

Artist Talk and Performance

March 28, 7pm

Big Orbit Project Space

30 Essex St. Buffalo NY

Gallery hours, Saturdays, March 7 - April 4, 1pm - 5pm

<http://ericbarrydrasin.com>

<http://cepagallery.org>

Eric Barry Drasin presents the Distributed Art Object Framework, a systems-based artwork and speculative design about art and the future of digital property.

Simultaneously presented, a performance-based project called Dungeon Master, featuring the premiere of an academic speed metal powerpoint album entitled, "Fear and Trembling: on the Blockchain."

Eric Barry Drasin:

"In Exit Strategy, I am exhibiting two processes as a dialectic, dealing with our current moment in technology, art, value and possibility. The subject of both processes is distributed technologies like the blockchain, which underpins cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin.

In the Distributed Art Object Framework, I begin to outline a technological and legal stack which gives rise to emergent forms of digital property. This is presented as a speculative series of protocols, existing as an open source, distributed commons. This project uses the legal frameworks and language of conceptual art to help articulate how and why we must consider digital property as a fundamental right, open and available to all people.

By encoding new behaviors into old containers of value, we redesign how an economy can function. Perhaps in fairer, and more interesting ways.

Since July of 2019, I have been leading development on the DAOF with a cooperative research team. We recently started encoding the Artists Rights and Transfer Sale Agreement, a seminal legal text outlining a

schema for artists rights and re-sale royalties. We are creating an automated version of this contract, one that artists can freely use to edition their digital work.

Dungeon Master provides a foil to the utopian ideas presented in the DAOF. Dungeon Master is the world's most brutal academic speed metal powerpoint band. Here we present our first academic speed metal powerpoint album in its entirety, "Fear and Trembling: on the Blockchain."

Dungeon Master presents an alternative vision of the blockchain, as I embody a character from the "Dark Enlightenment," or a group of rogue academics and libertarians who seek to use these technologies to consolidate their power, disrupt democratic institutions and instantiate a type of "Neo-Feudalism," whereby one's access to capital more directly dictates one's ability to influence political process."

Artist Bio:

Eric Barry Drasin is a research-based artist exploring the relationship between art and systems of value. Through emerging blockchain technologies, his current research explores digital or "distributed" processes, objects, and organizations that problematize and reprogram fundamental assumptions about how value is constructed and disseminated.

Using contracts and legal frameworks as a platform for enacting collectivity, his work injects cooperation and utopian absurdity into systems designed to consolidate power. The notion of the art object is re-materialized in digital space and expanded to engage notions of cultural production and collective agency. Value is thus performed as a form of disruption, and capitalism itself is the terrain for the refiguration of the economic landscape.

Eric's work is rooted in media ecology and performance. Using experimental media techniques and custom software systems, his performances and installations have explored how media can transform relationship. Sound and video is often projected into the environment creating immersive and interactive experiences. Groups of creative technologists will often perform together, utilizing scores as speculative models of utopian space.

Eric has performed nationally using custom interactive audiovisual systems.

Eric founded a video art collective called the Fast Food Collective in 2012, and has been curating realtime media performances in NYC since 2013. He has worked as an arts organizer through Culturehub/LaMama, Outpost Artists Resources, and other spaces in NYC. In 2016, he co-founded Moving Pictures Gallery, a platform for digital art. In 2017, he founded and produced the Confetti Machine Realtime Media Festival. That same year he began his MFA at the University at Buffalo.