

How a Living Artwork Works

Persistent identity on-chain. A continuing conversation across services and time.



THE ARTWORK

Physical artwork + digital counterpart

The physical work remains the primary artwork.
The digital layers provide continuity across owners, applications, service providers and time.

Mary Somerville prototype

1

ERC-721 · Permanent artwork anchor

MINTABLE

Ownership + provenance · creator identity pointer · owner operations pointer
tokenURI remains the creator-controlled marketplace presentation.

2

ERC-6551 · The artwork’s wallet

MINTABLE

A token-bound account controlled by the current artwork owner.
It can hold assets, own the agent identity and authorise actions.

3

ERC-8004 · AI agent identity

A separate agent NFT owned by the artwork’s ERC-6551 account.
Discovery root · agentURI → current services
FUTURE STANDARD

4

Conversation fund

People contribute to keep it talking.
On-chain caps limit total spending.
Visitor quotas · migration · future x402 adapter
DESIGNED

Two versioned manifests · separate authority

CURRENT VERSION

CREATOR IDENTITY · persona · active canon · source rights · curated inventory
OWNER OPERATIONS · endpoints · inference · payment · hosting

IPFS + ARWEAVE
verified CAR repair

THE WORKING INTERACTION · OFF-CHAIN PROTOTYPE



THREE OPERATING ROUTES · SAME ARTWORK IDENTITY

Offline exhibition

Browser speech · Ollama · Piper

Hybrid exhibition

Camera + hosted AI · Piper voice

Online interaction

Hosted AI · visitor key · future fund