

21HEADS

Portraits of Crypto Pioneers by [Max Cryptohead](#)

Interview with Max Cryptohead

What is 21 Heads?

21heads is my newest series of paintings. I have portrayed the most important pioneers of the crypto world, people like David Chaum, Nick Szabo, Adam Back, Wei Dai and of course Satoshi Nakamoto.

**How can you paint Satoshi Nakamoto?
Nobody knows who he is.**

Well, I know, but of course I do not want to disclose his true identity. So for this painting I used the “fake Satoshi” presented by Newsweek in 2014.

I met Dorian Satoshi Nakamoto at the Latin American Bitcoin Conference in Bogotá in 2017, where he was interviewed on stage and posed for selfies with whoever wanted. Everyone knows he is not the real Satoshi, but somehow his expressive face now represents him. So it was an obvious choice to use him for my portrait. It features the same “Bitcoin Glasses” from the Newsweek cover that Dorian wore on stage in Bogotá.



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Why did you decide to portray crypto pioneers?

I have been interested in Bitcoin for quite some time and I think crypto money is one of the major achievements of human civilisation. So I wanted to honour its inventors and pioneers.

How did you choose the people for your portraits?

The first five were easy to choose: Satoshi Nakamoto and the giants on whose shoulders he stands on. Some of them are even mentioned in his whitepaper, like Adam Back and Wei Dai. Hal Finney was also obvious, as he worked closely with Satoshi in the very early days. I also chose Laszlo Hanyecz, who became famous for his first purchase of a real good for Bitcoins - two pizzas he bought for 10,000 Bitcoins back in 2010, one of the most celebrated events in crypto history.

And who will be the next ones?

I don't know yet, and I want the crypto community to suggest who they think should be portrayed in the future. There are still 10 free places in this series, and I want everyone to participate in the process to choose the best ones.

Why is the series called 21 Heads?

That's a reference to the maximum amount of 21 Million Bitcoins that can ever exist. So there can only be 21 portraits, each one has a size of 21' by 21' and there will only be 21 copies available of each portrait.

How can you guarantee that?

The buyer of a painting will receive a non-fungible token which proves that he or she is the owner. This ERC 721 token can be traded later on crypto art markets such as Open Sea or Rarible. For this we are working with Andreas Petersson from Vienna, who created the successful Crypto Stamps issued by Austrian Mail. Together with this token the buyer receives a hi-res JPEG which can be printed out on canvas.

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So your art can be seen not only in cyberspace but also in the real world?

Exactly. There were exhibitions of my works at the UNCHAIN conference in Frankfurt, Germany, and at Bitcoin Embassy Bar in Mexico City.

Were art fans able to meet you there?

No, I am not a big fan of public appearances. If they want to buy my art, they can contact my manager Aaron Koenig, he represents me.

What other ways are there to see your paintings?

We also did an exhibition in Decentraland and probably do more in several virtual worlds. And of course they can see and buy the paintings at my website 21heads.com.

Will Crypto Art play an important role in the future?

Absolutely! Non-fungible tokens are already revolutionising the art industry. For the first time, it is impossible to forge an artwork. Art buyers no longer have to trust a gallery, they can be sure to buy an original piece. There is a lot of creativity in the digital art space, but so far it was hard to make a living on it because digital art works are by nature not scarce. With Blockchain technology this has changed, and it opens up many new possibilities for artists.

www.21heads.com

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