

RHEA MYERS

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Press Kit

SEPTEMBER 2026



RHEA MYERS. PHOTO: KRISTY POWERS PHOTOGRAPHY

AT A GLANCE

NAME	Rhea Myers (she/her)
BORN	1973, Surrey, UK
BASED	British Columbia, Canada
PRACTICE	Conceptual art made with blockchains, smart contracts, and code since 2014
REPRESENTED BY	Galerie Nagel Draxler (Berlin, Cologne); Gazelli Art House (London)
COLLECTIONS	Buffalo AKG Art Museum; ZKM Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe; Arab Bank Switzerland
AUCTION RECORD	<i>Secret Artwork (Content)</i> , Sotheby's New York, 2021: \$63,000

BOOK	<i>Proof of Work: Blockchain Provocations 2011–2021</i> (Urbanomic, 2022)
WEB	rhea.art
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THE STORY IN ONE PARAGRAPH

Rhea Myers was making art with blockchains in 2014, three years before CryptoPunks and seven before NFTs reached Christie's. Her smart contracts from that year are still running. She takes the rules that blockchains make explicit – who owns what, what counts as authentic, how value is assigned – and follows them so faithfully that they turn inside out. A contract that nominates itself as art. An artwork its owner will never see. A certificate that guarantees a work is inauthentic. An NFT of the one Ethereum address that nobody can own, now in the collection of the Buffalo AKG Art Museum. She didn't invent NFTs, though. Twice.

NOW

- **./spiral**, SuperRare at Fondazione Aversano, New York, 3–11 September 2026. Curated by Atay Ilgun and Jonathan Carmel. Myers shows *Grinding* (2026): GPU searches that force a SHA-256 hash to spell out a word, visualised as motion graphics. Every added letter costs 256 times more to find.
- ***To Be Perceived, Against Evil***, with Linda Dounia, Schlosser Media Wall, Museum of the Moving Image, New York, 14 May–2 August 2026. Commissioned for MoMI x Tezos: Blockchain as Art. A media wall that stays blurred until viewers gather; encrypted images decrypt only for groups who stay together. Myers's half addresses trans visibility and systems that demand proof.
- ***Koala Noosphere***, Verse and Solos, January 2026. On-chain placards describing artworks that do not exist, each defined only by its resemblance to, or difference from, the others.

KEY WORKS

***Is Art* (2014).** An Ethereum smart contract that states whether it is or is not art. Anyone can change the answer by sending a transaction. Duchamp's act of nomination, secured by a global computing network. Recast in 2023–24 as *Is Art (Editions)*, shown at Kunsthalle Zürich and HEK Basel.

***Facecoin* (2014).** A cryptocurrency whose proof of work is machine pareidolia: face-detection software searching SHA-256 hashes for faces. Shown in *Electric Op* at the Buffalo AKG Art Museum and the Musée d'arts de Nantes, 2024–25.

***Secret Artwork* (2018).** An NFT that tells you everything about itself except its content, which is held only as a cryptographic hash. Its owner owns something they cannot know. *Secret Artwork (Content)* sold at Sotheby's *Natively Digital* in 2021 for \$63,000.

Certificate of Inauthenticity (2020). Tokens certifying that 3D prints of a urinal, a balloon dog, and a pipe – freely licensed readymades – were *not* made by the artist. Collected by Arab Bank Switzerland; offered at Phillips, 2022.

Titled (Information as Property as Art) [Ethereum Null Address] (2022). After Joseph Kosuth. An NFT of Ethereum’s null address, the zero address that tokens are “burned” to and nobody can own. Acquired by the Buffalo AKG Art Museum in December 2022, in what the museum calls “the first major collection of NFTs for an art museum in the United States.”

The Fractionalized Phallus (2025). 3D scans of the artist’s own body, glitched into fragments and minted as NFTs. Solo exhibition at Galerie Nagel Draxler, Berlin, 2025, alongside *Self-Identifying* (PostScript programs that print their own source code and sign themselves cryptographically, on NFT and floppy disk) and *Non* (an NFT that is also a non-disclosure and non-disparagement agreement).

THEY SAID

“Myers’s conceptual work with blockchain represents the kind of staggering intellectual project that makes this technology an artistic medium impossible to ignore.”

– Charlotte Kent, *The Brooklyn Rail*, December 2022

“A true OG crypto artist, one who was making blockchain-based art before NFTs were even a thing.”

– Laura Shin, 2021

“Technically accomplished but always generously demystifying and often mischievous.”

– Urbanomic, *on Proof of Work*

SELECTED COVERAGE

The Brooklyn Rail, Frieze, TIME, ArtReview, Wallpaper, Kunstforum, The MIT Press Reader, Right Click Save, The Creative Independent, Outland, Berlin Art Link, Le Random, BBC, CBC, Vice.* Full list in the CV.

SUGGESTED ANGLES

- **Before the boom.** Myers’s 2014 contracts predate NFTs, CryptoPunks, and most of the market that followed. Several are still live on-chain.
- **The rules, followed exactly.** Her method is compliance, not hacking: obey a system’s logic until the logic shows itself.
- **Identity as property.** Since 2023 her work has turned the same methods on transness, bodily autonomy, and the systems that demand proof of who you are.
- **The price of a word.** *Grinding* turns cryptographic search into a price list for language.

- **Artist and engineer.** Myers writes her own smart contracts, renderers, and GPU code. There is no production studio between the idea and the chain.

IMAGES

These images, this document, and the bio, statement, and CV are available to download at rhea.art/press-kit. Credit as shown.

IMAGE	CREDIT
Rhea Myers	Kristy Powers Photography
Rhea Myers, <i>Is Art</i> , 2014, Ethereum smart contract	Courtesy the artist
Rhea Myers, <i>Facecoin</i> , 2014, HTML5 and JavaScript	Courtesy the artist
Rhea Myers, <i>Secret Artwork</i> , 2018, ERC-721 token and DApp	Courtesy the artist
Rhea Myers, <i>Certificate of Inauthenticity: Urinal</i> , 2020, ERC-721 token	Courtesy the artist
Rhea Myers, <i>Titled (Information as Property as Art) [Ethereum Null Address]</i> , 2022, ERC-721 token	Courtesy the artist
Installation view, <i>The Fractionalized Phallus</i> , Galerie Nagel Draxler, Berlin, 2025	Photo: Simon Vogel
Rhea Myers, <i>Grinding</i> , 2026, ERC-721 token	Courtesy the artist
Installation view, <i>./spiral</i> , Fondazione Aversano, New York, 2026	Courtesy SuperRare

CONTACT

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Biography, statement, and CV are provided as separate documents.