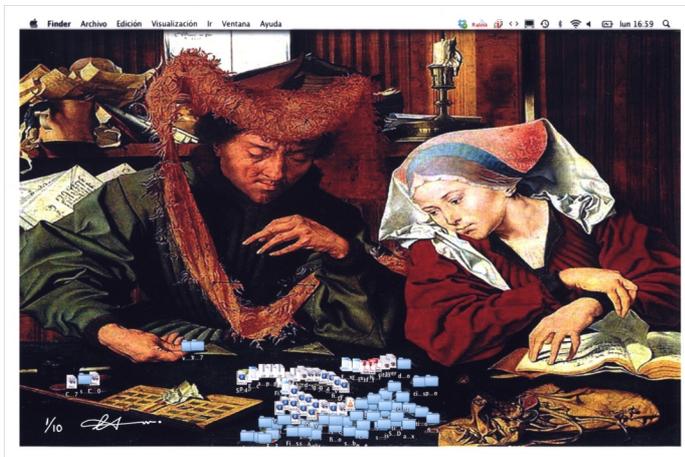


## February 2015 – New in the Collection: Digital and Internet Art

The digital age does not stop before it reaches art. The development of the computer, the digital world and the Internet go hand in hand with major change in artistic creation. It has produced works that are programmed with software, only exist virtually or are only available on the Internet. The questions about copy and original or about development processes or the distribution of artworks and their value on the art market have fundamentally changed. In 2014 the first art fair for digital art, *Unpainted*, was held in Munich and in 2013 *Paddles On!* (Phillips, New York) became the first online auction platform for digital art. The works of the first generation of digital natives, i.e. those who have grown up with computers and have never known a non-digital world, have influenced the art world and are currently much discussed. It is also about the role of the physical-material prints of works that have been digitally created.

Global consumerism in the capitalist era is a significant theme for this generation of artists. They see it critically, but address it less combatively and more ironically, not least because they consider its structures essential for their own lives and progress. Through the framework of the consumerist critique, money plays a decisive role, as the online exhibition *Money as an Error* (www.mon3y.us, since 2013) with over 250 works on the theme shows.

With works by César Escudero Andaluz, Peristeri On, Mathieu St-Pierre und Maximilian Roganov, the Haupt Collection's representation of recently created digital works has been enriched.



li.: César Escudero Andaluz: Captura de pantalla 2013-04-08 a las 16.59.05.jpg, 2013  
from the series »File\_mon«, Computer graphics on photo paper, 30,4 × 45,7 cm

re.: Certificate

The series *File\_mon* by **César Escudero Andaluz** is a series of screen shots from his own computer screen. As his desktop background, he uses found images from the Internet. It deals with mainly well-known imagery tied to our cultural memory. However, using folders on the virtual desktop, Escudero obscures parts of the image that make the essential contribution to its core message. The work *Captura de pantalla 2013-04-08 a las 16.59.05.jpg* (2013) shows the painting *The Money Changer and His Wife* (1539) by Marinus of Reymerswaele as his desktop background, but folders and icons hide the coins.



Peristeri On:  
Broken Africa, 2013  
Glitch, Print on textured paper  
9,5 × 18 cm

The Greek artist **Peristeri On** works in the field of net art with GIFs or glitches. With the help of automated computer programs, abstract images and image sequences consisting of found footage from the Internet are created. Her works reflect her own identity in the surroundings of the digital world and thereby also question the structures of individuals' virtual presence. In her series *Sellebrities*, she utilizes these techniques and ideas on the world of Hollywood stars. The glitch *Broken Africa* (2013), acquired by the Haupt Collection, also consists of found Internet footage showing notes of a real African currency, but which remains unspecified. The virtual notes appear in a very abstract form: folded, curled-up or half-dissolved. Just like paper airplanes, some of them glide from the foreground to the white background dissolving more and more. The title *Broken Africa* refers to the fractured continent where nearly 40 different official currencies exist. Some countries have—usually under French influence—come together. The West African Central Bank (UEMOA) unites Benin, Mali, Niger, Senegal etc. The utopia of a single currency for the giant continent is accompanied by the promise of independence and autonomy, which ends poverty and suffering and promises a better life. In Peristeri On's *Broken Africa*, the open question remains as to whether the bright white background symbolizes a happier future, or whether the dissolving banknotes symbolize the opposite.

**Mathieu St-Pierre**, a Canadian-born artist living in South Korea, used a virtual one-dollar bill found on the Internet for his work *Wikidollar* (2013). Using an algorithmic computer program, he changed its external appearance. The newly formed abstracted design is reminiscent of the image of analog interference patterns (image noise) on CRT televisions. Still regarded as the world's reserve currency, dollars in his defective form become a symbol for the troubled global financial system. In his works Mathieu St-Pierre often uses previously found Internet images or video material that already have digital bugs or faults. It deals with broken files that are further distorted or destroyed using a variety of software by the artist's processing. Images or image sequences are superimposed onto one another, so that the initial the imperfections are further emphasized. Mathieu St-Pierre always focuses on the fragility of the data in his work and transfers this approach to various parts of the real world that are just as imperfect, easily destroyed or unstable.



Mathieu St-Pierre:  
Wikidollar, 2014  
Diasac (unique)  
21 × 50 cm

In the work *8 Bitcoin* (2013), the Moscow-born artist **Maximilian Roganov** releases Super Mario from his virtual video game world to another money filled landscape. However here he runs after bitcoins in the opposite direction, as in Super Mario he always runs from left to right. In his familiar environment, the chosen path would never lead to the goal. The reversed 100-dollar bill stairs refer to this supposedly misguided behavior. In his works artist Maximilian Roganov often combines games and money. He also points out that the technical circumstances on which computer games are based, in which virtual money as bitcoins comes about, is very similar or even the same.



Maximilian Roganov:  
∞ Bitcoin, 2013  
C-Print on metallic paper  
17 × 23 cm

*Webressources*

**César Escudero Andaluz**

<http://escuderoandaluz.com>

**Peristeri On**

<http://sellebrities.tumblr.com>

<http://lamekahme.tumblr.com>

<http://ohmyohmyhi.tumblr.com>

**Mathieu St-Pierre**

<https://matstpierre.wordpress.com>

**Maximilan Roganov**

<http://vimeo.com/74963641>

<http://vimeo.com/74963643>

<http://mon3y.us>

*Text by*

*Tina Sauerländer, Curator, Sammlung Haupt, [ts@sammlung-haupt.de](mailto:ts@sammlung-haupt.de)*

*Reproductions of the works*

*Hermann Büchner, Curator, Sammlung Haupt, [hb@sammlung-haupt.de](mailto:hb@sammlung-haupt.de)*