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Performative Transactions: Worlding Compositional Ecosystems

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Propositions

1. Compositional practice today is less about producing fixed works than about shaping ecosystems of relations across human and non-human agents.
2. AI and blockchain reveal four evolving artistic roles: operators of intelligent tools, curators of assemblages, builders of generative systems, and designers of creative ecosystems.
3. Blockchain makes it possible to encode composition itself—enabling a practice where people and AI agents co-create through modular contributions.
4. Allagmatic composition treats a work as a system able to re-write its own operational rules.
5. In decentralised systems, the lineage of a process may prove more valuable than its result.
6. Treating code, protocols and interfaces as artistic material opens a research space that traditional musicology cannot address.
7. Refusing to engage critically with emerging technologies leaves their artistic and cultural imagination to be set by purely commercial actors.
8. Rules we develop for prompting and negotiating with AI models could improve collaboration among human artists as well.
9. If an army of monkeys seated at a piano for eternity could eventually stumble upon a Chopin Mazurka, then musical systems of the future ought to manage at least a passable waltz.
10. A modern society should afford everyone a personal jingle for identification.
11. AI may save us time—until you count the hours spent arguing with it at 2 a.m.