

## hidden.art/server

The (local) net.art-community generally suffers from oblivion, independently of artistic (and technical) quality of its output. This is mainly due to two facts:

- Generally no or only little interest can be found in the broad public, thus there seems to be no sense in public promotion/publicity.
- In the internet (esp. www), content is lost in the huge mass of information. This makes it hard to find projects of local artists without any additional help.

Nevertheless the local net.art-community has been asked to participate in the “cultural capital Graz - 2003”.

On the one hand,

- this guarantees the interest of and access to the general public, while on the other hand,
- the “independent” art-community is exploited by the cultural mainstream to gain actuality.

The *hidden.art/server* aims to make these problems a subject of discussion, by pointing out the (im)possibility of art deliverance in infospace by means of three models.

## XX.XX.XX.XX

The *hidden.art/server* (rather: the *hidden.art/host*) can normally be found in the server-room of the *mur.at*-office in Graz, Austria. In general, this physical presence is of no (or very little) importance to the the server’s appearance in the internet. On the contrary, its software configuration are by far more vital, especially its net-parameters (IP-address), which is not revealed or exposed deliberately, though. The offered content is thus hardly available due to a lack of information, where (“in the internet”) this content could be obtained.

## ns.art

The DNS (Domain Name System) is one of the fundamental services to get information out of the internet, by translating the numeric address-space of the net that is used for technical identification of hosts into hierarchical symbolic equivalents that can be recognized as “meaningful” alphanumeric

combinations by humans, and vice versa. The top of this hierarchy has originally consisted of seven generic “top-level-domains” (like *.org* and *.net*). Later it was expanded by regional TLDs (like *.uk*) and other generic TLDs (e.g. *.info*). The system of these TLDs spreads from military/nations via administrative to commercial services (and thus illustrates the law of brute force in the anarchic web-space). Cultural facilities could be found somewhere between *.educational* and non-commercial *.organisations*. Art by itself has suffered and still suffers from oblivion in this system.

Anyhow, there is an obvious solution to this: the introduction of the top-level-domain *.art*. The nameserver **ns.art** provides exactly this TLD. Via an interface at **http://ns.art/** everyone can reserve his/her (non-)personal *.art*-domain. To access the extended web-space of the *.art*-domain, you just have to add the IP-address of **ns.art** as your primary nameserver to your network-configuration.

Since art has to be free and stay free, logically *.art* has to be free and at no charge too.

## **hidden.art**

Web-portals are the market-places of the information society. Typically, users should get everything they need from the www within a few mouse-clicks (the distance-meter of the web-time).

The **hidden.art**-portal is designed as a platform for webbased art-delivery.

While (art specific) information can be uploaded and stored freely at the central **http://hidden.art/server/**, the availability of this information, the core portal-service, is outhoused to extern clients. These clients are http-servers, who participate voluntarily in the portal by providing the interface (which can be downloaded from **http://hidden.art/client/**) to the information at **hidden.art/server**.

However, the actual portal is not available on each arbitrary client at any time, but rather wanders from one client to another. The portal will stay at each client for a specified time; if it is found within this time-span it will reveal **hidden.art**, but it will immediately leave and look for another host afterwards.

The more clients participate as potential access-points to the source of information, the harder the search for access to this information becomes.