PARAGON
FOUNDATION

A PERSPECTIVE FOR THE ART WORLD

Vision 2040.

An art world in which significant works reach more people and knowledge about them is preserved for generations.

Vision and Purpose

October 2026

I

Giving art an *enduring presence.*

Its value lives in the original, in its history and in the encounters it makes possible.

Significant art enriches our perception, opens up new ideas and connects people across time and cultures. Its value lives in the original, in its history and in the encounters it makes possible. Preserving these connections and enabling their impact is the starting point of PARAGON Vision 2040.

We want every significant work to remain present as a distinct, recognisable entity across changing locations, owners and institutions: with its identity, its knowledge, and the people and rights associated with it. What has been researched, documented and agreed about a work should accompany it permanently and remain useful for the future.

I / VISION AND PURPOSE

Preserving knowledge. Strengthening trust.
Extending presence.

A work should allow its history to be explored, its provenance to be supported by traceable evidence, and dialogue to open up new ways of understanding it. People and institutions should be able to recognise what is established, which questions remain open and who bears responsibility. This builds trust: in the work, in the quality of knowledge and in its responsible use.

This assurance creates scope for action. Artists should know that their authorship and the agreed uses of their works are respected. Collectors should be able to make informed decisions and pass on responsibility in an orderly way. Museums, galleries, art foundations and auction houses should be able to share knowledge, realise projects and coordinate rights with clear responsibilities. Confidential information and the independence of those involved remain protected.

Bringing significant works more fully into cultural life

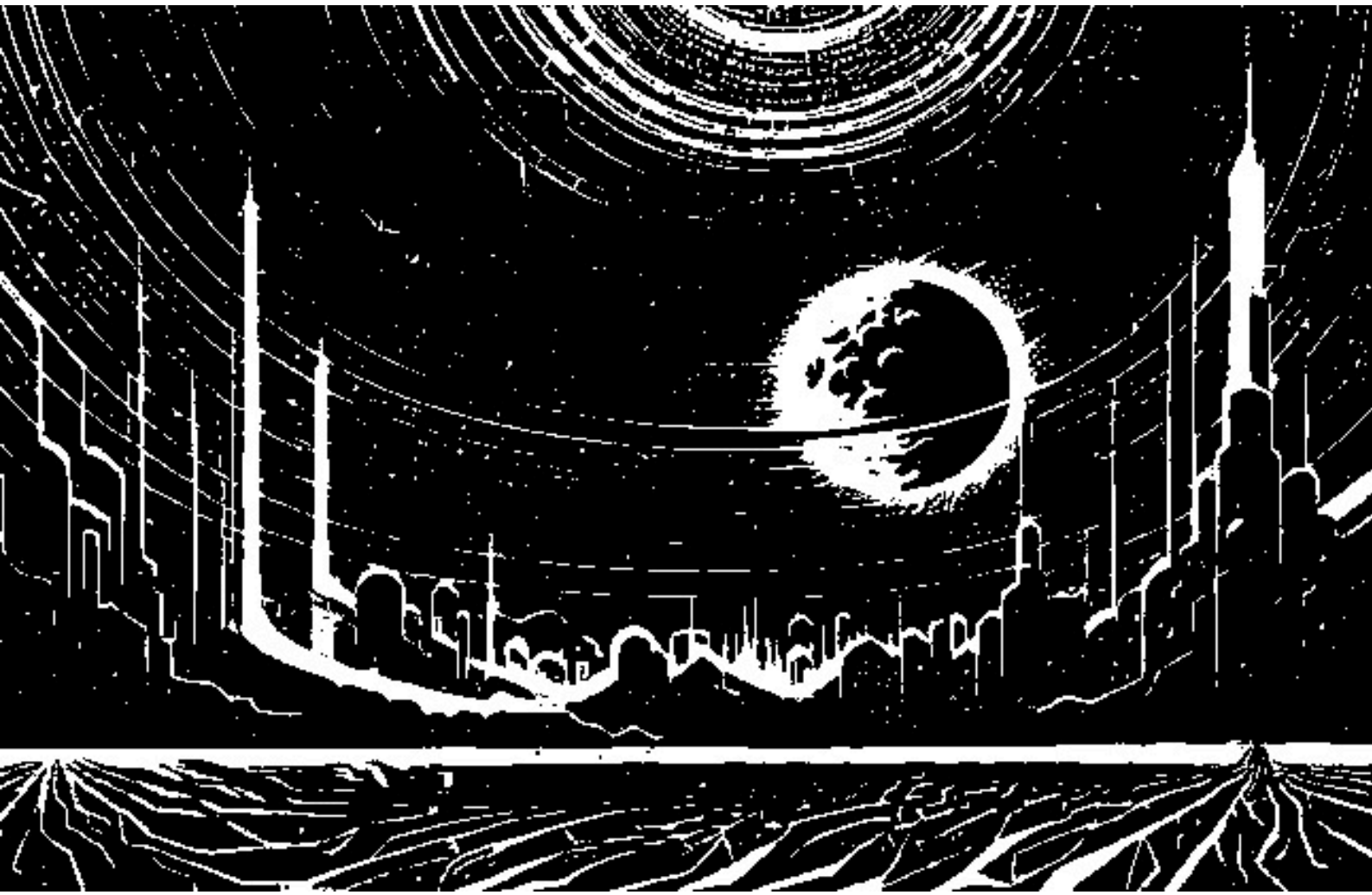
Greater presence means more opportunities for carefully designed encounters with art. Leading institutions and outstanding artists should be able to bring their works and knowledge into additional cultural contexts. Professionally curated digital and spatial presentations extend their programmes and can reach people who have previously had little opportunity to encounter the original.

Where a digital presentation can replace the transport of the original, it also creates opportunities to protect the work and conserve resources. Alongside an exhibited original, its accessible history and knowledge deepen the encounter. Artistic integrity, curatorial quality and cultural access belong together.

The charitable PARAGON Foundation places its technological expertise at the service of this future. Its aim is an art world in which knowledge is preserved, significant works have a stronger presence and people can collaborate with greater confidence. The 2040 horizon provides room to establish an enduring shared foundation.

PARAGON VISION 2040

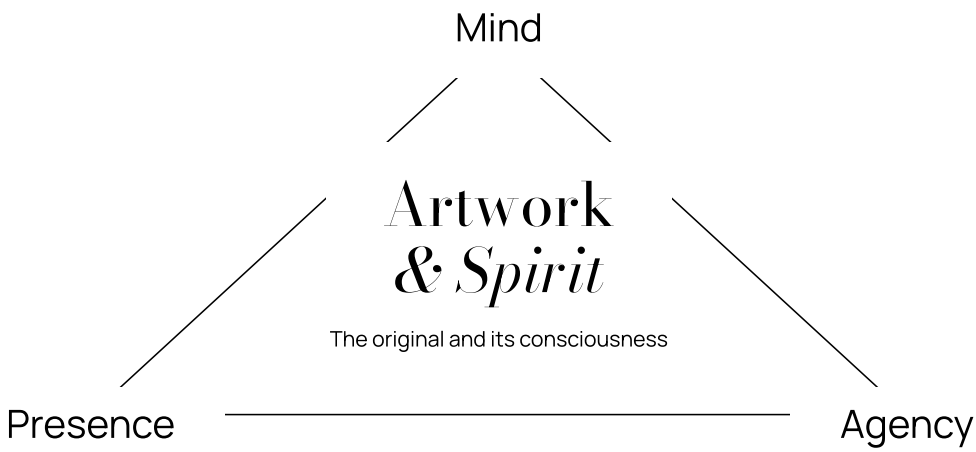
Preserving knowledge. *Extending presence.*



II Each work has its own *Artwork Spirit.*

Artwork Spirit is the intelligent entity permanently linked to a work of art. It brings together the work's identity, knowledge, representations, and documented rights and responsibilities. The original gains an evolving memory, an accessible presence that people can engage with, and the ability to have authorised processes supported by its digital instance.

At the centre are **Artwork & Spirit: the original and its consciousness**. This guiding metaphor takes concrete form through three interconnected dimensions.



Mind

Knowledge is preserved, explored and connected with its sources.

Presence

The work becomes visible, spatially accessible and open to dialogue.

Agency

Rights, approvals and authorised processes are coordinated.

II / ARTWORK SPIRIT

Three dimensions. *One shared foundation.*

Mind · Knowledge and understanding

Mind connects images, 3D data, documents, provenance, research, rights and events with their sources and verification status. AI makes these relationships accessible, supports research and highlights unresolved questions. New insights expand the memory; substantiated corrections remain traceable. In this way, knowledge about the work is preserved across changes in responsible parties and technical systems.

Presence · Representation and dialogue

Presence makes the work and its approved knowledge perceptible and accessible through dialogue. It encompasses high-quality spatial representations, professionally curated digital and augmented-reality exhibitions, and interpretation alongside the original. People can talk with the Artwork Spirit about the work. Artists and institutions shape the presentation and take responsibility for its specialist content.

Agency · Rights and action

Agency connects documented rights and responsibilities with authority, conditions and executable processes. It coordinates approvals, uses, loans and agreed transfers. Rights ownership, authority to represent a party and technical access are distinguished. Completed steps and their evidence feed back into the work's memory.

Identity, security and permissions underpin all three dimensions. AI supports the entire system. Specialist statements and binding actions follow the defined responsibilities and approvals. Recording, exhibiting and transferring are applications of this shared foundation.

PARAGON VISION 2040

Shaping this future *together.*

III

Shaping this future *together*:

PARAGON and SQARES contribute technological expertise. Artists and leading institutions contribute works, art expertise and curatorial responsibility. Together, we develop the infrastructure and applications through which Artwork Spirit is intended to become effective in the art world.

Institutions shape the experience. Technology connects.

The PARAGON Foundation shapes the programme as a charitable contribution to the preservation, interpretation and advancement of art. SQARES develops the technical environment and provides the Q-Token standard for the intended identity, rights and transfer processes. The shared software connects AI, artwork data, spatial presentation and traceable workflows.

Museums, galleries, art foundations, significant collections, auction houses and artists contribute their holdings, knowledge and relationships. They are responsible for specialist interpretation and their respective programmes. Owners, creators and other rights holders determine the uses that require their permission. The institutional identities and responsibilities of the participants remain clear.

III / APPLICATION AND COLLABORATION

From an individual work to a *shared platform.*

Artwork research and intelligent documentation.

Suitable photography and 3D capture are combined with existing records, specialist checks and structured artwork data. This creates individual artwork memories with verifiable links to the original.

The software environment for Artwork Spirit.

The Art Certificate System is being developed into a shared environment for knowledge, dialogue and authorised processes. Each work has its own instance within it. Institutional teams receive appropriate access, interfaces and tools for approvals, image licences, loans and agreed transfers. Certificates confirm defined information together with its issuer, status and scope of verification.

World Art and institutional interpretation.

Tools for spatial web galleries, augmented reality and interpretation alongside the original enable new exhibition formats. These may include a professionally curated AR exhibition of significant sculptures in public space. The representation of works, their spatial placement and the accompanying explanations are designed together with the responsible institutions.

III / SHARED PERSPECTIVE

Developing together, *operating independently.*

The technical foundation is developed continuously. The first new reference projects are undertaken directly with distinguished external partners and real projects. Proven methods are then made available to further qualified institutions. Interfaces and institutional licensing models enable integration into existing systems and programmes.

The shared benefits range from more accessible knowledge and less coordination effort to new exhibitions, authorised licensing offers and more reliable transactions. Institutions can thereby extend their cultural impact and their own opportunities. PARAGON provides a long-term technological contribution and a framework for collaboration.

We invite leading participants in the art world to give significant works a stronger presence and a more dependable future together: with knowledge, responsibility and the ambition to sustain the impact of art across generations.