

Wheel of Fortune

Final report — full run · May 30 – July 31, 2026

Wheel of Fortune is an interactive, generative art installation by Sebastian Schager. Visitors spin a digital wheel of fortune and, in doing so, compose **an image entirely their own** from millions of works held by international museum and archive collections. Every round produces a unique piece that will never occur again — chance becomes co-author.

The theoretical foundation is developed as a work in its own right: **"The Not So White White Paper"** situates the installation art-historically across some 17,000 words — between the medieval *Rota Fortunae*, Roland Barthes' "Death of the Author", and the question of what authorship means once chance writes along. With iconological analysis, a verified bibliography, and a conversation with the artist.

artis.love/wof-paper-en

The figures below cover the **entire run** on site, from installation to removal — 63 days of continuous operation.

INTERACTIONS

~850

rounds played

started by visitors using their own phones as a remote control —
including test runs by the artist

520,000+

wheel spins

visitor rounds and self-play combined —
the wheel turned around the clock

265

works picked

each one unique and never repeatable — individually
signed and minted as an NFT on the Polkadot
blockchain

2,300+

themes explored

artists, movements and periods —
surfaced by the algorithm itself

21,500

self-played runs. Between visitors, the work kept playing itself without pause — roughly 3 minutes per run, day and night. The station was never idle, even with no one standing in front of it.

DATA FLOW ACROSS THE MAGENTA CONNECTION

11.6 TB

total data volume

across the Magenta line, 63 days
11.4 TB received · 207 GB sent

40 Mio+

image requests

from international art archives, at an average image size
of about 280 KB — from small preview thumbnails to 18
MB museum scans

Operation & Uptime

Continuous operation in the city's rhythm · May 30 – July 31, 2026

1,119 h

hours of operation

from the system's own boot history

99.8 %

uptime

no outage across the entire run

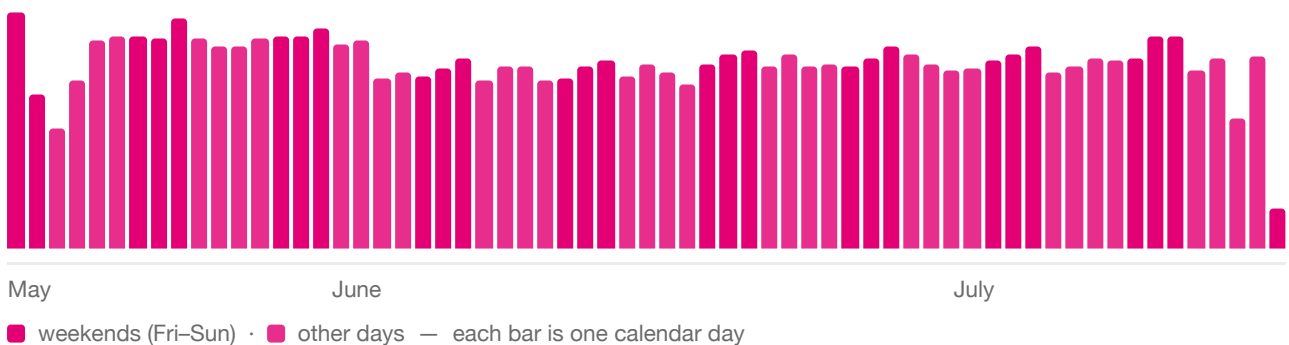
Metro rhythm

The installation ran **in sync with the operating hours of the Vienna metro**: every day from **5:16 in the morning**, shutting down at **0:12** after the last train — seven days a week, with no difference between weekdays and weekends. Around **19 hours daily**, for two months without a single deviation. The work breathed with the city, not with office hours.

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outages or on-site service calls. The system monitored itself and restarted the display on its own whenever needed — on average roughly every **18 operating hours**, recovering in under **2 minutes**. For visitors, this remained effectively invisible.

DAILY DATA USAGE — 63 DAYS WITHOUT A GAP



The evenness of this curve is the real evidence: **on no single day did the installation stand still**. Any outage would have shown up immediately as a gap.

Even when idle, the algorithm keeps pulling material from museums and collections **around the clock** — **184 GB per day** on average, over **229 GB** at peak.

Every work stays **individually viewable** — with its number, its date and its signature — and permanently verifiable as an NFT on the Polkadot blockchain.

nft.artis.love