

# Bit Elegy

Brian Wing Kui Ng

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## 1 Prospectus

We have killed poetry, and we can prove it.

1. Poetry is the function of utterance that exists for its own sake.<sup>1</sup>
2. A new poem entitled *Bit Elegy* by Brian Ng is issued as a securitized PDF on a decentralized blind auction contract on the Ethereum blockchain.<sup>2</sup>
3. The poem is publicly disclosed only if any valid bid is received by the deadline. Otherwise, the poem will have been inaccessible to anyone but the poet.
4.
  - If the poem is paid for, the poem will have been uttered for its utilitarian function.
  - If the poem is not paid for, the poem will never have been uttered.
5. The remains of this document will be non-poetic.

You, regardless of whether you make a bid or not, are responsible for this ritualized murder of art. More will follow.

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<sup>1</sup> cf. the dictum of *Art for art's sake*; Jakobson's poetic function in *Linguistics and Poetics* (1960).

<sup>2</sup>The source code for the contract can be reviewed on GitHub [here](#). Details are subject to change until deployment of contract at further notice.