

Privacy Policy

Scope: This policy applies to <https://www.artist-ritual.de>, <https://www.artist-ritual.com> and <https://www.ashoka-ritual.com> - including their websites, magazines, registration, profiles, community functions and linked online services insofar as we are responsible for them.

1. Controller

The controller under Article 4(7) GDPR is artist ritual GmbH, Hofrichterstrasse 32, 51067 Cologne, Germany; mail@artist-ritual.com. Registered office and commercial register: Cologne, HRB 92145. VAT ID: DE301501077. Managing director: Siegfried Uhl.

2. Data protection officer

Our data protection officer is David Uhl, david.uhl@artist-ritual.com. You may contact him about this policy or your data protection rights.

3. General information on processing

We process personal data only as needed to provide the websites, publish editorial material, operate ashoka ritual, communicate, meet legal duties, protect legitimate interests or act on consent. Personal data include names, artist names, email and IP addresses, device data, messages, profiles and usage information.

4. Access data, hosting and server logs

When you use our sites, servers may process your IP address, access time, requested URL, referrer, browser, operating system, device, transferred volume, status code and error logs. We use these data to deliver and secure the service, prevent attacks and investigate errors (Article 6(1)(f) GDPR; Article 6(1)(b) where required for a contract). Logs are retained only as necessary for security, diagnostics or evidence, and longer where an incident, legal claim or duty requires it.

5. Encryption

Our sites are generally delivered using TLS/SSL. This protects transmitted content against interception, although internet communication cannot be guaranteed absolutely secure.

6. Cookies, device storage and consent

We use cookies, local storage and session storage for navigation, language preferences, security, login, registration, sessions, consent and profile functions. Necessary processing rests on Article 6(1)(b) or (f) GDPR; access to a device can fall under the strictly necessary exception in section 25(2) TDDDG. Optional analytics, marketing, external media and convenience technologies are used where required only after consent under Article 6(1)(a) GDPR and section 25(1) TDDDG. You may change or withdraw consent in Cookie settings and delete or block cookies in your browser; some functions may then be limited.

7. Contact by email

When you email us, we process your address, message, attachments, communication metadata and voluntary details to answer and follow up. The basis is Article 6(1)(b) GDPR for contractual requests, otherwise Article 6(1)(f); statutory retention follows Article 6(1)(c).

8. Art magazine and public editorial content

On artist-ritual.de and artist-ritual.com we may publish names, artist names, credits, portraits, works, interviews, texts, links and information about artists, authors, partners and interviewees. Depending on the case, this rests on consent (Article 6(1)(a)), an agreement (Article 6(1)(b)) or our legitimate interest in art, cultural reporting and public relations (Article 6(1)(f)). Special category data, such as religious or health information, are published only on a suitable Article 9 basis, especially explicit consent or where the person manifestly made them public. Public content may be indexed and copied worldwide; we cannot guarantee removal from third-party archives or search engines but assist with justified correction or erasure requests.

9. Registration and account

We process registration details including email and password and, where provided, phone, name, artist name, language, country, profile and portfolio content, media, links, messages, settings, login times and security and usage data. These enable accounts, authentication, profiles, networking, communication and visibility settings (Article 6(1)(b)); security, abuse prevention and enforcement of terms also rely on Article 6(1)(f). Voluntary profile details are processed for the profile function you choose under Article 6(1)(b), or under Article 6(1)(a) where we separately request consent.

10. Profiles, visibility and user content

Your posts and profile details are shown according to available settings, for example public, registered users or selected contacts. Public material can be indexed, saved or shared by others. Upload or publish third-party personal data only where you have the necessary permission or legal basis, especially for images, audio, video and messages.

11. Direct messages

We process message content, participants, times and technical metadata to deliver private communication (Article 6(1)(b)) and protect the service (Article 6(1)(f)). We generally treat it as confidential; access is limited to technical or organisational need, lawful support, abuse, security incidents or rights enforcement.

12. Search

We process search terms, access data and chosen filters or language settings to return and secure results (Article 6(1)(f), and Article 6(1)(b) for account holders where relevant). Section 37 explains matching and location-based functions.

13. Newsletter and direct marketing

If offered, we process email, possibly name and language, consent time, signup IP address and double opt-in evidence for newsletters. Sending is based on consent under Article 6(1)(a) unless a statutory exception applies. You can withdraw at any time. Existing-customer advertising may rely on Article 6(1)(f) where legally permitted; you may object at any time.

14. Google Analytics

Where enabled and consented to, Google Analytics from Google Ireland Limited, Gordon House, Barrow Street, Dublin 4, Ireland, helps measure use and improve content. Usage, device and browser data, truncated IP addresses, referrers, pages, interactions and cookie/device identifiers may be processed. We use IP anonymisation where technically available. The bases are Article 6(1)(a) GDPR and section 25(1) TDDG; configured analytics retention is

up to 38 months. Google may process data abroad only under Articles 44 et seq. GDPR, for example adequacy or standard contractual clauses. Withdraw in Cookie settings; browser controls or add-ons may also restrict tracking.

15. Google Fonts

If loaded from Google servers, Google Ireland Limited receives your IP address to display fonts consistently and efficiently. Technically necessary use relies on Article 6(1)(f); where external loading requires consent, Articles 6(1)(a) GDPR and 25(1) TDDDG apply. We prefer local or privacy-conscious integration where possible.

16. Google Remarketing, Ads and conversions

If activated, these Google Ireland Limited services may process usage, device or cookie IDs, referrers, interactions and conversions to measure advertising or serve interest-based ads. They are used only after required consent under Article 6(1)(a) GDPR and section 25(1) TDDDG, which you may withdraw in Cookie settings.

17. YouTube and external media

Embedded YouTube or other media may send IP, device, browser, referrer, interaction and possibly account or cookie data to providers, especially when you are signed in there. YouTube is provided by Google Ireland Limited. Where technically possible, external media load only after consent (Article 6(1)(a) GDPR and section 25(1) TDDDG). Simple links cause transfer only when opened.

18. Social links, sharing and AddThis

Our sites may link to Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest, LinkedIn, X/Twitter and other share options. Simple links do not transfer data before a click. Active plugins or AddThis, formerly operated in particular by Oracle America, Inc. or affiliates, can transfer IP, device, referrer, page, cookie IDs and interactions when loaded or activated; where used they require consent under Article 6(1)(a) GDPR and section 25(1) TDDDG. The destination provider is responsible for its own platform processing.

19. Facebook and Instagram

Where used, Meta Platforms Ireland Limited, Merrion Road, Dublin 4, D04 X2K5, Ireland, can process data through components, profiles or links. Active embeds may associate a visit with a signed-in Meta account. We use active components only with consent (Article 6(1)(a) GDPR and section 25(1) TDDDG). Meta's privacy information applies to its platform.

20. X/Twitter, Pinterest and LinkedIn

These providers may process data when you open links or when embedded elements load. Active elements are used only with consent; simple links transfer data only after you open them.

21. Payments and billing data

For paid services we process name, billing address, contacts, service, payment status, invoice number, tax details and transaction data. External payment providers may handle payment information. Article 6(1)(b) GDPR applies to performance, Article 6(1)(c) to commercial and tax duties. A provider may be a processor or independent controller depending on the operation. Sections 33 to 35 cover AR Search & Connect.

22. Applications and careers

If you apply to work with us, we process contact details, CV, references, qualifications and correspondence for recruitment under section 26 BDSG, Article 6(1)(b) GDPR and, where applicable, Article 6(1)(f). We delete data when no longer needed unless retention or evidence interests apply. A longer talent-pool period requires consent.

23. Recipients and processors

We share data only where needed, legally permitted or initiated by you. Recipients may include hosting, IT, support, email and communications, consent and analytics providers, payment services, legal and tax advisers, authorities under a duty, and other users or the public according to your visibility choices. Where required we conclude Article 28 GDPR processing agreements.

24. Transfers outside the EEA

Some providers may process data outside the EU/EEA. Transfers comply with Articles 44 et seq. GDPR through applicable adequacy decisions, the EU-US Data Privacy Framework where its requirements are met, standard contractual clauses or other appropriate safeguards. Consent to a service is not automatically explicit consent to a transfer under Article 49(1)(a); we do not use that derogation indiscriminately for routine transfers. See section 35 for Stripe.

25. Official requests

We disclose data to authorities only where legally obliged or where a lawful request has been reviewed. We inform affected people where legally allowed and do not voluntarily make indiscriminate disclosures.

26. Retention and deletion

We retain data only for the relevant purpose and then delete or anonymise them unless law, evidence or claims require longer retention. Logs are generally short-lived; contact requests last through handling and any applicable retention period. Account data last for the account and are then deleted or anonymised subject to duties. Public posts usually last until you or we remove them; editorial material may remain for documentation, press, art or cultural reporting or legal defence. Accounting and invoices follow statutory commercial and tax periods; deleting an account does not immediately erase required invoices or Stripe records. Identity status and evidence last while the Verified marker or legitimate proof is needed. On justified withdrawal or erasure requests we review removal and, where appropriate, ask Stripe to redact the session; Stripe may separately retain data for its own legal purposes.

27. Data you must provide

Some data are needed to deliver our sites, create an account or perform paid services. Without them, certain functions cannot be provided. Other details are voluntary as shown by the function or its context.

28. Automated decisions and profiling

Our matching, personality scores and access permissions do not make solely automated decisions with legal or similarly significant effects within Article 22 GDPR. Security systems may have automated elements. Stripe may independently perform automated payment risk checks; its policy explains those processes and related rights.

29. Your rights

Subject to legal conditions, you have rights of access (Article 15 GDPR), rectification (16), erasure (17), restriction (18), portability (20), objection to Article 6(1)(e) or (f) processing (21), withdrawal of consent for the future (7(3)) and

complaint to a supervisory authority (77). Contact mail@artist-ritual.com or david.uhl@artist-ritual.com. We may verify identity proportionately to prevent unauthorised disclosure or deletion.

30. Objection under Article 21 GDPR

You may object at any time, on grounds relating to your situation, to processing based on Article 6(1)(f). We then stop unless compelling legitimate grounds prevail or claims must be established, exercised or defended. You may object to direct marketing at any time; we then stop using your data for that purpose.

31. Minors

Our services are generally not aimed at children under 16 without parental consent or another legal permission. If we learn that a minor's data were processed without the required consent, we take appropriate deletion or restriction measures.

32. Changes

We may update this policy when services, providers, technology or law change. The version published on the websites applies.

33. AR Search & Connect, trial and entitlements

AR Search & Connect is a digital subscription for personal accounts; groups cannot subscribe themselves. To manage the 14-day trial, recurring periods, Pro functions and cancellation, we process the account link, Stripe customer and subscription IDs, billing interval, trial and contract dates, subscription and payment status, cancellation time and events needed to grant access. A payment method may be collected at trial start. The Pro badge follows the actual subscription status; the separate Verified badge follows identity verification and can remain after cancellation. The bases are Article 6(1)(b) GDPR for the contract and Article 6(1)(f) for secure allocation and prevention of abuse.

We may send necessary service emails to the account address about trials, invoices, failed payments, card expiry and cancellation under Article 6(1)(b) or (c); these do not constitute marketing consent. Stripe may send configured billing and payment emails. Deactivating the account does not cancel the subscription. Deleting it ends the subscription under the applicable process but does not erase records we must keep.

34. Stripe Checkout, portal, invoices and fraud prevention

We use Stripe for hosted Checkout, recurring payments, payment methods, invoices and tax calculation. The data processed by us or Stripe may include name, email, billing address, country, VAT ID, product, price, trial, promotion code, payment status, invoice and transaction IDs, tax details and device and interaction data needed for payment and security. You enter full card details directly with Stripe; we do not store them on our servers. We receive confirmations and signed webhook events needed for access, reconciliation, support, accounting and legal evidence.

Stripe may use transaction and technical data with Stripe Radar's standard rules to detect suspected fraud; payments may be reviewed or declined. Contact mail@artist-ritual.com about a payment problem. Our security and fraud prevention rely on Article 6(1)(f) GDPR, contract and payments on Article 6(1)(b), and invoicing and tax on Article 6(1)(c). The Stripe customer portal lets you manage payment and contract details. Cancellation is also available through "Verträge hier kündigen" at </account/kuendigen>.

35. Stripe's roles, international transfers and requests

Stripe acts as our Article 28 GDPR processor for some operations. For its own payment-network, fraud, security, financial-law and service-development purposes, it may be an independent controller. Under Stripe Identity terms, we and Stripe are each independent controllers, while Stripe also provides services to us. The responsible Stripe entity depends on the context; Stripe Payments Europe, Limited and affiliates may be involved. See <https://stripe.com/de/privacy> and <https://stripe.com/legal/privacy-center>.

Payments and verification data may be transferred to Stripe, LLC in the United States and to affiliates or subprocessors outside the EEA. Such transfers use an applicable adequacy decision where its conditions hold, or suitable guarantees such as EU standard contractual clauses and supplementary measures. Ask us for information about the applicable safeguards. Send requests concerning our account, subscription and verification data to mail@artist-ritual.com or david.uhl@artist-ritual.com; you may also contact Stripe about its independent processing.

36. Optional identity verification and Verified badge

Personal Pro accounts may start a separate Stripe Identity verification. It is not required for basic use of the network. Before it begins we obtain separate explicit consent for the verification and, where face images are processed biometrically to identify a person, special category data under Articles 6(1)(a) and 9(2)(a) GDPR. Consent may be withdrawn for the future; without verification no Verified badge is granted.

Depending on the flow, Stripe may collect an ID document and image, name, date of birth, document data, face image or selfie, biometric comparison features and device and security information, and compare them with other verification sources. It may involve service providers and, where lawful and necessary, information sources or authorities. We process the linked session ID, status, result and time to show the badge and prevent abuse, accessing further verification information only as needed. The badge is visible where the profile is visible and may remain after Pro ends until the evidence is removed or the Stripe session redacted. Withdrawal or justified erasure can lead to its removal. Contact us and, for Stripe's own retention, Stripe. Redaction may take several days.

37. Search, matching, feed and location radar

We process queries, filters, selected terms and profile attributes such as roles, styles, tools and language. Profile matching uses your profile to rank suitable people or content; search results are not excluded by language. Feed recommendations and opportunities may use profile and usage data. Event and radar range may depend on your profile location or, if you actively permit device location, the location shared by your device. Device location is optional and controlled in device settings. The free tier has limited radii; Pro expands them. The basis is Article 6(1)(b) GDPR for requested functions and Article 6(1)(f) for security. We do not describe continuous tracking outside an active function.

38. AI agent, translation and personality test

When you choose the personal agent, profile assistance or message translation, we process selected profile text, prompts, messages, languages and generated outputs. An enabled translation can process a message for its recipient in the recipient's language. Depending on the tier, the agent works in the profile language or across languages. The basis is Article 6(1)(b) GDPR. Technical processors may receive content needed for the function. Any access from third countries is subject to the safeguards described in section 24. Do not enter sensitive data about others in free text without a valid basis. AI outputs may be inaccurate and do not determine legally significant matters.

If you voluntarily take the personality test, we process answers, derived attributes and complementary scores for the selected test and matching functions. Results may inform profile recommendations if you choose that function.

Stored scores remain in the account when Pro access ends, although display or further use may be locked, until erased. Article 6(1)(b) GDPR applies. If an answer exceptionally involves Article 9 special category data, processing requires a separate valid exception, in particular separate explicit consent. Recommendations are not legally or similarly significant decisions.

39. Subscription interface analytics

The events “view_pricing”, “select_interval” and “begin_checkout” are sent to Google Analytics only if you consent to analytics and its script is active. Event name, time and technical usage identifiers may be processed, but these events do not contain full payment or ID document data. The bases are Article 6(1)(a) GDPR and section 25(1) TDDDG. Withdraw in Cookie settings. Necessary server-side processing of an order is separate from optional analytics.

