MCP SERVER | NO CODE | CLOUD HOSTED

Are.na Visual Research MCP

Pull human-curated visual references directly into your AI agent.

Are.na Visual Research MCP lets your AI client access the human-curated world of Are.na. Instead of fighting algorithmic feeds, you can instruct your agent to search specific visual research channels, pull blocks containing images, links, text, and PDFs, and map out how different research topics connect through user collections.

A+ Quality Score 98.33/100

arena | visual-research | moodboard | curation | channels | blocks

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vinkius.com/en/ai-agent-connect/arena-visual-research

SCAN TO VIEW

The connectivity layer between AI and the world's software.

Vinkius sits between AI and every application. All communication passes through Vinkius Cloud via the Model Context Protocol (MCP) — with governance, observability, and security at every layer.

Your AI Connections Run Through Vinkius Cloud

The world's largest managed MCP catalog

Vinkius is the connectivity layer where AI connects to the software your business already runs. We handle the hosting, the security, the credentials, the uptime — you get agents that actually do things.

We operate the world's largest managed MCP catalog. Major SaaS platforms, CRMs, databases, and cloud providers — running, monitored, production-ready. This MCP server is hosted and maintained by the Vinkius Cloud for AI Agents.

> *The agent doesn't manage credentials, doesn't manage uptime, doesn't manage security. Vinkius does.*
>
> — Architecture principle

Four Pillars of the Vinkius Runtime

01 — Security by design

Credentials stay encrypted at rest via AES-256. The AI agent never touches raw keys — they're injected into a sandboxed V8 isolate at runtime. Actions are logged, and connections have an emergency kill switch.

02 — Built on MCP Fusion

This MCP server was built with **MCP Fusion**, the open-source framework (Apache 2.0) that powers the entire Vinkius catalog. Schema-as-firewall strips undeclared fields, compiled PII redaction runs at zero overhead, and cryptographic lockfiles produce git-diffable audit trails.

03 — Deterministic observability

Eight immutable metrics per endpoint: request volume, p95 latency, error rate, active connections, cost attribution. A live payload feed logs every tool call with mutation detection.

04 — Autonomous operations

Servers are deployed, monitored, and patched autonomously. New capabilities and security patches ship weekly. Zero-downtime deployments ensure continuous availability across all managed MCP servers.

AES-256	Ed25519	24h TTL	V8 Isolate
Encryption at rest	PKI vault signatures	Ephemeral session keys	Sandboxed execution

One Token. Instant Access.

Every MCP server on Vinkius is accessed through a **Connection Token**. Tokens are generated in the cloud dashboard and produce a unique MCP endpoint URL. Paste this URL into any MCP-compatible client — no SDK required.

A single token can serve **multiple AI clients simultaneously**, or you can issue separate tokens per client for granular access control. Each token tracks its own request count, last activity timestamp, and can be individually enabled or revoked.

MCP ENDPOINT

```
https://edge.vinkius.com/{token}/mcp
```

Claude · Cursor · VS Code · Windsurf · Grok · Gemini

Security Is the Architecture

Security in Vinkius is not a feature — it's the foundation of the runtime. The gateway enforces multiple independent protection layers between AI agents and third-party APIs.

01 — Ed25519 PKI Vault

Every workspace has an Ed25519 Master Key. Session keys are generated ephemerally (24h TTL) and signed by the Master Key. Credentials never leave the vault boundary.

02 — V8 Isolate Sandboxing

Tool code runs inside isolated-vm V8 isolates with 64 MB memory caps and per-request timeouts. No filesystem access, no network access except through the SSRF-guarded fetch bridge.

03 — SSRF Guard

All outbound HTTP requests are DNS-resolved and validated before execution. Private IP ranges (10.x, 172.16-31.x, 192.168.x, AWS metadata 169.254.x) are blocked at the network layer.

04 — DLP & PII Redaction

A ResponseGuard pipeline intercepts every tool response. Configurable redaction patterns strip sensitive fields (emails, SSNs, card numbers) before data reaches the AI agent.

05 — Cryptographic Audit Trail

Every request is signed into a SHA-256 hash chain with Ed25519 signatures. Events form a tamper-proof, SIEM-exportable forensic record.

06 — Honeytoken Trap System

Phantom credentials are injected into isolated environments. If a honeytoken is used outside Vinkius infrastructure, the server is quarantined instantly.

Emergency Kill Switch

EU AI Act Art. 14(1) Compliant

The kill switch is an **emergency halt** mechanism — not a simple toggle. When triggered, it executes three actions atomically:

01 — Server deactivated

The MCP server is immediately taken offline across the entire cluster.

02 — All tokens revoked

Every connection token is invalidated. Total lockout — reconnection blocked until new tokens are issued.

03 — WebSocket connections killed

Active connections terminated via Redis pubsub broadcast. Propagates to every runtime node in the cluster.

Full Visibility. Zero Guesswork.

The Vinkius cloud dashboard includes a full MCP Governance suite — real-time analytics and security controls for production AI operations.

Control Plane

KPI dashboard with request volume, latency, success rate, token consumption, and AI-generated operational briefings.

Agent Activity

Which AI clients are connecting, how often, and what they're doing — real-time session tracking.

FinOps

Cost tracking per tool, payload compression savings, budget optimization signals, and consumption trends.

Tool Health

Slowest and most error-prone tools, with actionable root-cause insights and performance baselines.

Firewall & DLP

PII redaction activity, sensitive data protection counters, and security event timeline.

Incident Log

Error trends, failure rates, status-code breakdowns, and forensic audit trail access.

> Get started at **cloud.vinkius.com** — connect your AI agent in under 60 seconds.

Are.na Visual Research MCP

6 tools available
Cloud-hosted on Vinkius

You can now give your AI agent direct access to the curated visual intelligence of Are.na. This MCP bridges the gap between your creative research and your AI-driven workflows. Instead of manually browsing through endless feeds, you can tell your agent to find specific visual themes, like brutalist architecture or type design, and pull the exact blocks you need.

Because Are.na is built on human curation rather than algorithms, the data your agent retrieves is high-signal. You can pull images with their metadata, follow research threads through channel connections, or explore the public collections of specific users. It turns your AI client into a research partner that understands visual context and thematic links. Whether you are building a moodboard or gathering references for a design project, this MCP provides the raw, curated material your agent needs to assist you.

Core Capabilities

01 — Visual Discovery

Your agent searches for human-curated channels based on specific visual or thematic keywords.

02 — Content Extraction

The agent pulls specific blocks like images, PDFs, and text excerpts from any public channel.

03 — User Research

Your agent explores the public work and channel lists of specific Are.na users.

04 — Thread Mapping

The agent identifies how different research topics are connected through channel links.

One Click on Vinkius — From Prompt to Execution

Available at **vinkius.com/en/ai-agent-connect/arena-visual-research** — connect your AI agent in three steps.

01 Subscribe to the Are.na MCP on Vinkius.

02 Connect your preferred client like Claude or Cursor with one click.

03 Ask your agent to search for a topic or a specific channel.

04 Instruct the agent to pull blocks or map connections to complete your research.

Connecting to Are.na is a one-time setup that gives your agent immediate access to the platform.

Built For

This MCP is built for creative professionals who rely on high-quality, non-algorithmic visual references.

Design Researchers

They hand off the task of gathering visual references and moodboard materials to their agent.

Curators

They use the agent to quickly scan and organize thematic collections from the Are.na network.

Trend Scouts

They instruct their agent to find emerging visual patterns within curated user channels.

What Changes When You Connect

01 Access human-curated data instead of algorithmic noise.

02 Retrieve rich metadata for images and PDFs directly into your workflow.

03 Navigate complex research topics through visual thread maps.

04 Connect your AI agent to a massive library of designer-led collections.

Real-World Applications

Moodboard Generation

Tell your agent to find a specific aesthetic on Are.na and pull the images into your project context.

Thematic Research

Use the agent to follow a thread of ideas from one channel to connected channels to deepen your research.

Asset Gathering

Have your agent pull specific PDFs or text excerpts from curated collections for analysis.

Competitor or Style Scouting

Search for specific design movements or styles to see how they are being curated by experts.

6 Tools Available

#	TOOL	DESCRIPTION
01	get_channel	This tool retrieves a specific channel profile. It returns the title, owner, follower count, and the total number of blocks in the collection.
02	get_channel_contents	This is the primary research tool for extracting data from a channel. It pulls all blocks, including images with metadata, links, text, and PDFs.
03	list_user_channels	This tool lets your agent see all public channels owned by a specific user. It is useful for exploring a researcher's entire collection.
04	get_user	This tool fetches a user profile. It provides the user's name, bio, follower counts, and their associated channels.
05	get_channel_connections	This tool maps out research threads. It shows how different channels are linked together through shared blocks.
06	search_channels	This tool searches for public Are.na channels using keywords. It helps your agent find specific visual research collections on any topic.

See It in Action

Real prompts you can use once this MCP is connected to your AI agent through Vinkius Cloud.

U Find Are.na channels about type design

I found several channels focused on type design, including collections of typefaces, specimens, and foundry information. Would you like me to pull the blocks from one of these specific channels?

U Pull the latest blocks from the Arena Influences channel

I have retrieved the latest blocks from the Arena Influences channel. It contains various links to essays, images, and PDFs with their associated metadata.

U Show me the research connections for a channel about brutalism

I am mapping the connections for the brutalism channel. I can show you how these blocks link to other related research threads in the Are.na network.

Frequently Asked Questions

01 **Do I need an Are.na API key?**

No. This MCP uses the public v2 API for discovery, so you can search and find content without needing your own API key.

02 **Can my agent see private channels?**

The agent can only access public channels and user collections that are set to public.

03 **What kind of files can the agent pull?**

The agent can retrieve images, links, text excerpts, and PDFs from Are.na channels.

04 **How does this differ from a standard search engine?**

Unlike standard search, this MCP accesses human-curated collections, meaning the results are organized by researchers rather than algorithms.

05 **Which AI clients can use this MCP?**

You can use this with any MCP-compatible client, including Claude, Cursor, Windsurf, and VS Code.

Go Live in 60 Seconds

Get your connection token from **cloud.vinkius.com**, then paste the endpoint URL into any MCP-compatible client.

YOUR MCP ENDPOINT

```
https://edge.vinkius.com/[TOKEN]/mcp
```

CLIENT	WHERE TO CONFIGURE
Claude AI	Profile → Customize → Connectors → "+" → Add custom connector → Paste endpoint
Cursor	Settings → Features → MCP Servers → "+ Add New MCP Server" → Type: SSE → Paste endpoint
VS Code	Ctrl/Cmd+Shift+P → "MCP: Add Server" → add `"arena-visual-research": { "url": "…" }`
Windsurf	MCP Settings → `mcp_settings.json` → Add endpoint URL
ChatGPT	Settings → Tools & plugins → Add MCP server → Paste endpoint
Gemini	Extensions → Add MCP Server → Paste endpoint URL

ASK AN AI ABOUT THIS

Let your preferred AI explain this MCP server

- Ask ChatGPT
- Ask Claude
- Ask Perplexity
- Ask Gemini
- Ask Grok

READY TO CONNECT

Are.na Visual Research is live on Vinkius Cloud.

Get your connection token, paste it into your AI agent, and start building. No SDK. No deployment. Just results.

Start at cloud.vinkius.com →

vinkius.com · support@vinkius.com

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