



P R E S S I N F O R M A T I O N

Ars Electronica in Taiwan

In Taichung, Taiwan, Ars Electronica and the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts are presenting an overview of 25 years of media art. The show entitled "CLIMAX - the Highlight of Ars Electronica" will open on July 2. As the latest in a long line of international activities, this large-scale exhibition will be Ars Electronica's Asian premiere.

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The exhibition "**Climax - The Highlight of Ars Electronica**" is an international showcase of media art that will run from July 3 to August 28 at the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts. The grand opening ceremony will be held on July 2, 2005. A Taiwanese-Austrian curatorial team consisting of Shu Min Lin, Sean Hu, Christine Schöpf and Gerfried Stocker organized this co-production of the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts and the Ars Electronica Center in Linz. This will be the first time that outstanding works from the leading museum of digital art and media art are going on display in Asia. Among them are some of the milestones of the Ars Electronica Festival's 25-year history. The exhibition is divided into diverse categories, and presents highlights of media art assembled to give art lovers in Taiwan an impression of the trends that have dominated this genre in the past, determine the state-of-the-art today, and will have an impact on its future.

快感
奧地利電子藝術節25年大展
Climax-The Highlight of Ars Electronica

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"Ars Electronica is one of the world's most important centers of technological art. To be able to put a complete exhibition from Ars Electronica on display here in Taiwan will definitely impart a powerful new impetus to the development of Taiwanese media art. The development of the City of Linz from an urban industrial center to a center of global media under the influence of Ars Electronica is exemplary. We hope to be able to profit from this example," stated **Shu-Min Lin**, curator of the exhibition.

"We are very enthused about our collaboration with the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts," said Ars Electronica Artistic Director **Gerfried Stocker**. *"Ars Electronica has long maintained close and congenial relations with Asia within the framework of artistic and scientific exchange programs. We regard the opportunity to line up a show here on site in Taiwan as further confirmation of our commitment and international recognition of our efforts."*

The exhibition will feature outstanding examples of historical and contemporary interactive installations. An Arsbox (spatial environment for total immersion into virtual reality) as the basis for several of the media art projects in the show is being custom-installed by Ars Electronica Futurelab staff specialists. Another area of emphasis features a selection of projects from the Prix Ars Electronica's "u-19 freestyle computing" category for young people. The installations will be augmented by three documentary videos specially produced for "Climax" showcasing examples of media art from the past 25 years.

Ars Electronica: Active Involvement Worldwide

"Climax – The Highlight of Ars Electronica" is Ars Electronica's first exhibition in Asia, and is the latest in a long line of international activities on the part of the Linz cultural institution. For example, Ars Electronica designed Austria's contribution to the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in December 2003 in Geneva, produced several exhibitions and a symposium in New York in spring 2004, and created the Austrian contribution to the

celebration of the United Nations' 60th anniversary that has been on display since June 27 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Publications about the Exhibition

A catalog accompanying the exhibition is being published in Chinese and English. The anniversary volume "Ars Electronica 1979-2004, 25 Years of the Network of Art, Technology and Society" is being reissued in Chinese.

The exhibition is being organized by Ars Electronica in cooperation with The National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Unison Art Association and ITRI Creativity Lab. All funding comes from Taiwan.

Curators are Shu-Min Lin, Sean Hu, Christine Schöpf and Gerfried Stocker

The National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts

Located in the island's interior, the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts reopened in July 2004 following extensive renovations. Its mission includes exhibiting and expanding its own extensive collection documenting the historical development of Taiwanese art as well as nurturing creativity and development in the field of 21st century digital art.

Facts about the Exhibition:

Duration

July 2 to August 28, 2005

Venue

National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts

2, SEC. 1, WU CHUAN W. RD., TAICHUNG 403 TAIWAN, R.O.C.

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