

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Ars Electronica at the Florence Biennale 2007

More than 2,500 works by 840 artists from 76 countries will be on display December 1-9 at the 2007 Florence Biennale. One of this year's debutants is Ars Electronica, whose contribution includes creations by seven international artists showcased in 300 m² of exhibition space. What they have in common is interaction with viewers: these prototype installations emancipate those partaking of them from passive observers to active (co-) designers experiencing new technologies and virtual spaces up close and personal. This show curated by Ars Electronica is one of the absolute highlights of the 6th Florence Biennale.

Projects and Artists

Noise and Voice

by Golan Levin (US), Zachary Lieberman (US) and the Ars Electronica Futurelab (AT)

"Noise and Voice" opens up a space in which the audible becomes visible. Here, the human larynx becomes an instrument that can be utilized to shape virtual sculptures. Form, color and motion of the animated 3D graphics reflect the pitch, tonal color and intensity of the sound.

Watchful Portrait

by John Gerrard (IE), Erwin Reitböck (AT), Werner Pötzelberger (AT), Roland Haring (AT) and Robert Praxmarer (AT)

Not human beings and their actions but rather the sun, the moon and the whole world are what "Watchful Portrait" is all about. The real-time 3D model "Caroline" follows the course of the sun by day and the moon by night. Her motions are determined only by the paths of these heavenly bodies.

s.h.e.

by Natasa Teofilovic (RS)

s.h.e. is a game involving virtuality and reality. This interactive installation consists of five animated 3D characters that establish contact with the human viewers on the other side of the screen and communicate with them. In doing so, the figures transgress the boundaries between their virtual reality and our real one. And when they wander from monitor to monitor, they seem to cross the real world between the respective screens.

Tissue

by Casey Reas (US)

Simply knocking on the so-called "responsive window" lets the user establish contact with the world of "Tissue." The window is interactive: any form of touch is transformed by the computer into graphic shapes. Initially, these can be externally influenced and modified, but they soon develop a life and will of their own and react in unexpected ways.

Audiovisual Environment Suite

by Golan Levin (US)

The Audiovisual Environment Suite is both a work of art and a musical instrument. Users can give free rein to their creativity in arranging and designing visual elements on a display screen, and the computer then proceeds to put them to music in real time.

DoubleCell

by Lia (AT)

"Double Cell" impresses installation visitors with the perfection and elegance of its geometric forms, all of which react to user input and change their appearance in surprising ways.

Se Mi Sei Vicino

by Sonia Cillari (NL, IT)

"Se Mi Sei Vicino" uses the human body as an interface and makes installation visitors potential performers. One person, the "performer," takes up position on a sensor-equipped floor panel and functions as the antenna; then, a second person merely has to touch the performer to trigger real-time 3D graphics in the form of algorithmic organisms displayed on a large-format projection screen. Simultaneously, this generates an "audio-surrounding" that is controlled by the electromagnetic activities of the participants. "Se Mi Sei Vicino" (when you're near to me) completely dissolves the boundaries between active participant and passive observe.

Florence Biennale 2007

The sixth edition of the Biennale dell'Arte Contemporanea di Firenze will be held from 1st to 9th December 2007 in the historical setting of Fortezza da Basso, 840 artists from 76 countries will exhibit more than 2,500 works of art and will take part in the exhibition for an extraordinary encounter between different cultures, styles and languages. The actress Anne Archer will be in Florence to award the Biennale with the Artists for Human Rights, association

prize, for its support provided to the United Nations programme "Dialogue among civilisation" that the Biennale has been officially participating in since 2001.

The Biennale will include the presence of important artistic individuals such as Gilbert & George, who will receive the "Lorenzo il Magnifico" award for their career. Gilbert & George, together with Tim Marlow, manager of the White Cube Gallery of London exhibitions, will meet the visitors and artists participating in the Biennial, for which a rich calendar of meetings, conferences and video projections have been organised (including a video made by Gilbert & George).

The art and life of Frida Kalho and Tina Modotti will be presented in two conferences by Gregorio Luke, already manager of the Molaa of Long Beach and a member of the International Jury of the Biennale.

The Ars Electronica Center of Linz, the "oldest" museum of digital art in the world, that organises the Prix Ars Electronica, the Ars Electronica Festival and the Ars Electronica Futurelab, will have 300 square meters available to present digital art, interactive videos and to allow visitors to enter into the fantastic world of virtual reality.

Details about the 6th Florence Biennale are available online at
<http://www.florencebiennale.org/>.

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