

Press Information - Golden Nica Winners

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2005 PRIX ARS ELECTRONICA: Golden Nica Winners

Golden Nica in Computer Animation / Visual Effects

Tomek Baginski / Platige Image (Poland)

“Fallen Art”

www.fallen-art.com

A very sarcastic sense of humor is the outstanding feature displayed by Tomek Baginski in his film “Fallen Art” the winner of the Golden Nica in the *Computer Animation / Visual Effects* category. An impressive work of animation that, within a few minutes time, tells a very unusual story full of unexpected plot twists and turns, “Fallen Art” nevertheless succeeds on its own terms as a superb and fully realized work of filmmaking.

What happens when the soldiers manning a lonely, forgotten military base in the middle of the Pacific collectively lose their minds? In “Fallen Art” the outcome is that the soldiers massacre one another. The sight of their bodies crashed and crumpled to the ground serves their commanding officer, General A, as a model for a photographic study of a very special sort.

A “very black comedy” is how Tomek Baginski characterizes his work “Fallen Art” an impressive film that, within a few minutes time, tells a very unusual story full of unexpected plot twists and turns but succeeds on its own terms as a superb and fully realized work of filmmaking. The soundtrack is provided by Fanfare Ciocarlia.

Golden Nica in Digital Communities

AKSHAYA (India)

www.akshaya.net

How can new media be utilized to make for a better world? Since the inauguration of the Digital Communities category in 2004, the Prix Ars Electronica has devoted increasing attention to the impact art and technology are having on social developments. The winning project in 2005, Akshaya, is one of the most ambitious development programs that has ever been launched to take advantage of information and communication technologies. Within a period of three years, Akshaya has established 6,000 Internet centers in the Indian State of Kerala, set up infrastructure for the local population and, in doing so, simultaneously created 50,000 new jobs.

The aim of the overall project is to impart basic knowledge about the Internet and computer technology to broad segments of the populace.

A fundamental precept in this category is that the prize money is to be used to finance the ongoing development of the project itself or of a successor project. The directors of *Akshaya* intend to use their € 10,000 cash award to expand their Internet platform in the areas of agricultural consulting, health and education.

Golden Nica in Interactive Art

Esther Polak, Ieva Auzina und RIXC - Riga Center for New Media Culture

***/MILKproject**

www.rcx.lv

Enabling us to catch a glimpse of the points of intersection where the paths of goods and people cross and material as well as immaterial transactions are consummated across the borders separating nations and cultures, and revealing thereby interconnections on a larger scale is the agenda of */MILKproject, the winner in Interactive Art. GPS technology makes it possible to trace the path of milk being shipped from Latvia to the Netherlands. Videos, sound recordings and photographs of the human beings involved are blended together into a one-of-a-kind installation that enables viewers to comprehend trade routes passing through various different cultural spheres.

But at the centerpiece of *MILK* are, above all, the stories of human beings. The path of a commercial product, milk, serves as the narrative thread that ties together the amazing variety of lifestyles and worlds of personal experience at the interface of Eastern Europe and Western Europe.

Golden Nica Digital Musics

Maryanne Amacher (USA)

TEO! a sonic sculpture

Maryanne Amacher composes works of acoustic art and visualizations, and investigates the universes engendered by different forms of sound in different physical spaces. Preferred venues for the staging and performance of her works are grandiose, architecturally complex structures. As an artist who takes full advantage of all possibilities to physically customize the design of acoustic tones, she is simultaneously a philosopher and construction engineer of sounds.

The artist has been working with sound installations since 1967 and has achieved worldwide renown in this field. Her winning project, "*TEO! a sonic sculpture*" was conceived as a sound installation for the Esplanade des Palacios de Bellas Artes in Mexico City. Many of her pioneering conceptions of spatial sound models and reciprocally influencing perceptions have been developing in the direction of acoustic installations that are now enjoying increasing popularity.

Golden Nica in Net Vision

Benjamin Fry, Casey Reas (USA / Kanada)

Processing

www.processing.org

As an innovative, easily understood programming language, *Processing* enables students, artists, designers and architects to design and produce virtual prototypes. The program can be utilized as both a sort of virtual sketchbook as well as a professional graphics program.

Processing is an open project that was initiated by Casey Reas and Benjamin Fry. The program was developed jointly by a large group of artists working together on a voluntary basis, and is still constantly being revised and updated. This open-source software opens up completely new possibilities of doing artistic work on the computer.

Golden Nica u19 - freestyle computing

Markus Sucher (Austria)

Rennacs Studies

“Freestyle computing,” the epithet of the Prix Ars Electronica’s competition for young people means exactly what it says: namely, anything goes. And the winner of this year’s Golden Nica provides substantiation for that claim yet again. With his method of scanning entire films from the monitor screen and utilizing this material to create images - “frozen time” as it were - Klagenfurt native Markus Sucher has come up with what amounts to a completely new artform.

And as if that weren’t enough, the 19-year-old has already begun to explore the possibilities afforded by this method. His willingness to experiment and the pleasure he derives from it have taken him from relatively uncomplicated “Simple Dot Movements” to “One Hour Photos,” entire feature films that are scanned into memory and then fused into a single image. The Golden Nica goes to Sucher’s “*Rennacs Studies*” a work reminiscent of the motion studies of the late 19th century and thus one that carries on a rich tradition of moving pictures.

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