

HUMAN NATURE

ARS ELECTRONICA 2009

Festival for Art, Technology and Society
Linz Thu 3 - Tue 8 September

HUMAN NATURE Ars Electronica Festival 2009

Summary & Review

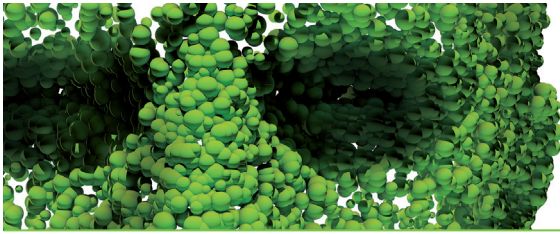
The Ars Electronica Center as the festival's hub and ultimate attraction, a perfectly staged FM4 Signs & Signals, an SRO Ars Electronica Gala, extremely well-attended symposia, entertaining History Talks, an 80+1 Base Camp and Ö1 Observatory that were literally overrun by festivalgoers ... and the list goes on and on. "We're absolutely thrilled about the positive feedback this very special festival has gotten," stated Ars Electronica Artistic Director Gerfried Stocker. "And ultimately, that's the best 30th-anniversary present we could have received!"

72.500 Visitors in 6 Days!

The 2009 Ars Electronica Festival also set an attendance record with a total of 72.500 visitors. "We attracted a really big turnout this year, much of which is definitely due to our 30th anniversary celebration as well as Linz's Capital of Culture year," Gerfried Stocker said. The 80+1 Base Camp and the Ö1 Observatory alone attracted 15.000 visitors, which once again underscores the festival's outstandingly successful presence in the public sphere—in this instance Linz's Main Square. As of August 31, the new Ars Electronica Center had already chalked up 170,998 visitors; now, the substantially expanded new facility featuring exhibits treating exciting new themes has also gotten rave reviews from international festivalgoers, more than 10.000 of whom dropped in during festival week. And the new AEC's content wasn't the only big hit; the architecture itself gave an excellent account of itself in the spotlight, with the Façade Festival launched by FM4 Signs & Signals attracting big crowds to the banks of the Danube and the Maindeck of the Ars Electronica Center each night. A festival highlight of long standing on the other hand has once again been the Cyberarts exhibition that's showcasing the greatest hits of Prix Ars Electronica 09 until October 4 at the OK Center for Contemporary Art.

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800 Artists and Scientists from 31 Countries

With more than 300 individual events, this year's festival lineup was the most jam-packed in Ars Electronica's history. This was made possible by 800 artists, scientists and scholars from 31 countries.

565 Media Outlet Representatives from 38 Countries

565 accredited journalists and bloggers from a total of 38 countries paid a visit to the 2009 festival. The figures by country are as follows: Austria (220), Germany (80), Italy (30), Slovenia (29), Japan (23), Poland (22), Slovakia (14), Spain (14), France (12), Denmark (12), the USA (12), England (9), Australia (6), Taiwan (6), Canada (4), the Philippines (3), South Korea (3), Chile (2) et al.

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