



2012 Ars Electronica Festival

u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD

Ars Electronica's 2nd Annual Festival for Young People

Thursday, August 30 to Monday, September 3, 2012, Linz

(Linz, August 29, 2012) Following its very well-received debut in 2011, u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD is back in a big way. In its own Village adjacent to the Ars Electronica Center, the Festival for the Next Generation is designed to be a high-energy playground for lateral thinking, offbeat solutions and extraordinary experiments. This is a setting for planning, working with screwdrivers and soldering irons, playing, eating, talking, enjoying, dancing and, just for the fun of it, giving some thought to desirable outcomes for the world of tomorrow. And that by the very ones who'll soon be assuming responsibility for this world– kids and young people. A total of 152 exhibitions, workshops, open labs, symposia, performances and concerts are lined up from Thursday, August 30 to Monday, September 3. There are 52 associate producers from throughout Austria and abroad. This festival is being held under the aegis of Claudia Schmied, Austrian Federal Minister of Education, Art and Culture, and Margit Fischer, Chairwoman of the ScienceCenter Network.

Change Your Direction – CREATE YOUR WORLD!

The mission of u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD is to nurture young people's efforts to develop promising ideas, network with their peers, and have a say in how their world will be. The aim is to encourage youngsters to play an active, self-confident role in configuring their future. This applies above all to coming up with new pictures of the world that take into account the social, ecological and economic realities of our networked, globalized planet. A big part of this is scrutinizing the role of both conventional and new media (educational experts asking: Do media educate?) and taking a closer look at how people can get their own independent picture of the facts & circumstances on the ground (Agnes Aistleitner's "state of Revolution"). Or to give some serious thought to which social, political or other framework conditions would have to prevail here in Austria for every single one of us to make a commitment to activism or even resistance (Turning Point: Change Your Direction). By no means less relevant is consideration of strategies conducive to greater ecological sustainability (Gerald Baumann, Aaron Ebner, Roland Lemmerer: BioBookCover; Youth Future Project: The Future Is in Our Hands). In the words of u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD Director Susi Windischbauer: "What we're endeavoring to achieve with all our offerings is to motivate young people to take a playful approach to exploring new domains so that they experience how fast they can learn new things and how much fun that can be."

u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD: <http://www.aec.at/u19/en/>

Ars Electronica Festival 2012: <http://www.aec.at/thebigpicture/en/>

With queries, please contact

Christopher Sonnleitner
Tel: +43.732.7272-38
christopher.sonnleitner@aec.at
www.aec.at/press



2012 Program Highlights

Details about all 152 events, activities, etc. in this year's u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD lineup are available on pages 55-75 of the Ars Electronica program or at <http://www.u19.at>.

u19 Exhibit (see program p. 59)

Thursday, August 30-Monday, September 3, 2012 / 10 AM-9 PM / u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD Festival Village

This is a must-see exhibition of the best projects that Austrian young people under age 19 submitted for Prix Ars Electronica prize consideration in 2011-12. Needless to say, one of the featured attractions is the Golden Nica award-winning reportage “state of revolution” by Agnes Aistleitner. The 14-minute video summarizes what the Tragwein, Upper Austria native who recently turned 19 found out on her independent fact-finding tour of Egypt amidst its recent revolutionary turmoil. The BioBookCover developed by high school students in Stainach, Upper Austria is a highly original and feasible alternative to plastic. The youngsters figured out how to use water, potato starch, gelatin and food coloring to manufacture vibrantly colorful, biodegradable book covers. What began as a project idea soon became a business plan, and a bunch of school kids turned into a management team. “*Ein Baum mit 2 Stämmen*” (a tree with two trunks) is another pilot project. The three-minute clip by students at Vienna’s PTS3 polytechnic school is an attempt to come to terms with the ambivalent feelings of young people who were born here and are thus Austrian citizens but nevertheless feel a strong bond to the homeland of their immigrant parents. u19 Exhibit showcases 15 projects singled out for recognition by the Prix Ars Electronica.

ABC Workshop (see program p. 62)

Thursday, August 30 to Saturday, September 1, 2012 / 10 AM-7 PM / u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD Festival Village

Until 7 PM on Saturday, September 1st, you still have the opportunity to construct your own personal illuminated letter for the voestalpine Klangwolke. Upper or lower case, a single letter or a whole word– different strokes for different folks! Then it’s time to join the crowd in Donaupark, where the big show kicks off at 8:30 PM. Thousands of letters will be hooked up, synchronized and set aglow in a gigantic spectacle that all are invited to be a part of!

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Create Your Adventure Game (see program p. 64)

Thursday, August 30 to Monday, September 3, 2012 / 10 AM-7 PM / u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD Festival Village

Up to 20 youngsters can take advantage of hands-on support by four game designers for five whole days in perfecting a mobile adventure game. They'll cover everything from A to Z – developing a storyline all the way to promoting a brand new product.

Youth Future Project (see program p. 65)

Thursday, August 30 to Monday, September 3, 2012 / 10 AM-7 PM / u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD Festival Village

The Youth Future Project's open labs are all about renewable energy. This is a really fun way to find out about the potential of wind power and solar panels. This is also the setting of the "Modest Heroes" photo exhibition. With her large-format portraits and short descriptive texts, Berlin photographer Katharina Mouratidi tells the stories of 40 people whose exemplary commitment to a good cause has been singled out for recognition with a so-called Alternative Nobel Prize. Launched in 1980, it's considered the world's ultimate honor for personal courage and commitment on behalf of social change. On account of the Alternative Nobel Prize's prestige and the international attention that goes along with it, the winners are often also beneficiaries of life-saving protection from repression, violence and arrest.

Bike Repair & Maintenance Workshop (see program p. 65)

Thursday, August 30 to Monday, September 3, 2012 / 10 AM-7 PM / u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD Festival Village

Everybody who shows up with their bike gets a free maintenance check by the experts from Linz's B7 Cycle Center. Any defects they find can be remedied right on the spot. All the tools and materials necessary are on hand, and the pros will show you exactly how to do it.

papplab (see program p. 67)

Thursday, August 30 to Saturday, September 1, 2012 / 10 AM-7 PM / u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD Festival Village

Corrugated cardboard is good for lots more than just packaging something else. It can be used for tables, chairs, benches or even whole rooms and houses. You can peruse proof of this in the Radio Ö1 Mobile Atelier on Linz's Main Square. And at the papplab Container in the u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD Festival Village, you can get hands-on experience doing it yourself. The papplab cardboard artists will show you how to use a professional-grade Trotec laser cutter to turn corrugated carton provided by the nice folks at Smurfit into useful objects.

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Qiwidrone – Quadrocopter (see program p. 68)

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Tanja Roschanz and Luka Pfeifhofer designed and constructed their own fully functional quadrocopter using freely available, totally modifiable software and hardware. Their four-rotor mini-helicopter is controlled by an Android app. They'll show how they did it, and present instructions for u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD festivalgoers to build and program whirlybirds of their own.

Wearable Music (see program p. 70)

Thursday, August 30 to Monday, September 3, 2012 / 10 AM-7 PM / u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD Festival Village

Striking up guitar music with merely a nod of your head, or moving your arms and cueing birds to sing? Sounds crazy but now it's possible! Students at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona have developed special sensors that can be applied to the user's shoes, shorts or T-shirt to turn them into musical instruments played by just moving. The preset sounds can be modified to the user's taste.

u19 Ceremony – Prix Ars Electronica (see program p. 74)

Friday, August 31, 2012 / 10:30 AM-12:30 PM / Ars Electronica Center (Deep Space and Maindeck)

Here, the spotlight is on prizewinners in the Prix Ars Electronica's u19 category. This year's Golden Nica recipient is Agnes Aistleitner. The two Awards of Distinction honor students at BG/BRG Stainach, as well as Daniel Wieczorek, Asya Serimoglu, Stephan Friedl, Lorena Zorkic & Anita Simic of Radio Poly at PTS 3 in Vienna. The u10 merchandise prize goes to Linz's Auwiesenstraße Kindergarten, and the u14 merchandise prize to Magdalena Kranjec, Sonja Stankovic, Christian Grill, Maximilian Tabelander & Sasa Vasiljkovic from NMS-Telfs-Dr.-Aloys-Weissenbach. The Honorary Mention honorees are: Felix Krause (iTanky); BG/BORG Kirchdorf (Weltrekord für eine bessere Welt); BG Wasagasse Vienna (Das Superhirn); Simon Stix (Fragment Planet); Michael Gehmayr & Laura Kaltenbrunner (Impressive Title); Peter Paikl, Alin Kalam, Wolfgang Schneiderbauer, Manmeet Singh & Christian Sorko of HTL Ottakring (RiffGrabber); Anna Neubauer, William Mikulaschek, Gregor Eckmayr, Valentina Heinisch, Felix Brandstetter & Killian Sochor of C.LOUD (handsome); Robin von Mendel, Magnus Reinstadler, Franz Reinstadler & Dino Grgic of BORG Gastein (ConnectIn(g)); Tanja Roschanz & Lukas Pfeifhofer of HTL Mössingerstraße in Klagenfurt (Quadrocopter); and Michael Schmid (Flat Water Bottle/Evolution of Animation).

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Showdown (see program p. 75)

Monday, September 3, 2012 /4-7 PM / Ars Electronica Center (Maindeck)

The five-day u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD festival concludes with a wrap-up and summary hosted by Tom Pohl, who'll review the most significant, most unusual and funniest events and experiences.

Ars Electronica Festival 2012: THE BIG PICTURE

THE BIG PICTURE is the theme of the 2012 Ars Electronica Festival running August 30-September 3 in Linz. The focus will be on images of a world with a viable future, images that capture our progressive globalization and networks interlinking our planet's inhabitants, and take into account contradictions and discontinuities as well as the extent to which humankind is growing together. This year's conclave will showcase inspiring best-practice examples from art and science in calling for a new, open perspective conducive to the development of a viable vision for our future. The festival is an inquiry into what it takes to compose such a Big Picture and just how it can be implemented.

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