

NEW: LabDays at the Ars Electronica Center

(Linz, October 6, 2010) The Ars Electronica Center Linz cordially invites you to attend the premiere of LabDays on Saturday, October 9 and Sunday, October 10, 2010. The center of these wide-ranging activities will be the laboratories in the Main Gallery. Guests will be able to experiment, tinker and play games all day long together with experts invited especially for the occasion. An encounter with “Codes, Clowns and Robots” has also been lined up for these inaugural LabDays, which are for all age groups and for laypersons and advanced users alike.

Codes – Clowns – Robots

Saturday, October 9 and Sunday, October 10, 2010 / 10 AM to 6 PM

Robots are taking over our world, establishing themselves in such fields as information technology, medicine, space travel, warfare and the reconnoitering of unknown or hazardous areas. “Codes – Clowns – Robots” are the featured attractions at LabDays in the Ars Electronica Center. They’ll provide fascinating and informative insights into the entire field of robotics, human-machine interaction and the neurological processes that determine whether and how we are able to process information.

Saturday & Sunday / 10:30 AM, 12:30 & 2:30 PM

Guided tour of the “Codes & Clowns” exhibition

American scientist, engineer and inventor Claude Shannon (1916–2001) is considered one of the pioneers of the Information Age. Now, the Ars Electronica Center is hosting an exhibition about this eccentric genius curated by the Heinz Nixdorf MuseumsForum Paderborn. Robotic mice, juggling plastic clowns and many other bizarre inventions illustrate the playful, humorous approach Claude Shannon took in his dealings with a wide variety of scientific disciplines and problems.

Saturday & Sunday / 11 AM to 4 PM

Robot Workshop (for kids and young people)

“Following in Claude Shannon’s Footsteps” is the motto of this workshop in which participants will transform electronic junk and cardboard boxes into whimsically weird robots.

Saturday / 1:30 and 3:30 PM

Juggle! Juggle!

Juggling is an excellent example of how quickly we human beings can learn the exact coordination of complex sequences of movements. Such tasks are much more difficult for machines and robots. The “Juggle! Juggle!” workshop provides insights into the demands and challenges human beings and robots face in going about this.

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Saturday / 2 PM

Robots as World Conquerors

Breathtaking imagery, fascinating insights into strange worlds, and research as adventure—In Deep Space, Gernot Grömer of the Austrian Space Forum will present a picture of our solar system. Robots now go where no man has gone before, penetrating the most distant nooks of our cosmic environment and delivering images of the craggy surface of Mars, bizarre icy landscapes of Jupiter’s moon Enceladus, and the sound of the wind on Saturn’s moon Titan. Gernot Grömer will give an account of robotic journeys of discovery that are blazing trails we human beings will tread some day.

Sunday / 11 AM

Brain Brunch with Axel Roch and Walter Pötsch

Claude Shannon, Alan Turing, Marcel Duchamp—they all played chess, the classic board game for great minds. And they played it in very different ways. Axel Roch, currently at the University of Groningen following stints at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne and ZKM—Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe, offers insights into various chess strategies, and discusses playing chess as a metaphor in art & media theory.

Juggler Walter Pötsch needed far fewer than the minimum number of semesters to complete his studies. In Deep Space, he’ll elaborate on how memory training and mnemonic techniques—that he’ll demonstrate live—and “juggling as concentration catalyst” helped him accomplish this.

Sunday / 2:30-4:30 PM

ExpertBits – Discussions with Experts

Controlling robots using only the power of a person’s own thoughts—what sounds like a sci-fi fantasy is already a reality. Christoph Guger of g.tec medical engineering GmbH presents the brain-computer interface that makes possible a form of human-machine communication with enormous future promise.

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