

“Microcosmic” LabDays at the Ars Electronica Center

Saturday, November 27 and Sunday, November 28, 2010

(Linz, November 24, 2010) Ars Electronica Center Linz is hosting its second LabDays event on Saturday and Sunday, November 27-28, 2010. The center of the action will be the laboratories—labs, for short—in the Main Gallery, where participants will be able to spend two amazing days experimenting, tinkering and playing under the watchful eyes of experts invited especially for the occasion. “Microcosmic” aptly describes everything attendees will encounter on these LabDays, which target all age groups, advanced users and newbies alike.

Microcosmic!

The microcosm (from *mikrós kósmos*, Greek for “little world”) is the miniature universe whose existence was discovered in the early 17th century when the invention of the (optical) microscope suddenly made it visible. Ever since, hand in hand with the improvement of this and other imaging procedures, humankind has been learning to understand these natural phenomena. Thus, we’ve come to see that the microcosm is subject to laws that are quite different than those prevailing in the world we live in. The less mass a particle has, the more distinctly it “fails” to obey the laws of classical physics. This is the rather disconcerting fact that launched a whole series of scientific disciplines—for instance, quantum mechanics, elementary particle physics and nanophysics—and also helped biologists gain numerous new insights into the cellular structure of living creatures and biochemical processes. Now, engineers at work in such fields as microelectronics, nanotechnology, and materials technology are imitating nature itself to optimize their products. LabDays at the Ars Electronica Center will provide fascinating glimpses into this fantastic miniature world and the many insights that we can gain from observing nature’s tiniest facets. Activities include workshops, speeches and chats with experts.

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