

## Deep Space LIVE

### Opening a Portal to Heaven: The Apotheosis of St. Ignatius

Thursday, March 10, 2011 / 8-9 PM / Ars Electronica Center

(Linz, March 7, 2011) This Thursday, March 10, 2011, Deep Space LIVE lets you take an eye-popping look at baroque *trompe l'oeil* painting. The high-definition focus will be on Andrea Pozzo's spectacular frescoes on the ceiling of the Church of Saint Ignatius of Loyola at Campus Martius in Rome. Your guides on this journey of discovery into the history of art are two members of the Jesuit Order: Gernot Wissner, an architect and theologian who is currently Provincial Superior of Austria, and Johannes Herz.

### The Church of Saint Ignatius of Loyola at Campus Martius

Construction of the Church of Saint Ignatius of Loyola at Campus Martius began in 1626 and was completed in 1685. The occasion for building it was the 1622 canonization of Ignatius of Loyola, the cofounder and first Superior General of the Society of Jesus, which later became known as the Jesuits. At 80 meters long and 43 meters wide, Saint Ignatius of Loyola at Campus Martius is one of Rome's largest churches. It has a Latin cross plan and a total of eight side chapels. It is most famous for its *trompe-l'oeil* ceiling frescoes that have to be viewed from particular points marked on the floor—from everywhere else, the images appear distorted. Pozzo worked to open up, even dissolve the actual surface of the nave's barrel vault illusionistically, arranging a perspectival projection to make an observer see a huge and lofty cupola (of a sort), open to the bright sky, and filled with upward floating figures. The imposing Corinthian pilasters that ring the entire interior seem to be extended vertically to support the imaginary upper level. The apse frescoes depict scenes from the life of St. Ignatius, whose apotheosis is shown in an enormous fresco over the nave.

### Andrea Pozzo

Andrea Pozzo was born on November 30, 1642 in Trient and died on August 31, 1709 in Vienna. The Italian painter and architect was a lay brother of the Jesuit Order. He became known for his *trompe-l'oeil* ceiling frescoes, and was also the leading theoretician of illusionist painting. Andrea Pozzo's famous manual "Perspective in Architecture and Painting" has gone through many editions and been translated into numerous languages. Typical of his painting style are his stark foreshortenings of perspective.

## Deep Space LIVE

The Ars Electronica Center is now hosting a Deep Space LIVE event every Thursday (except holidays) at 8 PM. Each presentation will feature ultra-high-definition imagery in 16x9-meter format and will be accompanied by expert commentary, entertaining stand-up repartee, and musical improvisation. Whether great works from the history of art, space travel, journeys of discovery in the Nanoworld, or a live concert is what you've come to behold, Deep Space LIVE

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stands for enlightening entertainment amidst breathtaking worlds of imagery. Admission (including an accompanying person) is €2. Holders of a valid Museum ticket are admitted free of charge.

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Andrea Pozzo: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrea\\_Pozzo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrea_Pozzo)

Sant'Ignazio Church: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sant%27Ignazio>

Ignatius of Loyola: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ignatius\\_of\\_Loyola](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ignatius_of_Loyola)

Ars Electronica Center: <http://new.aec.at/center/about/>

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