Art – Technology – Society

Ars Electronica Linz

Ars Electronica searches for controversial developments and possible future scenarios at the intersection of art, technology and society. The visions, ideas, and projects promoted with artists, scientists, technologists, engineers, entrepreneurs, and social activists from all over the world are innovative, radical, and eccentric in a positive sense. Ars Electronica is a creative ecosystem that optimally fosters the process from the initial idea, to experimentation and creation. At the same time, it incorporates numerous disciplines and areas of expertise, thereby supporting artistic developments as well as pioneering technological strength. Ars Electronica has continuously expanded its spectrum of activities since 1979. Today it is characterized by a globally unique, comprehensive approach in the field of technological-cultural phenomena. Based in Linz, Austria, Ars Electronica is a cultural, educational and research platform with a solid international reputation.

Ars Electronica Festival / Experimental Setting
Each year in September, Ars Electronica invites artists and researchers from all over the world to Linz to focus on a specific, interdisciplinary theme in a series of presentations, workshops, exhibitions and symposia. Each year's festival is dedicated to a different issue, and the festival format is anything but narrowly defined. This is a setting for experimentation, evaluation and reinvention – accompanied by a search for ways to advance society on the path to a better future. In 2016 the festival attracted 85,578 visitors and 405 accredited media representatives from 31 countries. More than 842 creative minds from 50 countries designed the five-day festival programme.

Prix Ars Electronica / Competition and Trend Barometer
Prix Ars Electronica is one of the world's most prestigious media art awards. Launched in 1987, the competition takes place each year with a focus on new ideas and projects that have the potential to change our lives. Prix Ars Electronica makes current developments visible and supports innovation. The categories are widely diverse and not limited to media art. Instead, the ideas of tomorrow are explored in other technology-related disciplines. The Golden Nica is regarded as the Oscar of media art. In 2017 the Prix Ars Electronica recorded 3,677 submissions from 106 countries.

Ars Electronica Center / Museum of the Future
The Ars Electronica Center is a Museum of the Future, dedicated to the fusion of art, science and technology. Biotechnology and genetic engineering, neurology, robotics, prosthetics and media art are juxtaposed here on equal terms and form interactive experimental arrays that offer insight into how our world and our daily lives could soon be. All exhibitions and presentations focus on these issues and offer different perspectives of our nature and our self image and make their possible future manifestations tangible for a broader public. As a school of the future, the Ars Electronica Center explores new approaches to science education and offers a wide range of placement programmes. The first extended Museum of the Future opened in 1996, the second in 2009 in conjunction with the Linz Cultural Capital year. The Ars Electronica Center attracted 172,062 visitors in 2016.

Ars Electronica Futurelab / Research & Development
The Ars Electronica Futurelab was launched in 1996 and serves as a driver for Ars Electronica research & development. It is conceived as an artistic-scientific think tank, a studio-lab or lab-studio. This is where innovative, prototypical future plans are developed that serve as a basis for discussion as well as an invitation to participate in a broader discourse on future-relevant topics. The Ars Electronica Futurelab works worldwide with partners from industry, creative business and art, and with the academic and educational communities.

Ars Electronica Export / Exhibition & Workshops Across the Globe
Launched in 2004, Ars Electronica EXPORT develops exhibitions, workshops and training programmes for and with partners from across the globe.
Ars Electronica Solutions / Interactive Products & Services
Ars Electronica Solutions, the newest Ars Electronica unit, develops interactive products and services in three areas: event & show design, brandlands & exhibitions, and urban media development. These products and services are precisely adapted to the needs of each client and made available on both a short-term lease or outright purchase basis.

Ars Electronica Archive / History of Media Art
The Ars Electronica Archive is one of the world's largest documentary collections of digital art and culture. Its content is accessible to a wide audience and for research work through an online portal.

Ars Electronica SPAXELS GmbH / Drone Shows Worldwide
Ars Electronica SPAXELS GmbH started presenting commercial drone shows all over the world in June 2016. One hundred LED equipped drones form an autonomous flying swarm that sketches gigantic figures across the night sky.

Ars Electronica Linz: www.aec.at