

## FIFTH EDITION OF *ART+SCIENCE* PROGRAMME - *art+science lab*

For the fifth consecutive year, the Center for the Promotion of Science presents activities at the intersection of science and art through the *art+science lab programme*. This year's programme will present to the audience the works of local artists and transdisciplinary project teams engaging in the wide field of artificial intelligence. In addition to the exhibition, *art+science lab* will also offer a unique educational content, and a rich accompanying programme. International character is this time realized through joint programmes with two relevant, partner manifestations. These are the *EuroScience Open Forum* conference in Trieste, and the *Ars Electronica Festival* in Linz. From September 1st to 14th, the Belgrade part of the manifestation will take place at the *Magacin Cultural Center*, the *French Institute*, and the *Science Club* of the Center for the Promotion of Science.

As has been the case in previous years, the focal point of the exhibition belongs to the work of the national *AI Lab* selection winner. Through the *Digital Prayer* project, using machine learning techniques, young artist Kristina Tica establishes a connection between the orthodox icon's canonical structure, and a picture which is artificially generated by means of a computer programme. Based upon the database with thousands of digital reproductions of orthodox icons, the programme learns how to create a completely new picture, with a final visual output which creates an *AI* icon of the 21st century. The science mentor of the project is Dr Miloš Milovanović, from the *Mathematical Institute* of the *Serbian Academy of the Sciences and Arts*.

In addition to the production of the work of the national *AI Lab* selection winner, what contributes special value to this year's programme are also works which came about after a number of meetings, workshops, and joint research of scientists and artists, based on which the key themes and concepts of possible experiences and presentations of artificial intelligence were mapped. This context enabled two transdisciplinary teams to be formed, whose artistic results will premier at this year's exhibition. The works of established local artists, who are also active internationally, will be exhibited, as well.

During the first week of the manifestation, the programme is connected to the *ESOF* conference in Trieste, which, as the city host, has a flattering title of the *European City of Science* for the year 2020. This is the ninth edition of the event that connects leading scientists, young researchers, science communicators, business people, and policy makers. In addition to its participation in the science programmes of the conference, the Center for the Promotion of Science participates also at the accompanying festival, *Science in the City*, within the *Both Ways: Art & Science from Central Eastern Europe* exhibition. Through this regional overview of contemporary art in Europe, teams of artists and scientists from Serbia are involved in the exhibition in Trieste, while the exhibition in Belgrade will be part of the joint virtual setting. Selection from Serbia is realized by the Center in collaboration with our famous curator Dr Maja Ćirić.

A joint virtual programme is also being developed with the *Ars Electronica Festival* from Linz, the most significant global point when it comes to interdisciplinary connection of science, art and new technologies. After last year's 40th anniversary edition, which gathered the greatest number of artists and scientists from all over the world, this year, the Festival will reduce the number of physical happenings. From September 9th to 13th, the majority of content is realized in virtual space, connecting numerous world locations and partners. As a longtime partner and contributor, the Center will present itself to the audience of the Festival through the *Ars Electronica Garden Belgrade*.

The *art+science lab* manifestation is part of the Center's programme activities within the *European ARTificial Intelligence Lab* project, financed through the *EU Creative Europe* programme. *AI Lab*

gathers 13 diverse institutions dealing with the connections between art, technology, and society. Instigating a dialogue and initiating interdisciplinary collaboration, numerous topics generated by artificial intelligence are being opened up, and the future based on this technology is being analyzed. The project doesn't linger on technological aspects, but instead takes into account and interprets cultural, philosophical, ethical, psychological, and spiritual aspects of the changes *AI* undoubtedly brings.

More information about the project and the participation of the Center for the Promotion of Science can be found here:

- [http://eu.cpn.rs/active\\_projects/european-artificial-intelligence-lab/](http://eu.cpn.rs/active_projects/european-artificial-intelligence-lab/)
- <https://ars.electronica.art/ailab/en/>
- <http://artandscience.rs>.

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