

Deep Space LIVE

Giordano Filippo Bruno: Pioneer of Heliocentric Cosmology

Thursday, February 17, 2011 / 8-9 PM / Ars Electronica Center

(Linz, February 11, 2011) Giordano Filippo Bruno was burned at the stake on February 17, 1600 on Rome's Campo de' Fiori. The grounds for his execution: he had dared to relegate the geocentric conception of the universe to the realm of fairy tales and, in its stead, to maintain that the universe is infinite and would exist forever. This was an affront to the Catholic Church—after all, such hypotheses failed to accommodate Heaven and the Last Judgment.

Deep Space LIVE with Dietmar Hager

On Tuesday, February 17, 2011, the 411th anniversary of his death, Dietmar Hager and the Ars Electronica Center will stage a Deep Space LIVE dedicated to Giordano Filippo Bruno and his once-so-radical hypotheses, the effects of which continued to be felt long after the Renaissance. Dietmar Hager is a microsurgeon at Linz General Hospital and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. He has been doing astrophotography for over 20 years, during which time his images have appeared in international journals and textbooks.

"Perhaps you pronounce this sentence against me with greater fear than I receive it!"

Born in 1548 in Nola, Italy, Filippo Bruno was educated in Naples. He joined the Dominican Order in 1565, taking the name Giordano, and became an ordained priest in 1572. He first came into conflict with the authorities when he rejected the Adoration of the Virgin Mary and removed the images of saints from his monastery cell. He was also accused of having made controversial reading recommendations to a novice. When he was suspected of heresy in 1576, he fled Naples and then Rome. He became an increasingly enthusiastic proponent of the natural philosophy of Antiquity and of Copernican heliocentrism. In 1580 he left the Dominican Order. After sojourns in Lyon, Toulouse, Paris, Oxford, London, Marburg, Wittenberg, Prague and Frankfurt, he returned to Italy. On May 22, 1592 he was arrested in Venice and sent to Rome, where he was imprisoned in the Castel Sant'Angelo. He remained incarcerated for seven years while the legal proceedings dragged on. Ultimately, he was excommunicated as a heretic and a magician, his writings were banned, and he was turned over to the secular authorities. His plea to be spared torture and execution was denied, and the Roman governor sentenced Bruno to be burned at the stake. Upon hearing the verdict, the 52-year-old defendant is purported to have stated: "Perhaps you pronounce this sentence against me with greater fear than I receive it!" After eight years imprisonment, Giordano Filippo Bruno perished on the pyre at Campo de' Fiori on February 17, 1600.

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 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.

Giordano Filippo Bruno (Wikipedia): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giordano_Bruno
Stargazer Observatory / Dietmar Hager: <http://www.stargazer-observatory.com/>
Ars Electronica Center: <http://new.aec.at/center/en/about/>

With queries, please contact

Christopher Ruckerbauer
Tel: +43.732.7272-38
christopher.ruckerbauer@aec.at
www.aec.at/press