

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Giving Space to the Untamed: the University of the Arts Linz transforms the Main Square into „THE WILD STATE“

**A wild artistic garden: From today until September 13th the main square and the University of the Arts in Linz will be transformed into „THE WILD STATE“. By participating at this year's Ars Electronica Festival, the Kunstuni Campus reacts to the recent pandemic conditions and provides space and opportunities for new creations.**

The unknown, the untamed, the resilient, the random, the loud and the roving will find their space into the inner city on 5 days (9.-13. September). The focus will be on works by young artists who have the reputation of being especially resilient. Giving up is not an option; even in times of the pandemic crisis. Like in an ecosystem they have adapted to these harsh conditions and looked for new ways to be creative; their results will be presented here.



„Portrait of a Generative Memory“  
© Indira de Benedetto

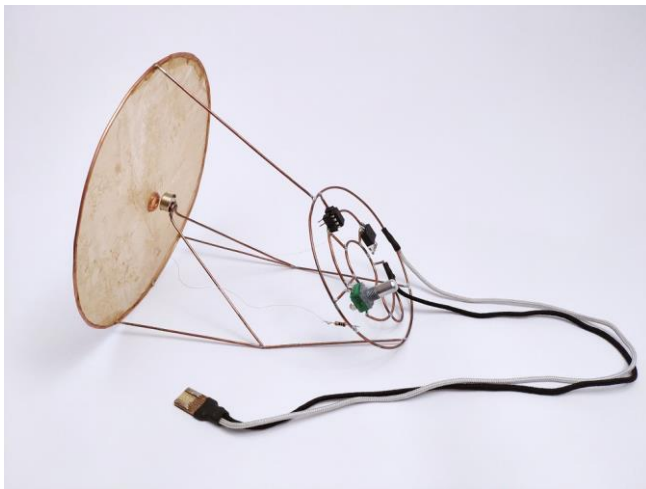
#### **Fearless, unconventional and brave**

*„We invite you to travel into the ‚THE WILD STATE‘, an experience that addresses all your senses, provides experimentations and discussions. In these pandemic times we are confronted with a wish for control and many restrictions mark our daily lives. Therefor democracy, social inclusion and forward looking models that guarantee free, fearless, unconventional and brave models of co-existence become important. We offer you a colorful and blooming artistic garden, which profits from its different characters, perspective and contributions“, explains rector **Brigitte Hütter**.*

„120 international locations are part of this year’s Ars Electronica. "Measuring the New World" and traveling through "Kepler’s Gardens" takes place on several world-wide locations, and also the Kunstuniversität Linz as well as the Hauptplatz will be connected, becoming an essential part of this year’s festival. It is now time to come back to normality and re-start cultural activities. This is why it is so important that the Ars Electronica Festival takes place this year", says **Klaus Luger**, the mayor of Linz.

### Cultural active, more visible than ever

„By staging the city of Linz during the Ars Electronica Festival with ,THE WILD STATE‘ exhibition and events, the Kunstuniversität Linz and its students are giving the strongest sign of life to date. The message is clear. The Kunstuniversität Linz wants to be present in the middle of the city, not only through its location but also with its manifold program. This kind of engagement is good for the city. Through study programs such as Interface Cultures, Fashion & Technologie as well as Creative Robotics, the Kunstuniversität Linz presents its strength in the areas of art and technologies“, explains cultural councilor **Doris Lang-Mayerhofer**, while thanking the new rector Brigitte Hütter for her engagement.



„The Sound of Tea“

© Robert Angerer

„Principally led, curated and programmed by the Kunstuniversität Linz, the ,Ars Electronica Campus‘ becomes a stage and platform for communication and a forum for discussions about ideas for the future. Young media artists from Linz encounter colleagues from all over the world, exchange and network as well as create projects to inspire each other. In times of lock down and travel restrictions, this type of exchange and dialogue is absolutely essential“, explains **Gerfried Stocker**, Artistic Director of the Ars Electronica.

## Isolation, Uncanny Friends and a Window into the World – Details

- *THE WILD STATE: networked:* This international exhibition aims to leave the state of uncertainty behind and presents artistic-technological projects by 13 partner universities of the University of the Arts Linz.
- *State of Intimacy:* Students of the Interface Cultures Master program present their survival tactics in times of the pandemic and leave behind romantic artistic notions of loneliness and isolation.
- *Agora Digitalis:* A stage from Interface Cultures with performances, presentations, workshops and podium discussions.
- *The Internet Yami-Ichi:* An internet flea market where you find products related to the internet.
- *Crafting Futures:* Students from the program Gestaltung: Technik.Textil present their visions about the future of crafts, the craft of the future and the design of the future.
- *Latency Now, Telematic Improv Workshop:* Here the results of several performative audio-visual improvisation sessions on video conferencing platforms will be shown.



Still from „Translated Guinea Pig“  
© Tuva Holm

- *Fashion & Technology: IN THE LAB:* This exhibition provides a glimpse into an inclusive, sustainable and democratic future of textiles.
- *Unheimliche Freunde/Uncanny Friends:* This 3 days symposium looks at the man-machine relationship and the „Uncanny Valley“ phenomena.
- *Evening Lectures:* with Thomas Macho (Director of the IFK International Research Center of Cultural Studies), Janina Loh (Post-Doc in Technic- and Media philosophy at the University of Vienna) und Lynn Hershman Leason (Media Art Pioneer and winner of the Honorary Mention at Prix Ars Electronica 2020 in the category „Interactive Art +“)
- *Interfacing Hauptplatz:* Two media installations (an interactive installation by Mignonneau & Sommerer and an AV installation by DEPART) turn the facade of the Kunstuni location at Hauptplatz 8 into a virtual window.



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- *Sound Campus*: A Nightline program with 23 performances, concerts, sound works and the VR environment „Metaverse.“
- *Meter machen*: A photo competition which invites everybody to contribute images about funny situations caused by physical distancing.

All program points take place during the whole festival, only „Interfacing Hauptplatz“ is scheduled from 10th to 12th September. More information and regular live streams are provided here: [ausstellungen.ufg.at/wildstate](https://ausstellungen.ufg.at/wildstate)

### **Pictures**

The pictures can be used free of charge when reporting on “THE WILD STATE”, stating the respective credit.

**Picture 1:** „Portrait of a Generative Memory“, part of „State of Intimacy“; © Indiara de Benedetto

**Picture 2:** „The Sound of Tea“, part of „Crafting Futures“; © Robert Angerer

**Picture 3:** „Translated Guinea Pig“, part of the Sound Campus; © Tuva Holm

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