

# The New Digital Deal

Ars Electronica Festival 2021.

September 8-12.

In Linz, online, and at 86 other Ars Electronica Gardens around the globe.

(Linz / August 30, 2021) Everyone's interested in deals these days. This is partly the fault of a president who — in typical salesman fashion — was only interested in deals that would bring profit to him, completely disregarding the consequential costs for others ...

In 2021, Ars Electronica is looking for a deal too, but a deal of a very different kind. Together with artists, scientists and activists from all over the world, the Linz festival for art, technology and society is calling for a fundamentally new approach to the challenges of the 21st century. Two main things are needed for us to tackle those challenges: the freedom to act and the ability to act. In the face of ever greater ecological and social disruption, it's clear that the time for beating around the bush is over. It's time to put our money where our mouth is; it's time for a "New Digital Deal."

## Ars Electronica — a field test for the 21st century

Where should the impulse for a "New Digital Deal" come from, if not a platform like Ars Electronica? That's why this year's festival aims not only to promote new things, but to let them play out as prototypes: The question of what we want to use new technologies for, and how, will be answered by a **dual event** that builds on the experiences of 2020 and takes place both on-site and online. The question of what learning should look like in the 21st century will be the focus of a "**Festival University**" that will bring 100 young people from more than 40 countries to Linz. The question of how we can link economic value creation with ecological and social sustainability and anchor it locally is at the center of a new "**Regional STARTS Center**" in Linz and Upper Austria. The festival for art, technology and society is not only a forum, but also a field test for the "New Digital Deal."

## Ars Electronica in Linz, online, and at 86 Ars Electronica Gardens around the world

In Linz, this artistic-scientific exploration of our future comes together on the Festival Mile in the city center, which stretches from the **OK in the Upper Austrian Cultural Quarter** to the **University of Art**

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**and Design Linz** on the main square and the nearby **Salzamt**, to the **Ars Electronica Center** and the **STADTWERKSTATT** on the north bank of the Danube. The festival in Linz has an additional venue in “**Kepler’s Gardens**” on the campus of **Johannes Kepler University**.

Moreover, another **86 “Ars Electronica Gardens” around the world** will join the call for a New Digital Deal in 2021. The proposals made there will be offered partly on site for the local public and partly online for the international community.

Online is where it’s at: after nearly a year and a half of “Home Delivery” and a first hybrid festival in 2020, Ars Electronica is taking the next step and committing to the dual-event format. The **Swapcard** event platform developed in France serves as a central tool and provides access to a wealth of streamed lectures, workshops, concerts and tours from Linz and the Ars Electronica Gardens around the world. Users can also put together their own festival calendars and visit many different chats to exchange information and network with other visitors from all over the world.

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All times, locations and further information on the programmes of Ars Electronica 2021 can be found at **[ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal](https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal)**.

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## Highlights of Ars Electronica 2021

### The “Festival-University” – a premiere to kick off the festival

How can we initiate and accelerate necessary changes? What should learning look like in the 21st century? The Festival University is a unique, international and hybrid summer university that **Johannes Kepler University Linz** and **Ars Electronica** have developed and are implementing for the first time with the support of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the province of Upper Austria. Under the motto “Transform your world,” 100 scholars between the ages of 16 and 24 from 41 countries around the world and from completely different professional backgrounds will address the major issues of our time.

Whether the topic is global inequality, migration, climate change or new technologies, the students, guided by top international scientists, managers and artists, ask how we can overcome global challenges and initiate change. In hands-on workshops, interactive talks and exciting lectures, participants can immerse themselves in the world of artificial intelligence or storytelling. They experience such things as how the circular economy works, and in the process, they are encouraged to overcome professional boundaries and think outside the box. The students will spend a total of three weeks working on various aspects of transformative change and will present their results on September 17 at the closing event at the Ars Electronica Center, which will also be broadcast online.

### On Tuesday, September 7, 2021 ...

Pre-Opening-Walk / OK in the Upper Austrian Cultural Quarter, University of Art and Design Linz, Salzamt, Ars Electronica Center

This year’s Ars Electronica will start *in medias res* on the eve of the official festival kickoff. The program includes a **pre-opening walk** that starts in the OK in the Upper Austrian Cultural Quarter and looks at award-winning artworks in the “**CyberArts Exhibition**” to show how civil society in the 21st century is using new technologies to document violence, terror and wars (“**Cloud Studies**”). There’s also a unique collection of edible earth samples from all over the world, which makes it clear that the way we treat our environment always has an effect on us – because we are part of nature and not above it (“**The Museum of Edible Earth**”).

The show continues at the University of Art and Design Linz on Hauptplatz, where the exhibition “**Loops of Wisdom**” explores the question of how we generate our knowledge about the world and

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why we seem to develop so little wisdom despite all this knowledge. The students presented a guideline for action that could help us not only to make more of our knowledge, but to take more effective action.

Next stop is the Salzamt. **Simon Lehner**, who was nominated for this year's Cardinal König Art Prize, deals here with reconstructing and overcoming experiences of violence, while **Flavia Mazzanti** uses experimental film and immersive media to explore socio-spatial issues in the context of New Materialism and Post-Anthropocentrism, and **Michaela Putz** asks how increasing digitalization is changing our perception of intimate relationships and our surroundings. The show is a co-production of Salzamt Linz, **Bildraum Wien** and **Ars Electronica**.

The last stop of the evening is the **Ars Electronica Center**, where the show "**There is no Planet B**," developed in conjunction with the **Climate and Energy Fund**, makes it clear that Homo Sapiens can't get away with things forever. Artistic projects make us aware that what we lack is not solutions, but rather the will and the consistency to use them and to develop ourselves and society in such a way that the generations after us will still find a future life worth living on this planet. In addition, a show developed in conjunction with the **Upper Austrian Chamber of Labor** will address "**Working in and on the Future**," and the **Ars Electronica Futurelab** will mark its 25th anniversary with a "**Journey**" through the past and future along interactive stations. The grand finale of this **pre-opening walk** is "**Pianographique**" with piano music by **Maki Namekawa** and real-time visualizations by **Cori O'LAN**.

## Starting Wednesday, September 8, 2021 ...

### CyberArts 2021 / OK at the Upper Austrian Cultural Quarter

A must-see every year: the **CyberArts** in the **OK at the OÖ Kulturquartier**. The exhibition, curated especially for the festival as always, presents a selection of the best projects submitted to the Prix Ars Electronica — above all those that were awarded a Golden Nica by the jury. The exhibition shows how innovatively and effectively a civil society made up of artists, scientists, designers and activists uses new technologies to document forms of violence that are as subtle as they are deadly and to hold their perpetrators accountable (**Cloud Studies / Forensic Architecture**). A total of 20 artistic projects will be shown as part of this year's "**CyberArts**."

### Loops of Wisdom / Linz University of Art and Design

The **Ars Electronica Campus** continues with artistic statements that are traditionally a bit bolder and more provocative. With this year's exhibition "**Loops of Wisdom**," the students of the University of Art and Design Linz are asking why it is that we generate more knowledge about the world than ever before, but develop so little wisdom — as is evident from the state of this world. The students of the

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University of Art and Design Linz see their projects and installations as a guide to action that is intended to help us make more of our knowledge and finally put it into action.

## There is no Planet B / Ars Electronica Center

The third venue on the downtown festival circuit is the Ars Electronica headquarters. Here, two exhibitions and a specially selected program will be shown in Deep Space 8K. On top of all that, a birthday will be celebrated...

The show “**There is no Planet B**,” developed in cooperation with the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund, first makes it clear that Homo Sapiens cannot cheat fate forever. Artistic projects such as “**The Museum of Edible Earth**” and “**Life Support System**” make us aware of how fragile earth’s ecosystem is, and how we will not survive its collapse. Projects such as “**SolarVille - A Vision for a Clean Energy Future**” show that we don’t lack solutions here and now — we simply lack the will and the consistency to use them and to develop ourselves and society in such a way that the generations after us will also find a life worth living on this planet. According to Carl Sagan: *“There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand.”*

## Working in and on the Future / Ars Electronica Center

Will virtual work and test environments replace offices and laboratories? Will we have talking AI systems instead of personal assistants? Or will there be teams where humans and robots research, develop, operate, assemble and build together, literally “shoulder to shoulder”? The disruptive potential of new technologies such as AI and the question where we want to go with them is the focus of the exhibition “**Working in and on the Future**,” which was realized in cooperation with the **Upper Austrian Chamber of Labor**. The show presents a range of artworks and research projects on the thematic clusters “Work and Digital Transformation,” “Cooperative Work: of People and Machines,” the “Tools of the Future” and “Humanizing Technology.”

## Festival Lineup at Deep Space 8K / Ars Electronica Center

The festival lineup for Deep Space 8K is sure to attract crowds once again this year. On offer are piano concerts by **Maki Namekawa** (“**Morphologies**”) accompanied by **Cori O’Lan**’s real-time visualizations, the usually unusual audiovisual performance by **Fadi Dorninger** and **Chris Bruckmayer** (“**Is it you, my dear AI or is it me?**”), the expansive, interactive stagings of “**Cooperative Aesthetics**” by the “**Time-Based and Interactive Media Art**” department, gigapixel images of paintings by Picasso and Vermeer or a virtual tour of the **Austrian Pavilion** designed by **Ars Electronica Solutions** at Expo in Dubai.

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## 25 Years of the Ars Electronica Futurelab / Ars Electronica Center / Online

In addition to the opening of the first Ars Electronica Center, 1996 saw the founding of the **Ars Electronica Futurelab**. Since then, its international, interdisciplinary team of artists and scientists has been researching the future, developing sensational prototypes, and even setting world records. As part of its own “**Futurelab Day**,” the Lab is looking at its own past and future, with an extensive special program presenting its work and subject matter to the general public. Under the motto “**Alchemists of the Future - The Journey**,” the team members will also be taking visitors on a journey through 25 years of visions and ideas throughout the festival — a journey that includes interactive installations dealing with artificial intelligence and novel materials, digital surveillance and foldable robots ...

## Starting Thursday, September 9, 2021 ...

### Digital && Life / Kepler’s Gardens, Learning Center, Mensa

This year’s **themed exhibition “Digital && Life”** spans two buildings — the Mensa and the Learning Center. On display are projects and interactive installations by renowned pioneers of media art such as **Joe Davis** (US), recently honored international collectives such as the **Territorial Agency** (INT), unconventional artists such as **Theresa Schubert** (DE), as well as **professors and students of the JKU**. What they all have in common is that they investigate the manifold interactions and relationships between the digital world and life.

### LIT Exhibition / Kepler’s Gardens, Learning Center

Responsible Technology: that sums up the visionary technological approach of the **Linz Institute of Technology (LIT)**. Founded as an all-university institute, the LIT not only focuses on technical innovation, but also keeps an eye on the social, economic, health and legal framework and consequences of new technology. At Ars Electronica, the LIT will be contributing plenty of “**Creative Convergences between Art and Science**” and providing unusual insights into (natural) scientific findings and their potential applications — whether it’s using bacterial cultures obtained on campus for dyeing textiles (“**Growing Colors: Patterning with living pigments**”), multiphase flows and their significance for water treatment, exhaust gas purification, or vaccine production (“**Do You Feel Stressed**”), the constitutional implications of virtualizing court proceedings (“**The Virtual Court. Reality.**”) or of Synthetic Aperture Radar for autonomous robots (“**Magic Eye**”), or whether it’s interactive scenarios around the possibilities and limits of machine learning (“**Serum 13**,” “**Faces of AI**” and “**AI Forest**”).

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## AI Lab Exhibition / Kepler's Gardens, Mensa

However we think about and implement a New Digital Deal, our visions, expectations and fears surrounding technologies such as AI play an essential role. That is why the “**European ARTificial Intelligence Lab,**” initiated by Ars Electronica, has focused on them since 2018. The European network supports artists who work with AI applications and/or reflect on how they are used and how they impact our society. It is contributing a whole series of projects to this year's themed exhibition. In a way that is as unusual as it is impressive, the data experiment “**Made to Measure**” asks, for example, who and what actually defines identities in a digital society and how do they change? “**Triopic Spectacle,**” on the other hand, suggests that we leave binary categories such as “local – global,” “individual – collective” or “real – virtual” behind once and for all. “**The Museum of Edible Earth**” pleads for us to stop placing ourselves above nature, to accept that we are a part of it and to rethink our relationship to the world in which we live.

## STARTS Prize '21 Exhibition / Kepler's Gardens, Mensa

The European Commission's **STARTS** initiative makes it clear that technological advances and artistic practice can be combined to create a win-win situation for European innovation policy and for the art world. An annual competition organized by Ars Electronica brings best-practice projects to the forefront, which are then presented and discussed during the festival. In 2021, this STARTS exhibition is not conceived as a format in its own right, but rather as a narrative strand of the themed exhibition. It will show how art visualizes and communicates scientific data (“**Oceans in Transformation**”), how effectively circular economy can function in local communities (“**Remix el Barrio, Food Waste Biomaterial Makers**”) or how we can generate energy from organic waste (“**The Living Light**”) ...

## create your world / Kepler's Gardens, Kepler Building

Thinking seriously about the future with a touch of levity, exchanging ideas with others and, yes, having a good time – that's what **create your world** is all about. Everyone who is interested in the future and enthusiastic about it is welcome here, on a platform where utopias can be rolled out, naivety should reign and unrealistic ideas are all the rage; we are allowed to laugh and (re)build trust in each other. **create your world** is about what we have in common and what connects us. Young people everywhere have the opportunity to present their projects and ideas, to show what they are capable of and how they would tackle things. And so some do their rounds here with their self-built “**Bamboo Bicycle,**” others know that “**love is not a movie,**” some call for constructive protest and resistance with “**Rise up**” or the “**Call to Action,**” or try to give AI a social dimension with the “**Social Intelligence Agency.**”

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## The Soundpark - Auditory Scenes / Kepler's Gardens, Park

In the midst of the festival's upbeat atmosphere, the **Soundpark** creates an oasis of calm. Under the spreading crowns of old trees, everyone is invited to close their eyes, lean back and let themselves be carried away into exotic soundscapes. In the middle of "Kepler's Gardens" in Linz, the sounds of the rainforest, glaciers and deserts can be heard, the roar of waves thundering against the steep cliffs of the coast and the cold wind sweeping through endless tundra. On the Saturday of the festival, it's up to the winners of the Prix Ars Electronica to design the sound park and invite the audience to sharpen a sense that is often blunted in a world flooded with visual stimuli.

## Five Festival Days ...

### Wednesday, September 8, 2021

#### Symposium Universitas / Kepler's Gardens, Circus of Knowledge / Online

How are digital technologies changing university teaching? What new skills need to be taught and what new methods need to be implemented? How can performance and academic output be (more) meaningfully "measured"? And how can transdisciplinarity not only be attempted, but really lived? These are precisely the questions at the heart of the two-day "**Symposium Universitas**" with which **Johannes Kepler University Linz**, the **University of Applied Arts Vienna** and **Danube University Krems** are kicking off this year's festival. On the first day of the conference **Ulf-Daniel Ehlers** (DE), **Markus F. Peschl** (AT), **Manuela Naveau** (AT), **Daniel J. Lang** (DE), **Christopher Lindinger** (AT), **Kerstin Pell** (AT) and **Patricia Stark** (AT) will speak, followed on the second day by **Sarah de Rijcke** (NL), **Dominic Orr** (DE), **Martin Ebner** (AT), **Martina Mara** (AT) and **J. Philipp Schmidt** (DE).

#### STEAM Inc / Kepler's Gardens, Circus of Knowledge / Online

It's all about collaboration: the hybrid talks and workshops of the EU program **STEAM Inc** promote cross-disciplinary collaboration, especially (but not exclusively) at universities. Science, Technology, Engineering, Artistic Innovation and Mathematics form a kind of toolset for problem solving that always begins with the same two questions: "What problem am I trying to solve?" and "Who should I collaborate with to find an answer?" The **STEAM Inc** initiative aims to establish this interdisciplinary approach at European universities and implement it in research and teaching. In addition, the aim is to evaluate the impact of STEAM. **Sarah King** (UK), the **STEAMhouse** collective (UK), **Poppy Wilde** (UK), **Robin Kay** (UK), **Sharon Brunt** (UK) and **Kelly Vero** (CH) will speak.

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## Equal Opportunities in Digitization Initiative / Kepler's Gardens, Circus of Knowledge / Online

The fact that digital gadgets, algorithms and the Internet are increasingly shaping our lives is just as clear as the unfortunate fact that women are still heavily underrepresented in the development of all these technologies. As part of her initiative for opportunities in the digital sector, "**Initiative Digitalisierung Chancengerecht**" (IDC), **Doris Schmidauer** (AT) invites experts from education, technology, business, culture and media to a panel discussion to find out: what are the causes of the digital divide between the sexes, and what concrete measures can overcome this gap? After an introduction by **Doris Schmidauer** (AT), **Ingrid Brodnig** (AT) will give a keynote speech, followed by a discussion between **Christiane Spiel** (AT), **Gerfried Stocker** (AT), **Carina Zehetmaier** (AT) and **Mariana Karepova** (AT). The discussion will be moderated by **Martina Mara** (AT).

## Symposium Perspectives on Civic Education: NEULAND — A Society on an Expedition / Kepler's Gardens, Circus of Knowledge / Online

The fact that the findings and recommendations of science are receiving unprecedented attention and appreciation as a result of the pandemic, but conspiracy theories and esotericism are booming at the same time, prompts the **University of Teacher Education Upper Austria** and the **Chamber of Labor Upper Austria** to reflect on the role of the education system. In the context of their symposium "**Perspectives on Political Education**," they will address the question of how our education system can help to promote social thinking and action and strengthen a basic humanitarian attitude. The keynote address "Uncharted territory - from learning under Covid 19 to the school of the future" will be held by **Christiane Spiel** (University of Vienna, Faculty of Psychology), followed by discussions on the topic "Uncharted territory - Orientation - Exploratory Steps" by **Andreas Girzikowsky** (Head of School Psychology Education Directorate Upper Austria), **Jeremie Dikebo** (Vocational Schools Regional Speaker), **Tanja Jadin** (FH Hagenberg) and **Sonja Hörmanseder** (Upper Austria Crisis Aid). After two workshop sessions and a short film, **Michael Merl** (Child and Adolescent Psychiatry) will close with the keynote "The undiscovered country - What we know, what we suspect, what we hope for."

## Festival Opening & Opening of the "Circus of Knowledge" / Kepler's Gardens, Inner Courtyard Auhof Palace, Circus of Knowledge

The opening night of Ars Electronica 2021 is also the inauguration of the JKU's new "Circus of Knowledge," a unique arena where children can experience the world with all their senses, and where they can fall in love with the magic of knowledge and cognition as early as possible. As the artistic highlight of the evening, "Naked Lunch" frontman **Oliver Welter** and exceptional pianist **Clara Frühstück** will perform their new interpretation of Schubert's "Winterreise," with **Cori O'Lan** contributing the visuals.

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Thursday, September 9, 2021

### STARTS Day / Kepler's Gardens, Circus of Knowledge / Online

STARTS stands for Science, Technology and Arts and is a long-term initiative of the European Commission. Part of this is the prestigious STARTS Prize, which brings groundbreaking projects to the forefront and shows how science, technology and art can inspire each other and contribute to economic and social innovation. Two main prizes will be awarded: this year's GRAND PRIZE FOR ARTISTIC EXPLORATION went to the architects of the Territorial Agency for their outstanding project "**Oceans in Transformation**," while the GRAND PRIZE FOR INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION was awarded to the designers **Anastasia Pistofidou, Marion Real** and **The Remixers at Fab Lab Barcelona, IaaC** (INT) for their groundbreaking project "**Remix el Barrio, Food Waste Biomaterial Makers**." As part of a dedicated **STARTS Day**, the festival will discuss how these and other projects can contribute to a "**New Digital Deal**". **Lucas Evers** (NL) from Waag will moderate the full-day program, which includes lectures, panel discussions, workshops and guided tours, some of which will take place on site in the Circus of Knowledge and others online on Swapcard.

In the morning session, **John Palmesino** and **Ann-Sofi Rönnskog** (INT) from **Territorial Agency** will talk about their award-winning project "**Oceans in Transformation**." This will be followed by a deep dive with **Tactical Tech** (INT), **Territorial Agency** (INT) and **Geocinema** (INT) on pioneering methods of data visualization and analysis, as well as an open and transparent approach. Immediately afterwards, **Julie Freeman** (UK), **Mariana Lanari** (BR) and **Obvious Collective** (FR) will speak on the topic of "**Creating with Data: From Arts to Entrepreneurship**" and address current debates around data as a raw material. This round will be moderated by **Elena Simperl** (DE).

The afternoon will begin with a STARTS Talk with **Anastasia Pistofidou** (GR) and **Marion Real** (FR) and continue with a deep dive into the topic "**On the future of sustainable manufacturing**" with **Anastasia Pistofidou** (GR), **Areti Markopoulou** (GR) and **Marion Real** (FR). After a short break, this will be followed by the panel "**MADE IN YOUR CITY: A NEW VALUE CHAIN FOR FASHION**" with **Karin Fleck** (AT), **Silke Hofmann** (DE), **Anke Loh** (DE) and other artists from the research project **Re-FREAM**. The session will be moderated by **Christiane Luible Bär** (AT). The day will conclude with the open online networking event "**Meet the S+T+ARTS Community**" and a performance by **Håkan Lidbo** (SE).

### Futurelab Day / Ars Electronica Center / Online

The Ars Electronica Futurelab turns 25! This anniversary will be celebrated with a special "Futurelab Day" during the festival. Numerous discussions, workshops, guided tours and interactive stations will provide insight into the research fields of the Linz-based media art lab founded in 1996, and its artistic and scientific perspectives on the future. The program is divided into three sessions that can

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be followed both on-site at the Ars Electronica Center and via streaming: The first session will be **“Morning Inspirations,”** in which experts, activists, researchers, innovators and Lab partners will discuss the major issues of the present and future, from climate change and migration to digital transformation. What we as a society and as individuals can contribute to positive change will then be the focus of the **Afternoon Experiences,** which explores the exhibition **“Alchemists of the Future - The Journey”:** What is hidden in various technological “black boxes” such as AI, how much technology is in our everyday lives and what do we associate with the concept of “future”? The **“Night Performances”** will conclude the “Futurelab Day”; visualizations and sounds created by artists at the Lab and artificial neural networks will provide an electrifying atmosphere and make you think about how people and machines will interact in the future. And the concert by pianist **Maki Namekawa** and cellist **Rubin Kodheli,** accompanied by **Cori O’Lan’s** visuals (**“Morphologies”**) in Deep Space 8K, is not to be missed.

## Friday, 10 September 2021

The Branch Magazine Symposium - the conference on the festival theme / Kepler’s Gardens, Circus of Knowledge / Online

Climate justice, sustainable digitalization, solidarity and care, low-carbon design and education, and last but not least a good dose of solar punk — all ingredients of a New Digital Deal to be discussed at a day-long conference. The symposium is curated and led by **Michelle Thorne** (DE/US), **Chris Adams** (DE/US), **Christine Lariviere** (CA/DE), **Andres Colmenares** (CO/ES) and **Alex Deschamps-Sonsino** (UK), the creators of **“branch,”** an online magazine that won the **“Award for Digital Humanity.”** After an **opening plenary,** panel 2 will be dedicated to **“Solarpunk and Other Worlds,”** with **Luiza Prado** (BR), **Sarah Friend** (CA) and **Jay Springett** (UK) speaking, and **Christine Lariviere** (CA/DE) moderating. Panel 3 will then focus on **“Intercitizenship and an Internet for Solidarity and Care”** — with **Eliza Anyangwe** (CM/UK), **Felipe Castelblanco** (CO/US), **Pia Mancini** (IT), moderated by **Andres Colmenares** (CO/ES). Panel 4 will focus on **“Climate Change Education and the Internet”;** **Alexandra Deschamps-Sonsino** (UK) will moderate, **David Jennings** (UK), **Anshuman Bapna** (IN) and **Louise Harling** (UK) will speak. Finally, the **Closing Panel** will open up the opportunity for the audience to ask questions. The Branch Magazine Symposium can be attended on site at the Circus of Knowledge or followed online.

PRIX Awards / Kepler’s Gardens, Inner Courtyard Auhof Palace / Online

3,158 projects from 86 countries were submitted to the 2021 Prix Ars Electronica despite a pandemic and a temporary shutdown of the arts. This year, the coveted Golden Nicas went to **Alexander Schubert** from Germany in the **“Digital Musics & Sound Art”** category, to **Guangli Liu** from China in the **“Computer Animation”** category and to the international artist collective **“Forensic**

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**Architecture**” in the “**Artificial Intelligence & Life Art**” category. In the category “**u19 - create your world**” the Viennese students **Felix Senk, Emil Steixner** and **Max-Jakob Beer** (all AT) were awarded the Golden Nica. They will officially receive their Golden Nicas at the **PRIX Awards**.

The “**Isao Tomita Special Prize**” will also be awarded to **Khyam Allami** and the “**Award for Digital Humanity**,” sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to “**Branch Magazine**.” Finally, the winners of this year’s **STARTS Prize** of the European Commission will be in the spotlight: The “**GRAND PRIZE FOR INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION**” will be awarded to **Anastasia Pistofidou** and **Marion Real**, and the “**GRAND PRIZE FOR ARTISTIC EXPLORATION**” to **John Palmesino** and **Ann-Sofi Rönnskog** (INT) from “**Territorial Agency**.”

Big Concert Night: Sonitus aeternus - The Bruckner 9 Project / Kepler’s Gardens, Park, Kepler Hall, Circus of Knowledge

The Big Concert Night 2021 will be a voyage of discovery. The **Bruckner Orchestra Linz** will take its seat in Kepler Hall under the baton of **Markus Poschner** (AT) and play **Bruckner's 9th Symphony**. The music will be transmitted outside into the park. Here, sound artist **Andres Bosshard** (CH) will take over and play with sound colors and structures. Meanwhile, the audience strolls under the mighty crowns of old trees, and in the meadow along the pond. Then we take a leap through space and time and **Bruckner’s 9th** meets **Ligeti’s Lux Aeterna**, performed by the **Company of Music** under **Johannes Hiemetsberger** (AT). This is followed by choral pieces by **Giacinto Scelsi** (IT), before **Elisabeth Schimana** (AT) finally invites us into the circus of knowledge to experience the sounds of some female pioneers of the composer’s art.

## Saturday, 11 September 2021

AI Lab Conference / Kepler’s Gardens, Circus of Knowledge / Online

This year’s festival examines the opportunities presented by technologies such as AI, but also the problems connected with them. That topic is also the focus of the “**European Artificial Intelligence Lab**” initiated by Ars Electronica in 2018. Insight into the artistic and scientific activities of this network will be provided by the “**AI Lab Conference Day**.” The program includes several panels on various topics: The first panel is dedicated to “**Media Literacy: A Communication Problem?**” **Kyriaki Goni** (GR), **Meredith Broussard** (US), **Martina Mara** (AT) and **Kanta Dihal** (NL) will speak, moderated by **Katrin-Cécile Ziegler** (DE). The second, two-part panel is entitled “**AI x Music - The Question of Autonomy and Human Intention in Art & AI**”; **Ali Nikrang** (AT) will moderate the conversation with **Davide Quayola** (IT), **Paola Torres Núñez del Prado** (PE) and **Leslie Garcia** (MX). Panel number 3 is about “**AI x Civil Society: How AI infrastructures can advance the public good**,” featuring **Caroline Sindere** (US/UK), **Kilian Kleinschmidt** (DE), **Glacier Kwong** (HK/DE) and **Simon Weckert** (DE), moderated by **Julia Kloiber** (DE). The fourth panel of the full-day conference will focus on “**AI x**

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**Feudalism: Digital serfdom in the world of Big Data, between property rights, empowerment, and content control.** Frederike Kaltheuner (DE/UK) will interview Mark Coeckelbergh (AT), Sophie Zhang (US) and Renata Avila (GT). The fifth and final panel of the conference explores “**AI x Digital Humanism.**” Martin Rachbauer (AT) welcomes Steven Raspa (US), Agnieszka Wykowska (IT), Rashin Fahandej (US) and Agnieszka Pilat (US).

## Volunteer Fair Upper Austria & Symposium Co-Creation / Kepler’s Gardens, Kepler Building

It’s a premiere: for the first time, the **Independent National Volunteer Center** (ULF) is hosting its annual Volunteer Fair in conjunction with Ars Electronica. The event’s title is “**FEST.ENGAGIERT**,” or “totally engaged,” which says it all. More than 40 organizations, associations and initiatives will be on hand to testify to the diversity and daily impact of civic involvement. Whether you’d like to help children and young people, migrants, the elderly, the chronically ill or the disabled, or contribute to community and district projects, neighborhood assistance or climate protection — this is where those who are already involved meet those who want to be.

This desire for effective social engagement is also the basis for the symposium “**Civil Society of the Future: Co-Creation Works**,” which starts at noon. Activists, representatives of NGOs, NPOs and the media as well as political decision-makers will talk about which structural, economic and legal conditions are needed to best support the collaborative development and implementation of civil society initiatives, and best-practice examples of civil society engagement will be presented.

## Organic Farmers’ Market / Kepler’s Gardens

It’s all happening this Saturday in Kepler’s Gardens. The inspiring, bustling neighborhood of create your world, Volunteer Fair and Festival University is joined by organic farmers from all over Upper Austria. They offer products that not only taste great, but also point out how important the soil ecosystem is — not only for nature, but above all for people, too.

## Linzer Klangwolke 2021 / Donaupark

On Saturday evenings the “**Linzer Klangwolke**” (“sound cloud”) traditionally attracts visitors to the Donaupark between the **Brucknerhaus** and the **LENTOS Kunstmuseum**. “**PANTA RHEI**” is the motto of the open-air production by **Robert Dornhelm**, **Christoph Engel** and **Roman Kariolou**, which blurs the boundaries between illusion and reality...

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Sunday, September 12, 2021

Forum for the Prix Ars Electronica 2021 / Kepler's Gardens, Circus of Knowledge / Online

Ars Electronica is more than just a stage for presenting works of art. The festival also sees itself as a forum where those who want to contribute to shaping our future have their say. The best examples of this are the Prix Ars Electronica Artists' Talks. A member of the Prix jury talks with each of the award-winning artists, asking them about their artistic work and their perspectives on current social developments. All the talks also give the audience an opportunity to get involved and participate in the discussion. This year's Prix Ars Electronica Forum will feature three talks: In the "**Computer Animation**" section, **Helen Starr** will talk with **Guangli Liu** (Golden Nica/**When the Sea Sends Forth a Forest**), **Veneta Androva** (Award of Distinction/**AIVA**) and **Erick Oh** (Award of Distinction/**Opera**); the theme of their conversation is "**The Re-Enchantment of Humanism.**" In "**Digital Music & SoundArt**," **Cedrik Fermont** talks to **Alexander Schubert** (Golden Nica/ **Convergence**), **Rashin Fahandej** (Award of Distinction / **A Father's Lullaby**) and **Douglas McCausland** (Award of Distinction / **Convergence**) about "**A Pandemic Didn't Stop the Sound.**" In the area of "**AI & LifeArt**" **Jens Hauser** together with **Samaneh Moafi / Forensic Architecture** (Golden Nica/ **Cloud Studies**), **masharu** (Award of Distinction / **The Museum of Edible Earth**) and **tranxxeno lab / Adriana Knouf** (Award of Distinction / **TX-1**) will deal with "**Im/Material Infrastructures.**" All artist talks can be attended via stream as well as on site in the "Circus of Knowledge."

Art Thinking Forum / Kepler's Gardens, Circus of Knowledge / Online

How can artistic thinking and methods contribute to innovation and change in very different areas of our society? This question is the point of departure for the "**Art Thinking Forum**" that Ars Electronica and HakuHodo are co-hosting as part of the festival. Three main topics are on the agenda: "**Art as a compass**," or the question of how art can help us orient ourselves in an increasingly unmanageable, complex and dynamic world; "**Art as catalyst**" or the question of how art can help to bring together the potentials of different industries and disciplines; and "**Art as journalism**," which examines how art can assist in taking up social issues and making them the subject of broad public debates. **Hideaki Ogawa** (JP), Co-Director of the Ars Electronica Futurelab, talks with **Karen Palmer** (UK), **Dominique Chen** (FR), **John Palmesino** (IT) and **Ann-Sofi Rönnskog** (FI) from "**Territorial Agency.**"

Ars Electronica ANIMATION FESTIVAL 2021 / Online

**Computer animation** has been a **Prix Ars Electronica** competition category since 1987. A specially curated selection of submissions has been on display at the annual **Ars Electronica Animation Festival** since 2005, and trends and developments in the genre have been discussed at the

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**Expanded Animation** symposium series since 2013 – in short, animation is a cornerstone of every Ars Electronica Festival. This year's conference, which is being organized under the auspices of the **Hagenberg University of Applied Sciences** and the **University for the Creative Arts, Farnham**, will focus on the many interactions between animation and sound.

## Online - Ars Electronica 2021 on Swapcard

A **ticket for the online edition** of Ars Electronica 2021 costs **9 euros**. From September 8 to 12, 2021, you'll have access to a whole cosmos of ideas, concepts and best-practice projects revolving around a New Digital Deal for the 21st century. Conferences, lectures, workshops, tours and concerts from Linz and the **86** other **Ars Electronica Gardens** around the world will be offered as streams, and there will also be plenty of chats and forums where communities can exchange ideas and network. The online offerings for Ars Electronica 2021 will be bundled on the French event platform **Swapcard**.

The festival's highlight channel is free of charge and will deal with the most important aspects of the New Digital Deal on a daily basis, with numerous artists and academics from all over the world having their say. The channel will be integrated into the festival website.

## Around the Globe - 86 Ars Electronica Gardens

Auckland (New Zealand), Tokyo (Japan), Mumbai (India), Abuja (Nigeria), Helsinki (Finland), Dublin (Ireland), Valencia (Spain), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Lima (Peru), Mexico City (Mexico), Los Angeles (USA), etc. **86 Ars Electronica Gardens** around the globe will be created and made accessible to visitors during the festival. All of these gardens for art, technology and society will feature offerings for local audiences between September 8 and 12.

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