In Linz, online, and at 86 Festival Gardens around the world:

Ars Electronica 2021 is a dual festival

Online press briefing with

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Aisling Murray / Head of Programming, Science Gallery Dublin

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Om'Oba Jerry Adesewo / Artistic Director Arojah Royal Theatre

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Gerfried Stocker / Artistic Director Ars Electronica

In Linz, online, and at 86 Festival Gardens around the world:

Ars Electronica 2021: a dual festival

(Linz, 3.9.2021) "A New Digital Deal" is both the theme and the goal of this year's Ars Electronica. The world's leading festival for art, technology and society will be taking a look at the skills and scope for action that we need to get up and running with a new approach to the great challenges of our time. Hundreds of artists, scientists and activists will be demonstrating how this might be done from September 8-12 in a festival that will take place not only in Linz (Austria) and 86 other Ars Electronica Gardens around the globe, but also online. The on-site and online presentations of all these artistic-scientific proposals will take different, independent forms. While Ars Electronica 2020 was a hybrid festival, in 2021 it will be dual.

Proposals for the future from all over the world

Oceania, Asia, Africa, Europe, South and North America — the 86 gardens for art, technology and society at this year's Ars Electronica can be found on all continents. Museums, galleries, universities, labs and associations are designing a multi-layered program aimed at local audiences.

Ars Electronica online

In addition, all the Ars Electronica Garden programs are contributing to the online edition of Ars Electronica 2021. A ticket for the online festival costs 9 euros and includes hundreds of lectures, presentations, concerts, performances, interactive workshops and virtual tours. These events will be bundled on the French platform Swapcard, where everyone can put together their own festival calendar, network with other visitors, and exchange ideas with them in chats.

The highlight channel is available free of charge and will be integrated into the festival website. From 8 to 12 September, it will focus on the most important aspects of the "NEW DIGITAL DEAL." Every day, artists, scientists, designers and activists will talk about their projects and perspectives on current social developments.

The Ars Electronica blog also features lots of interviews and articles about people whose artistic and scientific works, prototypes and initiatives are driving the changes we need in our society.

You can find the online Ars Electronica 2021 offerings at https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/program/online/.

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Once Around the World with Ars Electronica 2021

...in Oceania...

Ars Electronica Garden Auckland / Wellington, Garden Aotearoa

arc/sec Lab (University of Auckland (NZ) and DARA (Victoria University of Wellington (NZ)

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/aotearoa/

The Ars Electronica Garden Aotearoa assembles selected projects from New Zealand's technologists, artists, and university researchers. It is curated by the arc/sec Lab at the University of Auckland (UoA) and the Digital Research Alliance (DARA) at Victoria University of Wellington (VUW). The Garden welcomes national and international visitors to a cyber-physical environment. Local guests can visit the physical exhibition hosted by the Wellington Faculty of Architecture and Design Innovation at VUW in New Zealand's capital city. International guests can experience the projects in a virtual 3D gallery and through a series of online events. The exhibition is designed as a bi-directional portal. It allows for both hosting digital content from other Ars Electronica Hubs and showcasing projects from the New Zealand-based contributors. The Garden presents performances and prototypical installations. It offers tours through research facilities and visits to cultural sites, and includes a sonic music night hosted by one of Wellington's famous night clubs.

Ars Electronica Garden Newcastle / Art Thinking et al. — Recalibrating the Compass

Art Thinking Australia (AU), FASTlab: Future Art, Science & Technology Lab (AU), University of Newcastle (AU), City of Newcastle (AU)

You can't have a smart city without smart citizens — so Art Thinking Australia (AU), Newcastle University's XY FASTlab and the City of Newcastle have come together to forge ambitious plans in the Ars Electronica Garden Newcastle. The goal: to create a new hub for art, science, technology and society in the Australian coastal region of Hunter, where the city of the future will be developed. Ideas and projects will always be centered on the people, who don't just live there, but are supposed to have a say and a role in shaping the city. Because this requires not only room to maneuver but also the ability to act, Ars Electronica is inviting people to participate in an online panel that investigates a completely new "educational model," a model that turns artists into mentors and their studios into learning spaces. Also on the festival program is a virtual trip to the small mining town of Singleton, also in the Hunter region. Recently, the town has invested in a number of artistic programs, all of which aim to engage as many citizens as possible in a dialogue about the future.

ARS ELECTRONICA

...in Asia...

Ars Electronica Garden Moscow / Sonic Portals

HSE Art and Design School (RU), Gleb Yakushev, Maria Karpovich, Olga Zubova, Leonid Kurashov, Aleksander Senko, Ekaterina Volkova, Ivan Kalashnik, Lana Tarvolaria, Simona, Steve Rocket, Eva Reicher (all RU)

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/sonic-portals/

The digital realms we inhabit in our everyday lives are anything but uniform. They form a complex system of human and non-human actors. A space in which everything and anything — bodies and data — are interconnected. In the midst of this space, the students of the HSE University have designed "Sonic Portals" that break out of the usual patterns. These portals and transitions deliberately foreground the acoustic rather than the visual. It's an attempt to create decentralized, flowing sound spaces that can be explored at will and always open up different and individual experiences for the online visitors.

Ars Electronica Garden Hong Kong / Galactic Wine Sharing Party

City University of Hong Kong, School of Creative Media, Neuro Design Lab (HK)

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/galactic-wine-sharing-party/

On Sunday, September 12, 2021, 12:00 p.m. (CET), have a glass of wine. Hosted by the Ars Electronica Garden Hong Kong, the quirky "Online Wine Sharing Party" invites artists, curators, scholars, scientists, engineers and philosophers from around the globe. It's all about different world views coming together and the casual yet fascinating conversation that often starts with questions like "Can AIs actually get drunk?" then develops in unexpected directions ...

Ars Electronica Garden Tokyo / The Power of the Unseen

Japan Media Arts Festival, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan (JP)

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/power-of-the-unseen/

Technology has a very significant impact on our lives. It determines our patterns of cognition and behavior. We live in a world where imperfect technologies interact with each other so quickly, they seem like mutations over which we have no control (anymore). So it's high time that we begin to redefine that world and its framework. This also includes learning to experience it differently. In the context of Ars Electronica, sound artist evala invites us to a talk in which he sketches out a musical world that not only unfolds along a timeline, but also presents itself as space. As part of an online sound performance, he then creates a sound work that enables listeners to experience three-dimensional sounds via headphones. Meiro Koizumi, on the other hand, presents the VR theatre piece "Prometheus Unbound," which revolves around the dreams and fears of young people during the pandemic.

...in Africa...

Ars Electronica Garden Cairo / We Are Data

Cairotronica (EC), IMPAKT (NL)

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/we-are-data/

At the Ars Electronica Garden Cairo, everything revolves around the complex relationship between data and technology, and how we can deal with them. "We are Data" is a web project developed by artists from Egypt and the Netherlands during a seven-month fellowship. The projects of the Egyptian artists will be presented during Ars Electronica.

Ars Electronica Garden Gauteng / iKapa / Compositions Digital Indaba 21

National Arts Council, Rupert Music Foundation, Arts & Culture Trust – Nedbank, SAMRO In partnership with: ISCM – International Society for Contemporary Music, National Arts Festival – Makhanda, Ars Electronica – Festival for Art, Technology & Society

Composers: Dimitri Voudouris (GR/ZA), Hannes Taljaard (ZA), Neo Muyanga (ZA) Performers: Waldo Alexander (ZA), Yonela Mnana (ZA), Tiisetso Mashishi (ZA), Morné Van Heerden (ZA), Magda de Vries (ZA), Lungiswa Plaatjies (ZA), Matthijs van Dijk (ZA), Graham du Plessis (ZA), David Lubbe (ZA) Commisioned and presented by: NewMusicSA NPC, South Africa Board: Diale Mabitsela, David Lephoto, Lukas Ligeti, Adeyemi Oladiran, Sazi Dlamini, Nonku Phiri Produced by: Ignacio Priego and Camron Andrews

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/compositions-digital-indaba-21/

Digital Indaba 21 took place from March 7 to May 8 and includes three concerts commissioned by NewMusicSA, which premiered in Johannesburg and Cape Town. These concerts are now being streamed once again as part of Ars Electronica: You can see and hear "Panta Rhei" by Dimitri Voudouris, "Cool as the Shade is my Soul. Five Faces with Masks for Clarinet and Percussion" by Hannes Taljaard and "Lomhlaba, unjani uma unje" by Neo Muyanga.

Then, in "Stories We Told Ourselves," a series of improvised and multidisciplinary pieces curated by composer and music educator Daniel Hutchinson, Reza Khota, Zorada Temmingh, Nicholas Aphane, Kyla-Rose Smith, Eugene Skeef, and Garth Erasmus reflect on their isolation during the 2020 lockdowns. The first three improvise on jazz guitar, pipe organ and expressive dance, while the other three combine their scores with photography, visual art and poetry.

Ars Electronica Garden Abuja / Women in Arts

Arojah Royal Theatre (NG), Assitej Nigeria (NG), Mambaah Cafe (NG), Jerry Adesewo (NG), Zainab Kanwa (NG), Isreal Udochukwu (NG), Moyinoluwa Adesewo (NG), Shamisa Umar (NG)

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/abuja-ars-garden-2021/

The Ars Electronica Garden in Abuja (Nigeria) is the setting for two programs: The evening event "Women in Art" is edutainment in the best sense of the word. Through spoken-word performances and elaborate storytelling, Nigerian women artists will talk about how they experience the upheavals

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of the pandemic and how they think about the effects of digitalization on society in Nigeria. On the other hand, Makinde Adeniran of Arojah Royal Theatre will perform the play "What the Hunter Saw." Both "Women in Art" and the play "What the Hunter Saw" can be viewed on site and online.

...in Europe...

Ars Electronica Garden Barcelona / HYBRID TIMES - INTERDEPENDENCE

Institut Ramon Llull (CAT), Hac Te – Barcelona Art Science and Technology Hub (CAT), UOC – Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (CAT), HANGAR – Center for Art Research and Production (CAT), NewArtFoundation (CAT), .BEEP { collection;} (CAT), ESPRONCEDA – Institute of Art & Culture (CAT), La Caldera – Center for the Ceation of Dance and Performing arts (CAT), Canòdrom – Digital and Democratic Innovation Centre (CAT)

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/biomaterial-makers/

Having just been awarded the STARTS Prize of the European Commission, the artists and designers of "Remix" invite you to Fab Lab Barcelona. In an online workshop lasting several hours, they will demonstrate how to produce bio-based materials that can offer an alternative to petroleum and materials derived from animals. Participants will also learn about material design through bio-concepts and gain insights into manufacturing processes that promote sustainability, a circular economy, biodegradability and waste reduction.

Ars Electronica Garden Bologna / Data Tour D'Italie

Sineglossa (IT), Umanesimo Artificiale (IT), Federica Fragapane (IT), Michela Milano (IT), Iolanda Pensa (IT), Valentina Tanni (IT), Moderation: Federico Bomba (IT)

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/data-tour-ditalie-panel/

Data is not good or bad, it's just there. And we should use it to find out more about the complex ecosystem we inhabit. But to do this, we need to process the data appropriately — whether as an infographic, a sound installation, a scientific treatise or through a chatbot. When it comes to data about our environment, things usually get more complicated. Not merely a key to better understanding the Earth's ecosystem, this data raises the question of how we humans relate to Earth's ecosystem and what effects we have on it. The Ars Electronica Garden Bologna invites you to an online panel discussion with Federica Fragapane, Michela Milano, Iolanda Pensa and Valentina Tanni (all IT). Federico Bomba (IT) will moderate the conversation.

Ars Electronica Garden Dublin / BIAS

Science Gallery Dublin, Science Gallery International, Science Gallery at Michigan State University, ADAPT Centre

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/bias/

Bias is a shortcut, for both people and machines. The Ars Electronica Garden Dublin explores how our prejudices are transferred to AI and similar technologies. Artists, activists, designers, policy makers, hackers, researchers and technologists will talk about how beliefs, preferences, motivations

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and misinformation contribute to our individual, societal and digital biases. And how we can promote trust, justice and ethics in our (digital) society, especially in a time of increasing polarization.

As part of Ars Electronica, Science Gallery Dublin is presenting the interactive online exhibition BIAS, which includes works by leading international artists such as Mushon Zer-Aviv, Libby Heaney and Johann Diedrick. Also making a virtual guest appearance is French performance artist ORLAN with her new project "RECONNECTING ORLAN AND THE ORLANOÏDE": While ORLANOÏDE — the artist's robotic replica — performs live on stage at the Paccar Theatre in the Science Gallery of Trinity College Dublin, the artist herself joins us virtually from Paris.

...in South America...

Ars Electronica Garden Lima / Hybrid Creations: Explorations and Exchange in Peruvian Audiovisual Media

Alta Tecnología Andina - ATA (PE), Museo de Arte de Lima - MALI (PE)

The idea of the hybrid, into which the interdisciplinary almost inevitably translates, is often the subject of creative explorations. Audiovisual projects also make use of different disciplines and actors, creating new aesthetic experiences by combining visual art, music and dance. The need for virtual options due to the COVID-19 pandemic has given this collaborative experimentation a whole new quality and dynamic, and the young art scene in Peru is no exception. Using new technologies, artists from all over the country are now collaborating and focusing on the joint development of new audiovisual languages and innovative formats.

With "Hybrid Creations," the Ars Electronica Garden Lima is presenting works by Peruvian artists such as Mario Acha, Manongo Mujica, Rafael Hastings, Esther Vainstein, Gonzalo Pflucker and Karin Elmore, who were already strongly concerned with the social issues of their time in the 1970s and 1990s. There will also be works by young artists such as Irma Cabrera and Macri Cáceres, who are continuing this artistic tradition, but are now joining forces and using audiovisual media. In addition, two performances have been commissioned for Ars Electronica that can be experienced online.

Ars Electronica Garden Andes / La Fabulosa República de la Montaña

The Chilean Corporation of Video and Electronic Arts (CChV) (CL)

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/cycles/

Autonomy is the focus of the festival contribution from "La Fabulosa República de la Montaña." Not a selfish autonomy, but one supported by the will to cooperate, with the intention of promoting socially and ecologically sustainable decisions. It's precisely this kind of freedom that the "Taste your Soil" project will be cooking for during Ars Electronica. In an online cooking course, Maria Felices will demonstrate how to prepare healthy food and tell a story that deals with the pandemic, her farm and the attempt to live without a supermarket.

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Ars Electronica Garden Araucanía / Polygonal Forest

Fundación Mar Adentro (CL)

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/polygonal-forest/

LiDAR scanners work according to the "time-of-flight principle"; the sensor emits infrared laser beams and then measures how long it takes the light to be reflected back by objects in the environment. In this way, the distance to objects can be measured in fractions of a second and three-dimensional point clouds can be created. The "Polygonal Forest" is a point cloud of that kind — an impressive three-dimensional image that tells the story of how we "measure" our planet's ecosystem in the 21st century, document its changes and investigate the causes behind those changes. What is revealed is a "forest" that is not simply made up of trees, but has an acoustic, visual, biological, historical, cultural and conceptual dimension and has a relationship with us humans. On site, the "Ars Electronica Garden Araucanía" invites the public to an exhibition. Online, a workshop will be offered.

...in North America...

Ars Electronica Garden New York City / A PORTAL

XRE (Extended Reality Ensemble) (US), Culture Lab LIC at The Plaxall Gallery (US)

This year, the Extended Reality Ensemble (XRE) is creating the first Ars Electronica Garden in New York and making it accessible. It's "A Portal," where the international and interdisciplinary artists' collective invites you to explore a world of immersive art, new technologies and interactive performances. It offers a 5-day festival that asks such questions as whether we can actually be intimate with technologies, or whether virtual and analog artists can coexist. A series of technological promises that have been made to us will be examined, and the foundations of a digital world that increasingly no longer have anything to do with the reality of people's lives will be reconsidered. The festival, organized by XRE, invites artists and representatives of the tech community to raise their voices — on site at the stage of Culture Lab LIC in Queens, and online in virtual reality spaces and streams.

Ars Electronica Garden Mexico City / The Garden of Uncertainty

Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (MX)

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/garden-of-uncertainty/

"The Garden of Uncertainty" celebrates uncertainty as something that promises openness, possibility and freedom. It shows a kaleidoscopic panorama of contemporary electronic art production in Mexico. The focus is on the concerns and dreams of a new generation of artists, forming an exhibition that is more than just the sum of its individual contributions. Ars Electronica will offer virtual tours of the studios and workshops of various artists, along with excursions to their "Special Places," where they find inspiration, courage and hope.

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Ars Electronica Garden Los Angeles / Atmosphere of Sound — Sonic Art in Times of Climate Disruption

UCLA Art Sci Center, UCLA Design Media Arts California NanoSystems Institute (CNSI), Getty Pacific Standard Time Art x Science x LA, Harvestworks Digital Media Art Center, LEONARDO UCLA Arts Collective: Clinton Van Arnam, Ivana Dama, Ivy Lovett, John Brumley, Kaitlin Bryson, Shilpa Rao, Zeynep Abes, Nancy Wu

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/atmosphere-of-sound/

Can we feel empathy for non-human species? That question is the starting point for a series of walks and discussions with artists in the garden of the Art|Sci Center at the University of California (UCLA). The reflection will focus on sound art and how it might help us better understand the diversity of communication patterns beyond human language so we can learn more about the world. There will be sound walks and sound art projects that harness vibrations and sounds from the audible and inaudible realms, inviting us to engage with strange soundscapes.

Ars Electronica Garden Linz

The Ars Electronica Garden in Linz is the most extensive festival garden. Every day, you can go on a new voyage of discovery here. Among the highlights are streamed lectures and discussion panels from our top-class conferences, workshops and community projects:

STARTS Day / Thursday, September 9, 2021

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/starts-day/

STARTS is an initiative of the European Commission and stands for Science, Technology and Arts. Every year, a competition with the same name is held to showcase projects that demonstrate 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 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 project "Remix el Barrio, Food Waste Biomaterial Makers." As part of the 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 will be offered on-site in Linz and online.

At the morning session, guests John Palmesino and Ann-Sofi Rönnskog (INT) from "Territorial Agency" will discuss their project "Oceans in Transformation." That will be followed by a deep dive with Tactical Tech (INT), Territorial Agency (INT) and Geocinema (INT) on groundbreaking 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 begins with a STARTS Talk with Anastasia Pistofidou (GR) and Marion Real (FR) and continues with a deep dive on the topic "On the future of sustainable manufacturing" — with

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Anastasia Pistofidou (GR), Areti Markopoulou (GR) and Marion Real (FR). A short break 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 of 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," with a performance by Håkan Lidbo (SE).

Futurelab Day / Thursday, 9 September 2021

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/alchemists-of-the-future/

The Ars Electronica Futurelab turns 25 this year! Its anniversary will be celebrated with a special "Futurelab Day": a range of discussions, workshops and guided tours that provide insights into the research fields of this Linz-based media art lab founded in 1996. The focus is not on the past, but on the future. The program is divided into three sessions that can be followed both on location in Linz and online via streaming: The first session will be "Morning Inspirations," in which experts, activists, researchers, innovators and partners of the Lab will discuss the major topics of the present and the future; from climate change and migration to digital transformation. What we as a society and as individuals can contribute to positive change will be the focus of the Afternoon Experiences, when the exhibition "Alchemists of the Future - The Journey" will be explored: What is hidden in various technological "black boxes" such as AI? How much technology is actually in our everyday lives? And what do we really associate with the future? The Night Performances conclude our Futurelab Day: visualizations and sounds, created by artists from the Lab and many artificial neural networks, provide an electrifying atmosphere and raise the question of how humans and machines will interact in the future. The concert by pianist Maki Namekawa and cellist Rubin Kodheli, accompanied by Cori O'Lan's visualizations ("Morphologies") in Deep Space 8K, is not to be missed.

The Branch Magazine Symposium / Friday, September 10, 2021

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/branch-magazine-symposium/

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 in a full-day thematic conference. The symposium will be curated and chaired by Michelle Thorne (DE/US), Chris Adams (DE/US), Christine Lariviere (CA/DE), Andres Colmenares (CO/ES) and Alexandra Deschamps-Sonsino (UK), the creators of "Branch," an online magazine that won the "Award for Digital Humanity." After a first "Opening Plenary," Panel 2 will take on "Solarpunk and Other Worlds" — Luiza Prado (BR), Sarah Friend (CA) and Jay Springett (UK) will speak; Christine Lariviere (CA/DE) will moderate. 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 tackle "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 in Linz or followed online.

AI Lab Conference / Saturday, 11 September 2021

The opportunities presented by technologies such as AI, but also the problems they force us to face, are at the core of this year's festival, but also 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 devoted to the question "Media Literacy: A Communication Problem?" with Kyriaki Goni (GR), Meredith Broussard (US), Martina Mara (AT) and Kanta Dihal (NL) speaking, 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 talks with Isabella Salas (MX/QC), Maya Indira Ganesh (IN/DE/UK) and Yuri Suzuki (JP/UK), as well as 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" - with Caroline Sinders (US/UK), Kilian Kleinschmidt (DE), Glacier Kwong (HK/DE) and Simon Weckert (DE); the panel will be moderated by Julia Kloiber (DE). The fourth panel of the full-day conference will focus on "AI x 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 last panel of the conference asks about "AI x Digital Humanism" — Martin Rauchbauer (AT) welcomes Steven Raspa (US), Agnieszka Wykowska (IT), Rashin Fahandej (US) and Agnieszka Pilat (US).

Forum for the Prix Ars Electronica 2021 / Sunday, September 12, 2021

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 can 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 give the audience the 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 streaming and on site in Linz.

Art Thinking Forum / Sunday, September 12, 2021

https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/en/art-thinking-forum/

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 festivals. Three main topics are on the agenda: "Art as a compass," or the question of how art can contribute to orientation 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 Highlight Channel & Festival Partner Channel
https://ars.electronica.art/newdigitaldeal/live/

It's accessible free of charge and broadcasts live daily from Linz and many, many other festival gardens around the world: the Ars Electronica Channel. Artists, scholars and activists such as Kate Crawford (AU), Amy Whitaker (US), Joe Davis (US), Joe Paradiso and Kilian Kleinschmidt (AT) will speak about their perspectives and contributions to a NEW DIGITAL DEAL; Gerfried Stocker (AT), Artistic Director of Ars Electronica, will contribute keynotes. Three to four two-hour sessions devoted to various aspects of the festival theme will be broadcast each day, and regular "newsflashes" will present the events and programs of the 86 festival gardens.

Each day has a different thematic focus: Wednesday (8 September) is "Education Day" — it's all about education in the 21st century, the Festival University and community projects like "Taste your Soil" and "Experts of the Future." Thursday (9 September) is all about the innovative alliance of Science, Technology and Arts — our guests in the studio are the winners of this year's STARTS Prize, who will talk about sustainable production methods and concepts such as the circular economy. Friday (September 10) is all about the "New Digital Deal" — the creators of "Branch" outline how we can create a sustainable internet for all. On Saturday (September 11) the role of AI will be discussed — contributors from the "European ARTificial Intelligence Lab" will talk about the civil society of the 21st century or the phenomenon of digital feudalism. Sunday (September 12) is the last day of the festival, and it's all about the Prix Ars Electronica and this year's prizewinners. Guests in the studio will be the activists of "Forensic Architecture" (INT), Alexander Schubert (DE) and Guangli Liu (CN) and members of the top-class Prix jury.

A whole range of festival gardens will present their offerings on the "Partner Channel," which is also freely available. Each day there are several hours of programming: curators speak about their exhibitions, artists talk about their projects and workshops, films are shown and concerts are streamed. Like the "Ars Electronica Highlight Channel," the "Festival Partner Channel" is also embedded on the Ars Electronica website.