

Kunstuni Campus 2023 @ Ars Electronica Festival celebrates radically and collectively – with dozens of initiatives promoting dialogue, debate and diversity instead of simplicity

At Postcity, ‘likes’ make an orchid sprout. At the main square of Linz, a rolling archive advocates for peace under a floating circus tent. Computer-animated films projected onto the façades of the University of Arts can be seen from afar: only three examples of what you can experience at Kunstuni Campus 2023 during Ars Electronica Festival – with free admission.

From 5 to 10 September, its area will reach from Linz Central Station, where students of the Department of Interface Cultures stage the exhibition *Resonating Selves* at Postcity, to the city centre. At the main square and at the University of Arts, twelve more departments are active – space&designstrategies, for instance, with its agency WAAAW, World Artistic Agency Against War Initiative. Another example: A new artist collective of the Department of Visual Communication will stage a spectacle on an oversized vertical screen on the western bridgehead building.

For more than two decades, the Kunstuni Campus has been a regular starter at the Ars Electronica Festival. It is a presentation platform for students and teachers and their works, a place of exchange with other art universities from all over the globe and, this year, it is also a very special ‘party zone’: The University of Arts celebrates its 50th anniversary, with its motto *radical collective*.

Who Owns the Truth? The big question asked by Ars Electronica this year – and *Radical Collectives!* is the answer given by Kunstuni Campus 2023. Note the plural: ‘collectives!’ Curator Manuela Naveau, university professor of Critical Data / Interface Cultures: ‘We want to encourage dialogue radically – and promote a conception of radicalism that does not focus on ruthlessness, but on the roots of pluralism and the dismantling of hierarchies.’

For six days, the University of Arts Linz will present dozens of original initiatives: visitors can expect installations and performances, but also a lot of interactivity in the course of workshops and debates – from the basement to the glass lecture hall under the roof of the University of Arts, where a poster session will take place. And: *splace*, the gallery right at the entrance at Hauptplatz 6, will exhibit digital art from a partner university, Taipei National University of the Arts.

Rector Brigitte Hütter defines Kunstuni Campus as a ‘place of encounter’ and an ‘open experimenting zone for everyone who wants to join. Students, artists, researchers and visitors from near and far are welcome.’ Because: ‘Different views

and approaches, dialogue and discussion are invaluable to our societies as collectives – and help them further develop for a sustainable future.’

A selection of highlights from Kunstuni Campus 2023 @ Ars Electronica Festival

The opening of Kunstuni Campus 2023 will take place on Tuesday, 5 September with the Ars Electronica pre-opening walk. At 17:00, the performance ‘The Mirage Replicas’ by Taiwanese artist Yen-Tzu Chang, a former student of Interface Cultures, can be experienced at Neuer Dom. At 18:00, we will move on to OÖ Kunstverein, which hosts student Sofia Talanti and two pioneers of computer-animated imaging: Yoichiro Kawaguchi and Markus Riebe. At the same time, DJs will entertain guests at the courtyard of the university building at Hauptplatz 6 until 20:15, when a who’s who of Ars & Linz joins the crowd. Rector Brigitte Hütter will welcome all guests to the *radical collective* party (end: 22:00).

Hustle and bustle around main square

From then, the exhibitions at Kunstuni Campus (Hauptplatz 6 and 8) will be open daily from 11:00 to 20:00 (10 September: 18:00). You can join guided highlight tours on Friday, 8 September (in English) and Saturday, 9 September (in German), 18:00-19:30. Meeting point is Café Frédéric at Hauptplatz 6. A special selection from the area:



Soundcampus is curated by Gabriela Gordillo and Andreea Vladut. Until Friday, 8 September, the programme includes concerts, performances and DJ sets every evening. A bar allows you to enjoy the sound environment collectively. At the university foyer at Hauptplatz 8, you can find the *studi lounge*, an art bar & café offering a programme and performances. The lounge aims to be a place of encounter and exchange for students and visitors. Also, it has drinks and cake!
photo: Florian Voggender



A new artist collective headed by Tina Frank, university professor of Visual Communication, projects videos onto the façade of the University of Arts Linz. The artists use an oversized smartphone screen to play with questions relating to the originality, variation and intention of images and to react to and interact with the data sets. The result analyzes common AI systematics – but it is also a spectacle for the ears and eyes. 5-9 September, daily 20:00-23:00. / photo: vog.photop



The Department of space&designstrategies takes action with its agency WAAAW, the World Artistic Agency Against War – a rolling archive under a floating circus tent. The student collective is guided by one question: What can art and design contribute to prevent war? The archive serves as an interactive tool in public space, facilitating encounters and moments of exchange. / photo: WAAAW



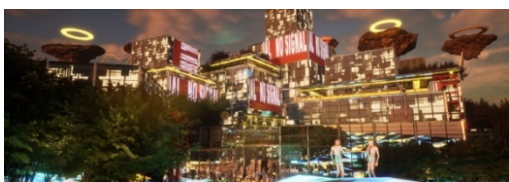
The new lecture series *Feminist AI*, initiated by the task force for equal treatment at the University of Arts Linz, premieres at Kunstuni Campus and will continue all through the winter semester. It addresses one key question: What is feminist AI?

Artists, students and researchers working at the interface of technology, art and gender will participate. The series will open with a special lecture by Dr Elena Knox (AU/JP) on Thursday, 7 September, 18:00, at the glass lecture hall at Hauptplatz 6. The new rooms of FIFTYTU% at Domgasse 14 will exhibit her latest work: 'The Masters' is an interactive installation, a hologram figure, and a story about life with a bot, virtuality, intimacy and our eternal desire to be loved, no matter by whom. / photo: Elena Knox



At the University of Arts at Hauptplatz, people do not only exhibit projects or develop new concepts, they also produce things, such as the works of the Crafting Futures Lab. This lab aims to explore current potentials and interconnections between crafts and new technology and to develop creative ideas and solutions between tradition and innovation. / photo: Jürgen Grünwald

**Exhibition of the partner university Taipei at *splace*,
gallery at the University of Arts at Hauptplatz**



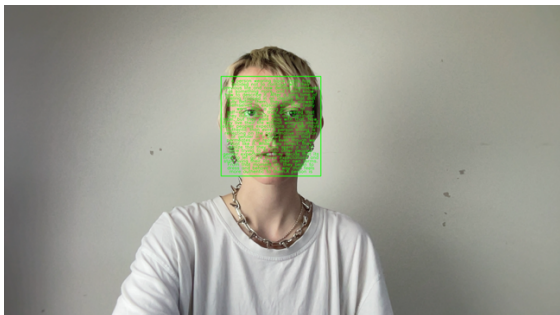
The gallery at Hauptplatz hosts an exhibition of works from partner university Taipei National University of Arts titled *Epicentrum* – a reference to the geopolitically and tectonically delicate situation faced by Taiwan. Illustration: 2ENTER | En-Chi CHUAN, Cheng-Wie CHEN, Chieh-Yi CHUI, Ji-Rong LIOU (TW)



Right at the entrance to the university building at Hauptplatz 6, visitors can watch media artists use images and sound to turn seismographic vibration and political movements into a spatial experience. Until 9.9., 11:00-20:00, 10.9.: 11:00-18:00 / photo: Chu-Hsun

**Exhibition *Resonating Selves* of the Department of Interface Cultures
at Postcity, Central Station**

From Wednesday, 6 September, until Sunday, 10 September, open daily from 10:00:
6.9. until 19:00 Uhr, 7.9. until 18:30, 8.9, 9.9 until 19:00 Uhr, 10.9. until 18:00.



The project *Unlearning Gender* by Jelena Mönch (DE) and Miguel Rangil (ES) of the Department of Interface Cultures defies the algorithmic-binary normalisation and aims to illustrate alternative forms of categorising – by symbolic hacking and the development of an individual AI. Visitors at Postcity will encounter an interactive installation challenging gender roles, including a workshop taking place on Wednesday, 6 September, from 13:00 to 17:00. / photo: Jelena Mönch & Miguel Rangil

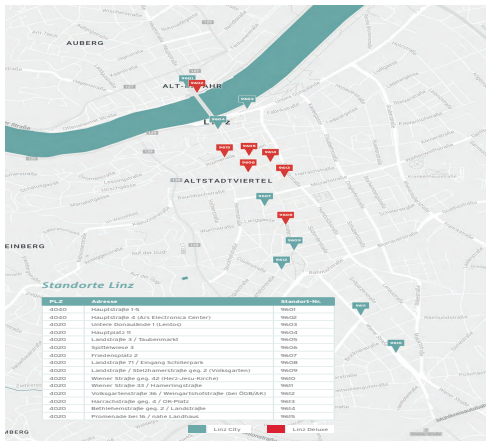


At Postcity, ‚likes‘ make an orchid sprout: Volkan Dinçer (TR) wants his project ‘@theorchid_beauty’ to be conceived as an ‘ironic example of the relationship between capitalism and nature’. His orchid survives on Instagram likes. The plant has its own Instagram account. Whenever it needs water, it posts a selfie in order to receive likes and be watered. / photo: Volkan Dinçer

Debate on digital education at the Skyloft (Ars Electronica Center)



Recently, Austria has introduced the school subject ‘basic digital education’ (‘DGB’). Until now, subject-didactic discourse has been lacking. This discussion features representatives from the fields of didactics, education, cultural studies and politics – but also those who have to use today’s education to deal with tomorrow: Students themselves are invited to participate in this debate about their own future. Students of the university course *Digitale Grundbildung* at PH OÖ will secure concrete results. Afterwards, more than a hundred teachers will visit the festival site and search for interesting projects which can inspire them to develop educational concepts for their own work. Results can be accessed online. Wednesday, 6 September, 12:30-14:30 at Skyloft, Ars Electronica Center.



The University of Arts has asked its students: *How do you show a collective? What does radical mean to us, and what kind of movement would it be?* Also: *How can you express radical collective through a 10-minute animated film?* In a university-wide competition – in collaboration with Werbering – nine video works have been selected. During the Ars Electronica Festival week, they can be seen in [15 different locations](#) all over the city centre of Linz. Selected films are by Paul Eis, Ildiko Mayr, Sofia Talanti, Robert Tillbury, Jannik Valler, Yuma Yanagisawa, Elizaveta Belkevich, Hleb Rusalouski and Ivan Sukhov.

Parallel screenings will be, for instance, in front of Ars Electronica Center, in front of Lentos and at Taubenmarkt. All locations: <https://www.werbering.at/produkte/digital/digital-city-light>

Arts & politics & sponsor send their congratulations to Kunstuni Campus 2023 @ Ars Electronica Festival

Gerfried Stocker, Künstlerischer Leiter der Ars Electronica: In 2002, the first *Campus* took place as a part of Ars Electronica. A small exhibition presenting art projects by a guest university and the programme *Interface Cultures* was the start. In 2023, 56 universities from all over the world and, for the first time, all departments of the University of Arts Linz are featured at the *Campus*. It is an amazing success story, and an essential part of each Ars Electronica Festival.

Klaus Luger, Bürgermeister von Linz: „Mit ihren facettenreichen Ausbildungsmöglichkeiten ist die Kunstuniversität Linz ein Hotspot der Kreativität unserer Stadt. Seit vielen Jahren genießen wir zahlreiche Kooperationsprojekte, die die Linzer Kultur- und Kunstszene fördern. Danke an die Künstler*innen, die das internationale AEC-Festival mit ihren umfangreichen Beiträgen bereichern und mit ihren Leistungen weit über die Grenzen unserer Stadt hinausstrahlen.“

Doris Lang-Mayerhofer, Kulturstadträtin von Linz: „Die Kunstuniversität Linz zeichnet sich zum 50-Jahr-Jubiläum ihres Bestehens als radikal jung, kreativ und unsere Gesellschaft und Stadt herausfordernde Einrichtung aus, wie dies auch das heurige Ausstellungsmotto *radical collectives!* verdeutlicht. Die immer stärker

spürbar und sichtbar werdende Präsenz der Studierenden, Absolventen und der engagierten Lehrenden in der Stadt und in der Kunstszene ist eine Kraft, die Linz braucht. Das Ars Electronica Festival ist eine internationale Bühne für junge Medienkunst. Die Kunstuniversität ist dabei seit über zwei Jahrzehnten ein wichtiger Partner des Festivals. Das wachsende Engagement ist in der heurigen Beteiligung zu sehen, die größer denn je ist“, bedankt sich Ars-Electronica-Beiratsvorsitzende Kulturstadträtin Doris Lang-Mayerhofer bei Rektorin Brigitte Hütter und allen Beteiligten für ihren Einsatz.

Landeshauptmann Thomas Stelzer: „Die nationale und internationale Verankerung ist ein wesentlicher Baustein für den Erfolg des Ars Electronica Festivals. Für junge Kunstschaaffende ist es wichtig, von der Dynamik „der Ars“ profitieren zu können: durch Einbindung in den Diskurs, durch Vernetzung und über Präsentation eigener Arbeiten und Projekte. Die Linzer Kunstuniversität ist so ein wichtiger Eckpfeiler für das gesamte Festival. Die Zusammenarbeit mit universitären Bildungs- und Forschungseinrichtungen weltweit sorgt für einen innovativen Wissenstransfer, der weit über das Ars Electronica Festival hinaus wirksam ist.“

Margot Nazzal, Kulturdirektorin des Landes Oberösterreich: „Der Ars Campus 2023 beeindruckt heuer mit Ausstellungen, Installationen, Screenings und Performances junger Medienkunschaaffenden quer durch Linz. Mit „radical collectives“ erobert sie so Sichtbarkeit im öffentlichen Raum und trägt mit den Projekten der Gastuniversität Taipei National University of the Arts zur kulturellen Verständigung bei.“

Michaela Keplinger-Mitterlehner, Generaldirektor-Stellvertreterin der Raiffeisenlandesbank OÖ: „Kunst und Kultur geben Orientierung, bringen Menschen zusammen, eröffnen Diskurse und vermitteln Wissen. Sie nehmen aber nicht nur eine identitätsstiftende Rolle ein, sondern sind auch ein wesentlicher Wirtschaftsfaktor. Als Raiffeisenlandesbank OÖ ist uns die Förderung der kulturellen Vielfalt in unserem Bundesland ein besonderes Anliegen. Dazu leistet die Kunstuniversität Linz auch im Rahmen der Ars Electronica einen wesentlichen Beitrag, denn hier wird besondere Kunst auf einer einzigartigen Bühne sichtbar. Wir gratulieren herzlich zur Umsetzung und freuen uns, dass wir anlässlich des 50-Jahr-Jubiläums der Kunstuniversität Linz in vielfältiger Weise an deren Wirken teilhaben dürfen! Von dieser sinnstiftenden Zusammenarbeit, die sich unter anderem auch in der Aufarbeitung unserer umfassenden Kunstsammlung zeigt, profitieren beide Seiten gleichermaßen.“

**Raiffeisenlandesbank
Oberösterreich**



ARS ELECTRONICA