

Linz Kunstuni Campus celebrates the Ars Electronica Festival with noisy sliding doors and a naughty tongue

From 2 to 7 September, more than eighteen university departments will be active in the Linz city centre to showcase outstanding experimental media art.

Three-metre-high glass sliding doors in the city's Hauptplatz that sigh, sing and laugh when people cross their threshold. An equally oversized tongue at the information point of the University of Arts Linz that begins to lick the window panes when people pass by. And, finally, an android-type automaton called "Fantomat" at splace Gallery that is guaranteed to trigger further provocation.

Welcome to Kunstuni Campus during the Ars Electronica Festival 2025: From Tuesday, 2 September, to Sunday, 7 September, more than eighteen university departments will be active between the two bridgehead buildings in the city centre of the Upper Austrian capital. From morning to afternoon, students and teachers will showcase experimental media art – admission is always free. In addition, nine international institutions are to present their highlights at the University of Arts Linz. This year's specially featured guest and partner university is the National Academy of Art Sofia with the exhibition *"decisions/make/art"* at splace.

In view of the climate crisis, wars and the ever-increasing power of tech giants, this year's Ars Electronica Festival raises the big question "PANIC – yes / no". The Kunstuni Campus exhibition responds to this query with the motto "Everything. Always. Open.", accompanied by a sound installation that was architecturally designed by Paul Eis in the historic main square and features constantly opening and closing sliding doors.

Curator Manuela Naveau, University Professor for Critical Data / Interface Cultures, comments, "We live in a time that fosters digital narcissism and stimulates a cult of self. With 'Everything. Always. Open', we want above all to convey a sense of hope. Could it be that we accept moments of openness less and less?" In the capitalist sense, she argues, the automated sliding doors in shopping malls embody a promise: Here, the public becomes a marketplace. "But public space, publicness is much more – it embodies a core concept of democracy that is above all about communication between different opinions."

Exhibitions and projects, performances and workshops likewise address the new times on the basis of this premise: In view of close to one million surveillance cameras all over the world, the work "Smile, you're on camera" by students Lucia Claus and Hani Elias thus explores the boundaries of private and public spaces with screens and streams. In the context of their project "Tutta Notte Buia", the Interface Cultures students MAalex – Alessia Fallica and Martina Pizzigoni – are in their turn concerned with the meaning of dying in our digital world – and with the question of what footprints we leave behind. Their interactive installation satirises mourning in the World Wide Web and offers information about ancient mourning rituals of Southern Italian wailing women; this project by the artist duo won the Dream Scholarship and is presented in the lobby of the Energie AG building as a co-operation with Energie AG and OÖ Landes-Kultur GmbH.

Rector Brigitte Hütter on Kunstuni Campus @ Ars Electronica Festival 2025: "The big question of the Ars Electronica Festival 2025 with its motto 'PANIC – yes / no' highlights the two options of our uneasy times – and, in this way, indicates alternatives for action between these two poles. By using the possibilities afforded by art, the task lies in drawing attention to the alarming developments fuelled by certain warlords and media billionaires and in sending countersignals. In accordance with the imperative 'Everything. Always. Open', scientists, artists and media experts will enter into a lively exchange and dialogue with visitors at Kunstuni Campus. For it is above all different perspectives and approaches that enable us to take a close look at the world and its complexity in order to be well prepared to meet the long-term challenges."

Gerfried Stocker, Artistic Director of the Ars Electronica Festival: "We may look back on many years of close and inspiring co-operation with the University of Arts Linz. This is given visible expression year after year by the Campus exhibition, which this time involves a total of 37 universities from all over the world and not fewer than 14 departments of the University of Arts Linz. Their critical contributions and creative experiments enrich the festival in a special way. These young artists show us the wealth of productivity and creativity that can result from uncertainty – if we manage to overcome our fear of it."

Inauguration & programme

The official **inauguration of Kunstuni Campus 2025** with **Rector Brigitte Hütter** will take place on **Tuesday, 2 September**, in the context of the pre-opening walk of the Ars Electronica Festival – **at 7 p.m.**, the inner courtyard of the eastern bridgehead building will welcome a Who's Who of both the festival and the City of Linz, including **Gerfried Stocker**, Artistic Director of the Ars Electronica Festival. The event will end at 10 p.m.

As of **Tuesday, 2 September**, the exhibitions at **Kunstuni Campus in Hauptplatz 6 and 8** will be open to the public until **Saturday, 6 September, daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sunday, 7 September, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.** At the **Sound Campus** in the courtyard of Hauptplatz 6, DJ sets and concerts will be offered on **Wednesday, 3 September, from 5 to 10 p.m.** and on **Thursday, 4 September, from 6 to 10 p.m.**

For more information: <https://ausstellungen.ufg.at/alles-immer-offen/>

Kunstuni Campus inauguration with Rector **Brigitte Hütter**, curator **Manuela Naveau**, **Gerfried Stocker**, Artistic Director of the Ars Electronica Festival, and many others

When: Tuesday, 2 September, at 7 p.m.

Where: Kunstuniversität Linz, courtyard of Hauptplatz 6

Guided tours in German or English of the main buildings with more than 200 artworks by students, artists and international partner universities will start at the information point of

Kunstuniversität Linz at Hauptplatz 6:

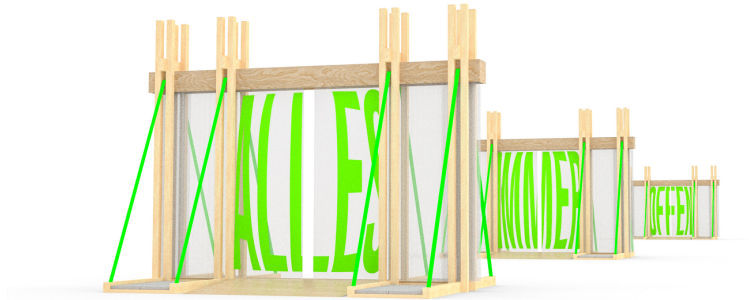
Wed, 3/9/2025, 5-5:50 p.m.

Thu, 4/9/2025, 5-5:50 p.m.

Fri, 5/9/2025, 5-5:50 p.m.

Sat, 6/9/2025, 5-5:50 p.m.

A few highlights of Kunstuni Campus



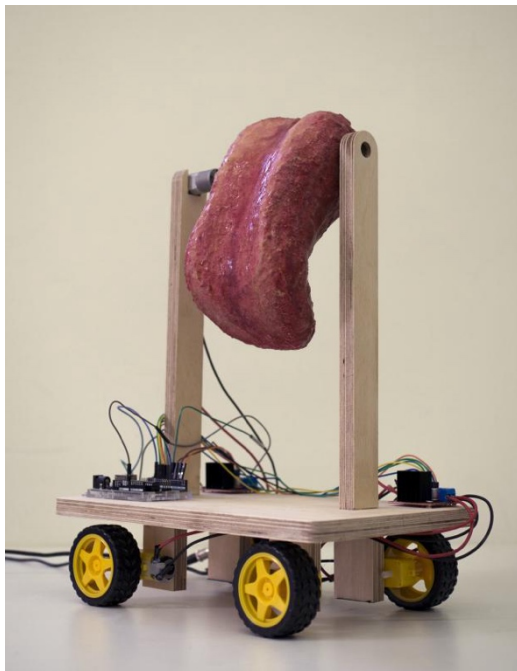
Reflecting a concept by architecture graduate Paul Eis, students and teachers will set up a sound installation in the Linz Hauptplatz – specifically, this will be a series of glass sliding doors that utter unexpected noises and sounds when their threshold is crossed and strive to communicate with passers-by. The audio setup was created by Jürgen Ropp.

Credits: Paul Eis, Manuela Naveau

Hauptplatz Linz

Wed, 3/9, to Sat, 6/9, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sun, 7/9, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



This artwork will be visible right behind the glass façades of the information point of the University of Arts Linz at Hauptplatz 6 during the Ars Electronica Festival: "u delicioussssss", an installation by Laura Walter that takes a critical stance towards consumerism, will offer spectators an unexpected sight when the motion-activated tongue begins to vibrate and lick the windows. In this way, the artist raises the questions "Who is looking at whom?" and "Who or what is the product?"

Information point, Hauptplatz 6

Wed, 3/9, to Sat, 6/9, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sun, 7/9, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Credits: Laura Walter



Credits: Lucia Claus, Hani Elias

In view of close to one million cameras all over the world, surveillance has become routine: The installation "Smile, you're on camera" by Lucia Claus and Hani Elias, both students of the University of Arts Linz, explores boundaries of private and public spaces with screens and streams.

Studio 1 of Kunstuniversität Linz at Hauptplatz 8

Wed, 3/9, to Sat, 6/9, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sun, 7/9, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Credits: Venelin Shurelov

"Fantomat", a humanoid, android-type automaton, is part of the exhibition "decisions/make/art" of the National Academy of Arts Sofia at splace, where it will serve as a provocative intervention.

splace Gallery, Hauptplatz 6

Wed, 3/9, to Sat, 6/9, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sun, 7/9, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Credits: Otto Saxinger

Where: Lobby of Energie AG

Böhmerwaldstrasse 3, 4020 Linz

In the context of their project "Tutta Notte Buia", the Interface Cultures students MAalex – Alessia Fallica and Martina Pizzigoni – are concerned with the meaning of dying in the digital world – and, above all, with the question of what footprints we leave behind in the World Wide Web. Their interactive installation satirises mourning in digital space and offers information about ancient mourning rituals of Southern Italian wailing women.

A project presentation and discussion about this project together with the artists will take place on Saturday, 6 September, at 2 p.m.; the event is organised in co-operation with Energie AG, OÖ Landes-Kultur GmbH and the Interface Cultures Department of the University of Arts Linz.

Other exhibition venues



In addition to the Interface Cultures exhibition at Post City (Bahnhofplatz 12, 4020 Linz), Lisa Ackerl, Paul Daubek-Puza and Tobias Peherstorfer, students of the Architecture Department, will design the "Pavilion Against Indifference" in the context of the "Flood the Zone with Courage" project located in the "Create Your World" area, which is accessible free of charge. This area offers space for performances and

workshops and will host interventions by various artists during the festival.

In addition, the artwork "**a terrarium**" by Till Schönwetter will be on show as part of the thematic exhibition "PANIC – yes / no" at the Post City bunker. Together with the five other Austrian art universities, the University of Arts Linz – together with three of its students – will thus participate in the **Arts of Change – Change of Arts coaching programme** at the former postal building of Linz **in the context of a co-operation with the Climate and Energy Fund**. Projects from the current year will be presented.

Link to Arts of Change: <https://forum-n.at/index.php/projects-arts-of-change/>

Illustration: Tobias Peherstorfer

On Saturday, 6 September, at 12 noon on the dot, a performance by **Andrea Corradi** will be sounded at the **Lentos Museum** to coincide with the weekly siren signal. Moreover, at the **Energie AG Tower** across the street from Linz Main Station, another work by the young artist collective **MAalex** will be shown in co-operation with OÖ Landes-Kultur GmbH and Energie AG.

Kunstuniversität zu
Linz
University of Arts zu

 **ARS ELECTRONICA 2025**
Festival for Art, Technology & Society