

Austrian Foreign Ministry and Ars Electronica create virtual space for artistic freedom

Politically threatened art and culture professionals can submit projects for the State of the ART(ist) call for proposals from now until June 30, 2022.

(Vienna / Linz, May 30, 2022) The Russian war of aggression on Ukraine calls for a clear commitment and a lived solidarity with artists and cultural workers whose political or social circumstances make it difficult or impossible to visibly pursue their activities. With the “State of the ART(ist)” call for proposals, the Austrian Foreign Ministry and Ars Electronica are now creating a virtual art gallery to enable artistic freedoms to unfold within a secure framework. This is intended to support artists in Ukraine and around the world for whom a commitment to peace, freedom and self-determination is not possible locally or is possible only under great threat.

“With State of the ART(ist), we are creating a tool for artists around the world to make visible what their respective circumstances would not otherwise allow. In this way, we are setting another sign for the universal right to freedom of opinion and artistic expression and, together with the leading festival of art, new technologies and society, we are creating a novel initiative to support and make visible suppressed art. This is what Austrian cultural work abroad stands for.” Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg said.

All submitted State of the ART(ist) projects will be presented as part of the Ars Electronica Festival 2022 “Welcome to Planet B: A different life is possible. But how?” and thus made visible to a worldwide audience. Furthermore, an international jury from the fields of art and culture will select several works and curate three virtual exhibitions with them that are related to this year’s festival motto.





“In 2022, Ars Electronica welcomes you to ‘Planet B.’ A rather large continent of this artist-designed planet will be devoted to the question of how we can live together peacefully and respectfully across borders of states, cultures, languages, religions and genders. The linchpin of this debate will be the virtual exhibition ‘State of the ART(ist)’.” says Martin Honzik, Managing Director of the Ars Electronica Festival and CCO of Ars Electronica.

Art and culture projects can be submitted online from now until and including June 30, 2022 at <https://ars.electronica.art/stateoftheartist/en/>.

Ars Electronica: <https://ars.electronica.art/>

Website and proposals: State of the ART(ist): <https://ars.electronica.art/stateoftheartist/en/>

Austrian Foreign Ministry: <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/>

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