

ART AND SCIENCE IN REAL AND VIRTUAL SPACE

Fifth edition of the *art+science* programme of the Center for the Promotion of Science will take place from August 29 to September 14 in Trieste, Belgrade, and Linz, as well as in virtual space

The *art+science lab* presents to the audience the work of local artists and transdisciplinary project teams engaged in particular topics within the vast field of artificial intelligence. From September 1st to 14th, the main event of the programme, the ***Intelligence IO*** exhibition, will take place in the Cultural Center Magacin, with a diverse accompanying programme.

The award-winning work of the national *art+science AI Lab* selection: *Digital Prayer* by Kristina Tica

The focal point of the exhibition belongs to the award-winning work of the national *art+science AI Lab* selection. **Through her project *Digital prayer*, young artist Kristina Tica establishes a connection between the canonical structure of the Orthodox icon and the image artificially generated by means of a computer program.** Based upon the database of about 4000 collected digital reproductions of orthodox icons, the programme learns how to create a completely new image, with a final visual output which creates an *AI* icon of the 21st century. The research mentor on the project is Dr Miloš Milovanović, from the Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

a+s+cpn selection

CPN has continuously worked on creating a sustainable network which would gather scientists and artists, encourage their collaboration, and support development of their joint projects. This programme initiates and supports collaboration and the creation of new connections, moving beyond, or erasing, disciplinary boundaries. The Center provides resources, as well as, professional and logistic support during the evolution and development of projects. The transdisciplinary projects created in the year 2020 are ***Aerosonar*** and ***AI/VI***.

Aerosonar is a spatial audio installation which displays air pollution on a macro level in the micro environment of the exhibition space, at the same time emphasising human impact on air pollution. Musical composition of the installation allows the air pollution to be experienced largely through the sense of hearing, which is otherwise not the case. Entering the installation itself, and changing spatial conditions, result in changes in the musical composition, which makes visitors become aware of their impact. **Authors are Ana Todosijević, Ana Anastasov, and Marija Šumarac**, with the support of **Aleksandar Kilibarda and Dr Bojan Kening**

The work ***AI/VI*** is designed by a team of professional experts from various fields gathered around a shared question – how are humans and artificial intelligence being shaped and transformed through their mutual relationship? This work aims at questioning human and algorithmic ways of making decisions and their future consequences: how do we understand artificial intelligence and relate to it, and what direction do we want it to take? **Authors are Dr Aleksandar Bulajić, Ana Popović, Isidora Pejović Blagojević, and Dr Maja Maksimović.**

National+ selection

As has been the case in previous years, the Center exhibits the work of local artists, or artists of our origin, whose work has achieved significant success on a global scale.

Vladan Joler and Matteo Pasquinelli present the work ***Nooscope***. The *Nooscope* is a cartography of the limits of artificial intelligence, intended as a provocation to both computer science and humanities. Any map is a partial perspective, a way to provoke debate, and the main purpose of this map is to challenge the mystifications of artificial intelligence.

Victoria Vesna presents two projects: **Bird Song Diamond** (Belgrade), in collaboration with Charles Taylor, and **Noise Aquarium** (Trieste). The goal of the first project is to understand the language of birds. With modern advances in computing, in linguistic analysis, and a new-found appreciation of how sophisticated other creatures can be, the grammar (and perhaps meaning) of bird song seems attainable. Each installation is habitat specific and reflects its environment and ecology. **Noise Aquarium** deals with the ecological crisis as a human crisis. There are vast amounts of organisms that live in the oceans and some suffer pain from our waste and noise. Many are aware of big mammals such as whales and dolphins but often ignored is the invisible and the inaudible environment to us that is deeply secluded. But what if the plankton were to become whale-like and prominent in size?

Filip Kostić presents his work **Running at Frame Rate**, a software which foregrounds frame rate as its core mechanic. The computer is the main character whose primary goal is to render efficiently while trying to push itself to extreme ends. The software continually remembers its performance and reacts to it at times optimising itself trying to render better. It is an exercise in world building through both the pragmatic assembling of the world on screen, and the narrative that emerges from the computer's reaction to the software.

EuroScience Open Forum in Trieste and Festival Ars Electronica in Linz

International character of the programme is this time achieved through the joint activities with two relevant partner events, **EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) in Trieste and Festival Ars Electronica in Linz**.

ESOF is in many ways the most significant science event in Europe, which connects leading scientists, young researchers, science communicators, business persons, and policy makers. Trieste, the city host, has a flattering title of the European City of Science for the year 2020. From August 26 to September 6, within the accompanying festival, the CPN presents a selection of works as part of the *Both Ways: Art & Science from Central and Eastern Europe* exhibition, in collaboration with our renowned curator Dr Maja Ćirić. At the same time, the exhibition in Belgrade is a part of the joint virtual exhibition.

A joint virtual programme is also being developed with the Festival Ars Electronica from Linz, the most significant global point when it comes to interdisciplinary connection of science, art, and new technologies. After last year's 40th anniversary edition, this year, the Festival will reduce the number of physical events. From September 9 to 13, the major part of the content will be presented in virtual space, connecting more than 120 locations worldwide. As a longtime partner and contributor, the Center will present itself to the audience of the Festival through the *Ars Electronica Garden Belgrade*.

The art+science lab event is part of the Center's programme activities within the European ARTificial Intelligence Lab – AI Lab project, financed through the EU Creative Europe programme. The realisation was supported by the Ministry of Culture and Information, Austrian Cultural Forum, The Museum of Contemporary Art, and Samsung, in collaboration with the SASA Mathematical Institute, the Faculty of Media and Communication, Singidunum University, and the French Institute.

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