CREATION AT THE NEXUS OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND ART

A dialogue of Art with Science and Technology

November 3/4 2015
Venice, Ca’ Giustinian, San Marco 1364/A

A symposium jointly organised by La Biennale di Venezia and the European Commission

Art interacts in many direct and indirect ways to social and economic progress. Witness the rise of creative industry that built on artistic practices and the increasing importance of digital heritage as a trigger of cultural identity and as a catalyst of regional development. Equally, in technology, Art is playing an increasing role as a catalyst of radical innovation. Witness the dedication of companies like Apple or Mercedes to have their engineers collaborate with artists in the development of products and services.

On the other hand, technological breakthroughs have often triggered new forms of artistic expression. Art appropriates Technology as medium to convey its ideas and to put meaning and concepts into physical forms. Art thereby reflects both on Technology and on the impact of technology on society. Witness the use of information technologies – robots, sensors, 3D printers, internet of things – in the development of media and digital art. Throughout the history of La Biennale, artists have been reflecting on the opportunities offered by technologies in their works.

An intensive and fruitful dialogue of Science, Technology and Industry with Art has been emerging over the last decades. Art institutions worldwide engage with Science and Technology. Art institutions explore how the artist reflect/refuse/analyse/are inspired by and inspire Science and Technology. In turn, high tech industry and high profile Science institutions set up programs that allow them to establish a dialogue with the Art world that will help them to better reflect on their own thoughts processes and priorities. The European Commission has engaged into such a dialogue via its STARTS – S&T & ARTS program that bridges between Art and Innovation.

In this symposium, participants will explore how this dialogue could be intensified and what would be practical ways of setting it up both in Art institutions and in research and developments teams in Industry and Academia.

What will be the impact of this dialogue on artistic creation?
What will be the impact of this dialogue on innovation in society and industry?
How will such a dialogue renew artistic practice, how will it renew technological and scientific practices?

1. The symposium is jointly funded by La Biennale, by European Commission - Directorate General CONNECT, by project DANCE (H2020 645553) and by the ERC grant 295673 of Beatrice de Gelder.

2. See http://ictartconnect.eu/
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd 2015

10:30-11:00 REGISTRATION

11:00-11:30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
- Paolo Baratta, President of La Biennale di Venezia
- Bice Curiger, Director, Parkett and Curator Biennale Arte 2011
- Ralph Dum, European Commission, STARTS programme

11:30-13:00 SESSION 1
Art inspired by Science & Technology?
Do artistic and Science & Technology processes complement and reinforce each other in artistic creation and innovation?

MODERATOR
Gerfried Stocker, Director, Ars Electronica, Linz

SCENE SETTERS
- Rafael Hefti, Artist, Zurich
- Joachim Sauter, Artist, Art+Com, Berlin
- Grazia Toderi, Artist, Turin

DISCUSSANTS
- Vladimir Buzek, Institute of Physics, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava
- Marleen Stikker, Waag Society, Amsterdam

13:00-14:30 BREAK

14:30-15:30 SESSION 2
Art inspired by neuroscience and information technologies?
How such a dialogue can contribute to more human-centred IT?

MODERATOR
Salvatore M. Aglioti, University of Rome

SCENE SETTERS
- Beatrice de Gelder, Neuroscientist, University of Maastricht
- Robert Trappi, Director, Austrian Research Center for Artificial Intelligence

DISCUSSANTS
- Mel Slater, Event Lab, University of Barcelona
- Michele Bugliesi, Rector, University Ca’ Foscari, Venice
- Antonio Camurri, InfoMus Research Center, University of Genoa

15:30-16:00 BREAK

16:00-17:30 SESSION 3
Art in social space
How artists address collective participation and identity in digital age?

MODERATOR
Paolo Baratta, President of La Biennale di Venezia

SCENE SETTERS
- Agnieszka Kurant, Artist, Poland and US
- Alejandro Aravena, Architect, Curator Biennale Architettura 2016
- Aldo Cibic, Architect and Designer, Curator Venice Pavilion Biennale Arte 2015

DISCUSSANTS
- Christa Sommerer, Media Artist, Vienna
- Sander Veenhof, Artist, Amsterdam
- Salvatore M. Aglioti, University of Rome

17:30-18:30
REFLECTIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE DIALOGUE
Incentives, limits and opportunities of an Art Technology dialogue: Why would artists engage? Why would scientists and engineers engage? What is the role of institutions and policy?

MODERATOR
Ralph Dum, DG Connect, European Commission

REFLECTIONS
- Paul Dujardin, Director, Bozar, Bruxelles
- Gerfried Stocker, Director, Ars Electronica, Linz
- Alejandro Aravena, Architect, Curator Biennale Architettura 2016

PANEL
- Zane Vāgneres, Counsellor of the Permanent Representation of Latvia to the EU (culture policy)
- Simon Denny, Artist, New Zealand
- Laurent Gaveau, Google Cultural Institute, Paris
- Beatrice de Gelder, Neuroscientist, University of Maastricht

DISCUSSION FOLLOWED BY Q&A FROM AUDIENCE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th 2015

9:30-10:45 SESSION 4
Art as catalyst of innovation?
Can artists view and contribute to innovation?

MODERATOR
Martin Roth, Director, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

SCENE SETTERS
Simon Denny, Artist, New Zealand
Pere Obrador Espinosa, Engineer, Telefonica Research, Spain
Christophe de Jaeger, BOZAR and Gluon Foundation, Bruxelles

DISCUSSANTS
Naomi Kaempfer, Creative Director, Stratasys 3D printing, Israel
Gerald Bast, Rector, University of Applied Arts, Vienna

10:45-11:15 BREAK

11:15-12:30
REFLECTIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE DIALOGUE
Incentives, limits and opportunities of an Art Technology dialogue: Why would artists engage? Why would scientists and engineers engage? What is the role of institutions and policy?

MODERATOR
Bice Curiger, Director, Parkett and Curator Biennale Arte 2011

REFLECTIONS
Martin Roth, Director, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Marleen Stikker, Waag Society, Amsterdam
Aldo Cibic, Architect and Designer Curator Venice Pavilion, Biennale Arte 2015

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Gerfried Stocker, Director, Ars Electronica, Linz
Christa Sommerer, Media Artist, Vienna
Agnieszka Kurant, Artist, Poland and US
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DISCUSSION FOLLOWED BY Q&A FROM AUDIENCE

The workshop participants will have opportunity to visit the 56th International Art Exhibition by purchasing the ticket at special rate

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