

POST CITY – Habitats for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## Program & Highlights of Ars Electronica 2015

(Vienna, August 26, 2015) The 2015 Ars Electronica Festival is set for September 3-7. This year's theme is POST CITY – Habitats for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Hundreds of artists and scientists from around the world will join festivalgoers in an inquiry into how fit for the future our cities are. The focus will be on four aspects of urban life: Future Mobility – the city as transportation hub; Future Work – the city as workplace and marketplace; Future Citizens – the city as community; and Future Resilience – the city as bastion. This year's primary venue is the mothballed Postal Service logistics center on the grounds of Linz's main train station. These huge premises will host the sprawling POST CITY exhibition, the featured attraction of which will be the Mercedes-Benz F 015 Luxury in Motion, a self-driving car making its European debut. This exhibition will also be the centerpiece of a whole series of discursive formats dealing with the festival theme. Other venues in downtown Linz are devoted almost exclusively to the Prix Ars Electronica: The CyberArts exhibition showcasing the year's most outstanding works of media art will take place, as always, in the OK Center for Contemporary Art, and the Animation Festival is right next door in CENTRAL. At the locations arrayed along the Danube, the watchwords are Art & Science: works by students at Université Paris 8 will be shown on the campus of Linz Art University, the Mobile Ö1 Atelier will be ensconced on Hauptplatz, and the new Elements of Art and Science exhibition opens at the Ars Electronica Center, which is also the site of "Spaceship Earth" featuring amazing satellite images provided by the European Space Agency. And a trip to the Ars Electronica Center wouldn't be complete without ultra-high-resolution viewing in the new state-of-the-art Deep Space 8K!

### Festival Opening

Thu 3.9. / 6:30 PM / PostCity

The grand opening of this year's festival takes place in the halls of PostCity on the grounds of Linz's main depot. Foghorns signal the start. Then, trombonist Bertl Mütter (AT) musically inquires into the perfect location: How must such a place be designed so that nothing has to be taken back from it? Rupert Huber (AT) then takes his place at the piano—his keyboard stylings bring forth tones that are, in turn, fed into an accompanying plug-in that extends and expands them, gives them wings, and transforms them into a timeless meshwork. He's followed on stage by Maki Namekawa (AT/JP), who'll interpret selected etudes by Philip Glass on the concert grand. Then it's time for Peter Androsch and Anatol Bogendorfer (Hörstadt/AT) to fire up their "Diaspora Maschine" and use musical ways & means to consider the wave of refugees currently crashing onto Europe's coastlines and the utter failure of an entire political class. Next up is raum.null, a collaboration by Chris Bruckmayr (AT) and Dobrivoje Milijanovic (SR), with a performance entitled "the sixth wave of mass extinction" that goes acoustically and visually to the core of postmodern society, limning the potential threat inherent in a worldwide die-off of flora and fauna that has already gotten quietly underway. This will be followed by a double DJ set featuring DJ LOTIC and DJ M.E.S.H

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(Salon 2000/AT) as well as Uli Mayr (AT) and Thomas Scheutz (AT). The program will be preceded by and punctuated with historic films of Linz screened by Alexander Hans Puluž (AT).

### Second Body / Anarchy Dance Theatre X Ultra Combos (TW)

Fri 4.9. / 10-10:45 PM, Sat 5.9. / 10:30-11:15 PM, Sun 6.9. / 1:30-2:15 PM / St. Mary's Cathedral

In this visually impressive dance performance, dancer Shao-chin Hung (TW) encounters the digital manifestation of his own body. They react to and interact with one another, vacillating between rapprochement and rejection.

### Diaspora Maschine / Peter Androsch, Anatol Bogendorfer (both AT)

Thu 3.9. / 9:40-10:20 PM, Fri 4.9. / 1:40-2:20 PM and 6-6:40 PM, Sun 6.9. / 12:40-1:20 PM and 8:40-9:20 PM / PostCity

"Diaspora Maschine" by Peter Androsch and Anatol Bogendorfer (Hörstadt, AT) is dedicated to the phenomenon of scattering, diffusing, disseminating, to the great migratory flows of our time and their social and political consequences. The gigantic spiral packet chutes in the former Postal Service logistics center on the grounds of the train station stand like a pre-modern mechanical signal warning of these diasporas. As a huge organon, it distributes voices, sounds, light and objects that are smuggled in through channels with plenty of twists and turns, and arrive and dock at various places where they announce their presence.

### Art and Science: CyberArts 2015

Thu 3.9. / 10 AM-9 PM, Fri 4.9., Sun 6.9. & Mon 7.9. / 10 AM-8:30 PM, Sat 5.9. / 10 AM-10 PM / OK Center for Contemporary Art

The state-of-the-art of the cyberarts is on display in this exhibition that's always one of the highlights of Ars Electronica. On display for visitors' amazement are, for example, teacups with analytical capabilities, a satellite on an artistic mission, vegetative sex toys and sculptural portraits rendered with genetic material.

### PRIX Forums – Art & Science

Prix Forum I: Fri 4.9. / 2:15-3:45 PM / CENTRAL

Prix Forum II: Sat 5.9. / 10-11:30 AM / OK Center for Contemporary Art  
Prix Forum III: Sa 5.9. / 11:45 AM-1:15 PM / OK Center for Contemporary Art

Prix Forum IV: Sat 5.9. / 2:30-4 PM / OK Center for Contemporary Art

Prix Forum V: Sat 5.9. / 4:15-5:15 PM / OK Center for Contemporary Art

Prix Forum VI (Ars & Science Round Table): Sat 5.9. / 5:30- 7 PM / OK Center for Contemporary Art

At the Prix Forums, the 2015 Prix Ars Electronica prizewinners will speak about their works, motivations and visions. The focal-point topic of this year's statements and discussions will be the increasingly frequent interaction among artists and scientists. The lineup of speakers

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includes Anne-Marie Duguet (FR) and Jeffrey Shaw (AU/HK) at Prix Forum II – Visionary Pioneers of Media Art; Nelo Akamatsu (JP), Josef Klammer (AT) and Douglas Henderson (US) at Prix Forum IV – Hybrid Art; and Ryoji Ikeda (JP), das XXLab (ID), Maria Ignacia Edwards (CL) and Semiconductor (UK) at Prix Forum V – Residency Artists. The only exception to the talk format is Prix Forum I – Computer Animation / Film / VFX that's being integrated into the Animation Festival's extensive program in CENTRAL.

## POST CITY Symposium I to IV

Future Mobility: A Challenge for Art & Science (Symposium I)

Fri 4.9. / 10 AM-1:30 PM / PostCity

The 2015 Theme Symposium first turns its attention to mobility. The substantive arc extends from the F 015, Mercedes-Benz's R&D prototype that's the most spectacular self-driving car on the road today, to a stocktaking of contemporary urban mobility and a consideration of the global mobility of human beings and data. Alexander Mankowsky (DE) will talk about the automotive R&D going on at Mercedes Benz, and then Martina Mara (AT) will go into the relationship between human beings and autonomous vehicles. Shunji Yamanaka (JP) and Takayuki Furuta (JP) of the Future Robotics Technology Center will present their latest robots, Hiroshi Ishii (JP/US) of MIT Media Lab will elaborate on global data traffic, and then Ou Ning (CN) and Kilian Kleinschmidt (DE) will confront today's most explosive issue: migration.

Connecting Cities – Connecting Citizens (Symposium II)

Fri 4.9. / 2:30-5:45 PM / PostCity

The second part of the symposium focuses on how future Smart Cities can best draw upon the imagination and inventiveness of their inhabitants. Why a high level of media skills on the part of citizens constitutes a precondition for this will be explained by Divina Frau-Meigs (FR). A corresponding best-practice example of knowledge production in the city will be presented by Takuya Nomura (JP): Knowledge Capital, a project in Osaka. Then Addie Wagenknecht (US/AT) of the Deep Lab hacker collective elucidates successful co-creation. In the afternoon session, Adolf Krischanitz (AT), Ian Banerjee (AT/ IN) and David Nieh (CN) will take a look at current urban architectural projects in Europe, India and China.

Post Public, Post Private (Symposium III)

Sun 6.9. / 10 AM-12:30 PM / PostCity

Both the public sphere and the private sphere have changed fundamentally in recent decades—both online and offline. The process of change confronts city planners and architectural designers with a tremendous challenge in their efforts to manifest in the form of buildings and urban designs the new interrelationships among what used to be discrete public and private spheres. Carlo Ratti (IT/US) interprets “public space” as a part of a zone of a new world of work in which, among other things, exterior space is being used as office space. Geeta Mehta (IN/US) reports on her committed efforts on behalf of user-generated cities and global strategies for the acquisition of social capital. A similar approach is taken by

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Kristien Ring (US/DE), who reflects on residential and commercial projects in Berlin in which not everything is subordinated to maximizing return on investment. Finally, Peter Androsch (AT) talks about how the city dwellers of tomorrow can raise their voices to really be heard.

Habitat 21 (Symposium IV)  
Sun 6.9. / 1:30-3:30 PM / PostCity

Just like the exhibition of the same name, the Habitat 21 symposium focuses on the festival theme—in particular, innovative strategies that can enable us to master the future challenges we'll be confronting in the urban sphere. Michael Badics (Ars Electronica Solutions/AT), Hans Reitz, (Grameen Creative Lab/DE) and Klaus Dieterstorfer (Engineers without Borders/AT) will give personal accounts of the reconstruction and repair of Nepalese cities after the horrendous earthquake there. Lei Yang (CN), ecological city planner in Peking, considers urbanization as a process of monstrous dimensions. Ian Banerjee (AT/IN) and Ingrid Fischer-Schreiber (AT) will present Digital Community projects from around the world. Alexei Novikov (RU/US) and Katya Serova (RU/US) elaborate on how to understand cities by means of complex data analysis. Katja Schechtner (AT) and Dietmar Offenhuber (AT) will argue on behalf of provisional urban infrastructure made by citizens themselves, and Roland Krebs (AT) will give a briefing on city planning tools designed to foster involvement on the part of all those affected by building measures.

### Future Innovators Summit & Connected Intelligence Atelier

Thu 3., Fri 4. and Sun 6.9. / PostCity

Following its successful test run last year, the Future Catalyst Program now aims to assemble a POST CITY Kit, a cluster of ideas, strategies, tools and prototypes for the city of the future. At the Future Innovators Summit, activists, engineers and scientists from throughout the world will apply their respective skills to answering three questions: How smart is a city allowed to be before we have to be afraid to live there? How are we to coexist with all the autonomous machines that will soon be sharing the cityscape with us? And what sorts of resilience do we need? Parallel to this, Derrick de Kerckhove (CA) and Maria Pia Rossignaud invite festivalgoers to their Connected Intelligence Atelier. The point is not merely to solve a problem or to invent the future, but principally to provide a way for people to design that future together. In three groups the following matters will be discussed: Strategies to elicit community involvement, so-called publicity, the hybridization of public and private, and smart democracy.

### POST CITY Exhibition

Thu 3. – Mon 7.9. / 10 AM-7 PM / PostCity

The POST CITY exhibition is an assembly of artistic works and scientific R&D projects, futuristic prototypes and concepts marketable right now, all having to do with this year's festival theme. The show's centerpiece is on display in the Future Mobility zone: the new Mercedes-Benz F 015 Motion in Luxury. This self-driving concept car provides a foretaste of

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what a run-of-the-road vehicle might look like in 2030. And the test track that Ars Electronica Futurelab engineers have set up around it shows how communication and interaction between humans and machines in so-called shared spaces will then have to function. There are several other takes on the future of mobility—both of the serious sort (the J1 electric motorcycle and the D-Dalus helicopter-jet) as well as tongue-in-cheek offerings (like an organic Segway made of tree branches and the Fahrradi bicycle camouflaged as a luxury sports car). The adjacent exhibition area, Habitat 21, showcases urban planning strategies with an accent on sustainability and resilience. Among the many extraordinary exhibits festivalgoers will see here are “Beyond Survival,” an impressive photographic documentation of life in one of the world’s largest refugee camps in Zaartari, Jordan, social business projects by Grameen founder Muhammed Yunus, and an innovative concept for the reconstruction of Nepalese villages destroyed by the recent earthquake.

### Organic Farmers’ Market Meets Yami-Ichi

Sat 5.9. / 10 AM-7 PM / PostCity

Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup> is market day at Ars Electronica. The site of the commercial hustle & bustle will be PostCity, where two markets will seek festivalgoers’ patronage. Farmers who are members of the BIO AUSTRIA OÖ (AT) association will be staging the Farmers’ Market of the Future. They’re not only selling organic delicacies; they’re also working together with urban community gardeners and food coops to demonstrate that organic agriculture and gardening can be fruitful even in the city, and, in fact, increase city dwellers’ quality of life. The internet black market Yami-Ichi is practically the next booth over. Here, it’s possible to engage in real person-to-person transactions to exchange or buy/sell ideas, souvenirs, goods & services without having to deal with the usual Web-based big boys like eBay. And to do it in an atmosphere that’s as giddily anarchic as the internet used to be before its total commercial subjugation and all-encompassing surveillance.

### Ars Electronica Center Part I: Spaceship Earth

Thu 3.9. to Mon 7.9. / 10 AM-8 PM, Mon 7.9. / 10 AM-6 PM / Ars Electronica Center

Satellites have been aiming their watchful eyes at our planet and providing us with detailed information ever since the 1950s. And not only in the service of military espionage and surveillance! They’re also valuable instruments for scientific research on such things as agricultural yields, ground cover, sea level and coastal zones, water & air quality, ozone and sunlight, meteorology and climate change. The “Spaceship Earth” exhibition provides insights into the European Space Agency’s geo-observation programs. The focus is on satellite images.

### Ars Electronica Center Part II: Elements of Art and Science

Thu 3.9. to Mon 7.9. / 10 AM-8 PM, Mon 7.9. / 10 AM-6 PM / Ars Electronica Center

Can artists and scientists reciprocally inspire each other? Can they jointly develop new and sometimes unconventional perspectives and thus arrive at innovative solutions to problems?

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What do artistic and scientific organizations have in common? And what sets them apart? The ever-more-frequent collaboration of artists and scientists is one of the focal-point themes at Ars Electronica this year. This will be brought out clearly by the new “Elements of Art and Science” exhibition. About 40 projects will be presented, either as artifacts on display or in the form of video documentation. Substantively, the works deal with how to make, deconstruction of the body, and visualization as artistic strategy. Several of the presented works are results of the Art and Science Residency Program that Ars Electronica administers in cooperation with partner institutions such as CERN and ESO.

### Ars Electronica Center Part III: Deep Space 8K

Thu 3.9. to Mon 7.9. / 10 AM-10 PM / Ars Electronica Center

Following a complete technical makeover, Deep Space 8K at Ars Electronica Center Linz now presents breathtaking images that take high-resolution, brilliance and contrast to the limits of technical feasibility. Dual 16-by-9-meter projection surfaces on the completely revamped space’s wall and floor now display incredible visuals, videos and 3-D applications in ultra-high-definition 8K. They’re made possible by eight state-of-the-art Christie Boxer 4k30 Mirage projectors, two high-performance XI-MACHINES processors each equipped with four NVIDIA Quadro M6000 graphic cards, and software custom-developed by the Ars Electronica Futurelab. While this leading-edge hardware & software package was taking shape, Futurelab staffers were also busy developing totally new modes of interaction and means of conveying content that immerse visitors into worlds of imagery in ways that take full advantage of the quality and intensity this extraordinary infrastructure makes possible. In “Inside Mercedes-Benz Advanced Design,” senior managers Vera Schmidt (DE) and Holger Hutzenlaub (DE) provide insights into the work of visionary automobile designers, and present new mobility concepts and trailblazing interfaces. Another highlight in Deep Space 8K is a program entitled “Cinematic Rendering – in Medical Diagnostics and Virtual Anatomy” in which Siemens’ newly-developed rendering algorithm delivers extraordinary photorealistic images of the human body.

### Campus Exhibition: Université Paris 8

Thu 3.9 to Sun 6.9. / 11 AM-9 PM and Mon 7.9. / 11 AM-7 PM / Linz Art University

The Campus exhibition has become a popular annual fixture at the Ars Electronica Festival. This year, it showcases work by students at Université Paris 8. The show is divided into five clusters: 3-D animation, interactive installations and experimental video games; digital literature and especially hypertext novels and generative poetry; digital, interactive performances; virtual reality systems and interactive books; and sensory prototypes and behavioral objects. The dramatis personae range from the venerated pioneers of the early days of media art to the wild young innovators of today.

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## u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD: Huge Kids’ Research Laboratory in PostCity

Thu 3.9. to Mon 7.9. / 10 AM-7 PM / PostCity

Albert Einstein called play “the highest form of research.” u19 – CREATE YOUR WORLD takes him at his word. At PostCity, the Kids’ Research Laboratory is present with a huge play- & proving ground for up-and-coming explorers 4-8 years of age. Here, sandscapes, earth zones, watercourses and spots to toy with light and air extend over hundreds of square meters. The watchwords: Discovering new stuff via trial & error. This is a site for digging, splashing, tossing, grinding and pitching in. Kids’ experiences with elementary materials like sand and water provide them with a fundamental understanding of volume and density, cause and effect.

## The Big Concert Night 2015

Sun 6.9. / 8 PM-12 Midnight / PostCity (Train Hall)

“Music on the Move” are the watchwords of every Big Concert Night. New this year is the setting. We’re taking leave of the well-trodden paths of Donaupark and the Brucknerhaus for an excursion through the halls and catacombs of PostCity. The lineup segues too—from classic modernism to the electronic sounds of today. Conductor Dennis Russell Davies (AT/US) and the Bruckner Orchester Linz (AT) will interpret symphonies by Copland, Ge Xu and Elliot Goldenthal; Maki Namekawa (AT/JP) will play piano etudes by Philipp Glass accompanied by real-time visualizations; Peter Androsch (AT) and Anatol Bogendorfer (AT) are switching on their “Diaspora Maschine”; guitar virtuoso Karl Ritter (AT) celebrates audiovisual “Soundfalls”; Peter Karrer (AT) makes experimental film sequences resound; and Wolfgang Fadi Dorninger (AT) plays out his acoustic fiction of a post-city.

## Ars Electronica Animation Festival

Thu 3.9. to Mon 7.9. / Central

The Ars Electronica Animation Festival showcases the best of the 722 works that artists from 58 countries submitted for prize consideration to the 2015 Prix Ars Electronica. The 13 individual programs are complemented by the Prix Forum I, a chat with artist Alex Verhaest (BE) whose work “Temps Mort / Idle Times” garnered her the Golden Nica in the Computer Animation / Film / VFX category, and the Expanded Animation conference: “Deviations and Anomalies at the Intersection of Art and Technology 2015” will scrutinize technological and aesthetic developments in the art of digital animation.

## voest Alpine Klangwolke 2015: Hochwald: Dance of the Trees

Sat 5.9. / 7:30 PM / Donaupark

The woods come to town in this year’s Voest Alpine Klangwolke [Cloud of Sound]. Director Hubert Lepka and his Lawine Torrèn (AT) company have taken their inspiration from Adalbert Stifter’s romantic tale “Hochwald.” The forest is the chief protagonist in both the original and

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Joey Wimplinger's new text version. For Stifter, the woods still constituted a secure place of refuge for two young women during a time of troubles and war, whereas the current production scrutinizes the forest's future prospects as a "natural landscape." After all, in the wake of countless clear-cuts and the subsequent reforestation that's gone on with ever-increasing frequency since Stifter's day in the 19th century, practically all European forests are landscapes shaped by human intervention. But in contrast to the much and hotly discussed development of humankind's urban habitat, there's no master plan for the near-term future of our forests.

## POST CITY – Habitats for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

"POST CITY – Habitats for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" is the theme of Ars Electronica 2015. The festival is an inquiry into how cities of the future will have to be configured when there are more robots than people working in factories, everything is intelligently interlinked, autos drive autonomously and drones deliver the mail. And what does this mean for future megacities—above all, those on seaboard—when climate change really does shift into high gear? The rethinking of urban living spaces has already begun—all over the world, people are coming up with exciting ideas for new architectures and forms of social organization that are able to keep up with the changes the next few decades will bring. Dovetailing art, technology and society in the inimitable way Ars Electronica has done ever since 1979, experts from all over the world will be convening at an extraordinary think tank in Linz September 3-7, 2015. In going about this, the Festival is focusing on four thematic clusters in order to consider, from both local and global perspectives, how developments—those already in progress and prognosticated shifts—will be changing how our cities look and function: Future Mobility – The city as transportation hub; Future Work – The city as workplace and marketplace; Future Citizens – The city as community; and Future Resilience – The city as stronghold.

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Photo spreads, interviews and background about the 2015 Ars Electronica Festival: <http://www.aec.at/postcity/en/>  
Festival website: <http://www.aec.at/postcity/en/>  
Ars Electronica Linz GmbH: <http://www.aec.at/news/en/>

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