

Basel, May 14, 2012

Press release

gateways. Art and Networked Culture

June 2 – August 19, 2012 (Opening: Friday, June 1, 2012, 7 pm)

Our daily lives are constantly affected by the increasing electronic interconnection of the world. The exhibition *gateways. Art and Networked Culture* is interested in the effects this increasing mediatization has on our perception of the world. The House of Electronic Arts Basel will present a selection of artistic works that were shown at the Kumu Art Museum in Tallinn in 2011 as part of the European Capital of Culture Tallinn 2011 program.

Between 2005 and 2010, the number of Internet users worldwide has doubled, surpassing two billion by the end of 2010. More than 90 percent of the world's population and 80 percent of the rural population have access to mobile networks nowadays. Several European countries, including Estonia, Finland and Spain, have declared World Wide Web access to be a civil right. Laptops and smart phones are the prime accessories of the information age. They offer – around the clock and everywhere – connection and access to a global digital network of data and information that overlays our reality like a second skin.

The House of Electronic Arts Basel is presenting a selection of artistic works that were shown at the Kumu Art Museum in Tallinn from May 13 to September 25, 2011, as a summer highlight of the European Capital of Culture Tallinn 2011: works of artists who investigate the changing conditions of a networked world that is increasingly transmitted through media. From different points of view, they tackle the theme of gateways that open to realms of action and experience in our digitally interconnected culture and examine the importance and social and cultural effects network technology has on society. The public is invited to participate actively in the projects and to take part in unusual perceptual experiences.

The exhibition was realized in cooperation with the Goethe Institute and is curated by the new artistic director of the House of Electronic Arts Basel, Sabine Himmelsbach, who is reinstalling the exhibition for the House of Electronic Arts Basel.

Artists

Aram Bartholl (D), boredomresearch (GB), Ingo Günther (D), Hanna Haaslahti (FIN), Andreja Kulunčić (HR), Les Liens Invisibles (IT), Jenny Marketou (US), Achim Mohné and Uta Kopp (D), RIXC (LV), Thomson & Craighead (GB), Timo Toots (EST), You Must Relax (EST)

Catalogue

An exhibition catalogue was published in 2011 in connection with Tallinn, European Capital of Culture 2011. With texts by Sirje Helme, Sabine Himmelsbach, Raivo Kelomees, Karin Ohlenschläger and others. Hatje Cantz Verlag 2011, ISBN 978-3-7757-2796-9.



A small selection of works



boredomresearch (GB): *Real Snail Mail* (2008–2011)

Network-based Installation with RFID Technology

British artists Vicky Isley (*1974) and Paul Smith (*1975) aka boredomresearch, use living snails as the carriers of email messages in an Internet-based email service. The snails are fitted with RFID chips on their shells, enabling them to transmit data. Within their terrarium, the snails approach sites for the transmission or reception of emails. *Real Snail Mail* offers the alternative of a radical departure from our technologically dominated modes of communication. Here, the flow of information via good old snail mail is interrupted, physically and biologically.

www.boredomresearch.net | <http://www.realsnailmail.net>
<http://www.goethe.de/ins/ee/prj/gtw/mag/inf/en7724883.htm>



Timo Toots (EST): *Memopol-II* (2011)

Multimedia Installation

With *Memopol-II*, Estonian media artist Timo Toots (*1982) has created a „social apparatus“ that refers to George Orwell’s concept of „Big Brother“ and maps the visitor’s information field. By



inserting an identification document such as a national ID card or passport into the machine, it starts collecting information about the visitor from (inter)national databases and the Internet. The data is then visualized on a large-scale custom display. *Memopol-II* enables us to make a thorough background check of ourselves, mirroring back to us all the data about us that is accessible via the Internet.

For *Memopol-II*, Timo Toots has just been awarded the *Golden Nica for Interactive Art* at Ars Electronica in Linz, one of the most important prizes in the field of electronic and interactive art.
<http://timo.ee> | <http://www.goethe.de/ins/ee/prj/gtw/kue/ach/enindex.htm>



You Must Relax (EST): Astrid Mobile Phone (2011)
Mobile Phone Installation

Architect Eve Arpo (*1979) and media artist Riin Rõõs (*1978) have created a new kind of mobile phone – Astrid. The phone, which is two and a half meters in height, is available to visitors for making and receiving phone calls. Because of its size, however, the phone has lost the essential characteristics of a mobile phone – mobility and intimacy. When visitors use the device, they have to engage their entire bodies to push the buttons, talk into the microphone and have everyone witness their personal conversation. Through the use of networked technologies, *Astrid Mobile Phone* thus makes us aware of the shifting borders between public and private spaces.
www.youmustrelax.com | <http://www.goethe.de/ins/ee/prj/gtw/aus/wer/you/deindex.htm>

For further information please visit:

concept of exhibition: www.gateways.ee
exhibition: <http://www.haus-ek.org>