JavaMuseum – Forum for Internet Technologies in Contemporary Art
(JAVA= Joint Advanced Virtual Affairs)

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An introduction

JavaMuseum was founded in 2000 by Agricola de Cologne as a virtual museum focussing on net based art, a specific form of digital art based on technologies used in Internet.

In 2001, JavaMuseum started an annual program consisting of a competition and showcase, giving the JavaArtist-of-the-Year-Award to outstanding artists in the fields of net based art and some featured exhibitions with changing subjects.

Until 2004, JavaMuseum organized in total 17 showcases of "netart" in a global context, three competitions and many features including more than 500 art works by 350 artists from 40 countries which form a unique and most comprehensive collection of net based art worldwide and in Internet.

JavaMuseum recognized quickly the necessity of collaborations on different levels and started in 2002 a collaboration in concern of the annual competition with University of Manila and Digital Art Festival Manila/Philippines, in 2003 JavaMuseum cooperated with Computer Space Festival Sofia and Goethe-Institute Sofia/Bulgaria.

In 2004, JavaMuseum launched the collaboration with [R][R][F]2004-→XP- global networking project and several features of net based art in this framework.

Although all these activities were very successful and JavaMuseum got an excellent reputation through these activities, it became evident, that not only the online environment of the Internet, but also the entire global "netart" scene changed during the years. An important aspect represents also that "netart" did not emancipate and is still in a kind of ghetto, not widely accepted as serious form of contemporary art. But also many of the once active artists retired, but new artist generations were not able to replace them in quantity and quality.

During 2004, JavaMuseum decided therefore to stop continuing its previous kind of activities by the end of 2004 and complete them by organizing a final show, to be launched in a physical presentations series in Palestine, Israel and Germany in February 2005.

JavaMuseum named these activities between 2000 and 2005 the *"1ˢᵗ phase"*, which will manifest themselves as a project environment encompassing the 18 showcases remaining online for permanent as a documentation of net art 2000-2004.

But this extraordinary collection and the involved artists and artworks will also form in future the basis for organizing showcases in physical space in collaboration with physical institutions, as museums or galleries.

In this way, already soon, the next and *2ⁿᵈ phase* will start.

What is netart?

As the term "netart" has no binding definition, it is good to know, how JavaMuseum is defining this term and its net based activities, thus.

Netart is in first place **art***, a specific form of digital art using specific programming languages/technologies used in Internet. "net" is not only related to this aspect, but mainly that net based art has to be located in Internet on an URL (Internet address) of itsown, and is this wayit has to be available online to the user at any time . In principle, all technologies/programming languages can be used for artistic creation by programming, but not all technologies are predestined for artists use. Not each artist is a good programmer, and not each programmer is an artist. In this way, many artists use pre-formatted software applications in order to create net based works. There are no general aesthetic criteria, as each technology/programming language has its own specific aesthetics, in addition offer the communicating technologies new options and new and unexpected kinds of aesthetics. But technology represents just a tool, and it is the contents which are as relevant transported and transmitted by using the tool.*

By defining "netart", JavaMuseum does not follow any ideology, and is therefore also not restricted concerning contents or technology and open for all subjects and topics artists are working on. "netart" as it understood and featured by JavaMuseum shows in the global context an unusual variety of presentations and artistic positions and adds a lot of new aspects to the spectrum and general definition of contemporary art.

Since 2002, JavaMuseum started a series of neart art features from different cultural regions around the globe and succeeded in presenting many artists who were not in the spotlight before, and gave an idea what could "netart" represent in a global context.

Showcases and features

Between 2001 and 2004, JavaMuseum realized following showcases and features. All of them were based on open calls in Internet and curated by Agricola de Cologne who also created the curatorial environments and project interfaces.

1. 1st of Java – Perspectives on New Media – competition and showcase 2001
    www.javamuseum.org/1st/firstofjava.htm
2. Solo Show: Tiia Johannson - media artist from Estonia
    www.javamuseum.org/tiia_johannson/memorial.html
3. Solo Show: Jody Zellen - media artist from USA
    www.javamuseum.org/jody_zellen/solo/index.html
4. Solo Show: Mary-Anne Breeze – media artist from Australia
    www.javamuseum.org/mez/solo/index.html
5. Vision_up and down – featuring 6 artists
    www.javamuseum.org/2002/visions/visions.htm
6. Fundamental Patterns – Peripheral Basics – competition and showcase 2002
    www.javamuseum.org/2002/2nd/fundamental/index.html
7. Current Positions of French Netart
    www.javamuseum.org/2002/2nd/frenchfeature/index.html
8. "Current Positions of Italian Netart" on
    www.javamuseum.org/2002/2nd/italyfeature/index.html
9. "LatinoNetarte.net" -
    Netart from Latin American countries on
    www.javamuseum.org/2003/latinofeature/index.html
10. "I-Highway - Netart from Canada" on
    www.javamuseum.org/2003/canadafeature/index.html
11. Perspectives 2003 – competition and showcase 2003
    www.javamuseum.org/2002/2nd/italyfeature/index.html
12. "I-rivers" - Netart form German speaking countries
    launched on occasion of Computer Space Festival 2003 Sofia/Bulgaria
    on www.javamuseum.org/2003/germanfeature/index.html
13. "I-Fjords" - the show of Netart from Northern Europe
    launched on occasion of Electronic Art Meeting 2004 Pescara/Italy
    www.javamuseum.org/2004/nordicfeature/index.html
14. I - Corrida - Netart from Spain
    launched on occasion of Basics Festival 2004 Salzburg/Austria
    www.javamuseum.org/2004/spanishfeature/index.html
15. I - Ocean - Netart from all Asia and Pacific area
    launched on occasion of New Media Art Festival 2004 Bangkok/Thailand
    www.javamuseum.org/2004/asiafeature/index.html
16. I-Islands - Netart from Great Britain and Ireland
    www.javamuseum.org/2003/englishfeature/index.html
17. WitchCraft - 6 female artists
    www.javamuseum.org/2004/witchcraft/index.html
18. The Final Show
    www.javamuseum.org/2005/final/index.html

JavaArtist of the Year Award

During the years 2001, 2002 and 2003, JavaMuseum gave an award,
JavaArtist of the Year Award
to outstanding artists working with net based media.

The winners were

2001
Tiia Johannson, Estonia
Jody Zellen, USA
Mary_Anne Breeze (MEZ), Australia

2002
Calin Man, Romania

2003
David Crawford, USA
Annie Abrahams, France
Tsunamii.net, Singapore

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