

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 its own, and in this way it 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 netart 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 from 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
<http://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

Contacts:

JavaMuseum –

Forum for Internet Technologies in Contemporary Art

www.javamuseum.org

[JAVA=Joint Advanced Virtual Affairs]

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