

Introduction

Good evening everyone. First off, I would like to thank Videotage, especially Joyce Cheng, Simon Ng and Ellen Pau for organising this get together at such short notice.

By way of introduction, I'm Nisar Keshvani and am editor in chief of the Leonardo Electronic Almanac. I wanted to informally share with you a few projects we are working on. I will keep this bit brief so that we can spend more time chatting later. I am very interested to hear from you about what's happening in Hong Kong.

My presentation will provide an overview of:

- Leonardo - the Journal and the Leonardo Electronic Almanac
- LEA's areas of interest
- Developments, of specific interest to artists and organisations
- Developments, of specific interest to academics and students
- Question and Answer

Slide 1 – Overview

Leonardo – the Journal of Art, Science and Technology was founded by Frank Malina in 1968. The international peer reviewed print journal is produced by the International Society for Arts, Sciences and Technology and distributed by MIT Press.

Leonardo Electronic Almanac its sister publication, was launched in 1993. The international peer reviewed electronic journal was established to capitalise on rapid publishing, explore new technological boundaries.

LEA is strongly supported by an international advisory and editorial boards and a team of approximately sixty experts in the Art, Science and Technology field.

In the last three years, some thematic issues we have worked on include:

- Consciousness Studies East and West by Patrick Lambelet
- Critiquing Regional Strategies for Digital Arts and E-Music by Fatima Lasay

- Technology and Difference by Irina Aristarkhova

- New Media Arts, Technology and Education by Kim Machan and Seah Hock Soon

Slide 2 – Areas of Interest

Over the next few years, LEA is keen to:

- Reach out to the art/science/technology/academic community in the Asia Pacific regions
- Pursue collaborative ideas with organisations to document conferences and organise workshops
- Support the development of an Asia Pacific community/network in this field

Slide 3 – Of interest to the Asia Pacific artists/organisations

In August 2006, San Jose is hosting the Inter-Society for Electronic Art 2006 conference. It is co-chaired by Joel Slayton and Steve Dietz.

As part of this festival, Leonardo is co-organising a 2-day pre-symposium called the Pacific New Media Rim Summit. There are 8 working groups:

- ++Creative Communities Forum
- ++Mobile Computing and Urbanity
- ++Curatorial
- ++Latin American-Pacific/Asia Music Initiative
- ++Directory
- ++Ground and Practice
- ++Education
- ++Pacific Rim Residency

Of particular interest to you, might be the residency programme. The idea is for artists in residence to work across countries and somehow look at moving them and their work across different organisations.

The directory project - is a meta-directory of links of who's who and where to start for anyone interested in this field. There is also the Latin America and Asian Music Initiative. These groups are in varying degrees of progress, and I can put you in touch with people if you like.

Back to LEA, here are highlights of some upcoming thematic issues we are exploring:

- Multimedia Performances by Annete Barbier and Marla Schweppe
- New Media Poetics by Tim Peterson
- Digital Nature and Digital Life by Sue Thomas and Dene Grigar
- Locative Media by Dre Hemment

Slide 4 – Of interest to academics

Various programmes which may be of interest to academics include:

Leonardo Abstracts Service (English/Spanish)

Calls for submissions are sent out every quarter and we are currently in our third cycle. MFA/PhD students submit their research abstracts. An international peer review panel selects relevant and best works for inclusion in this catalogue. The idea is to expose new research and encourage pioneers to collaborate with newcomers

The international faculty alerts list is specifically targeted to academics. It points them to the latest job, grant, funding and collaborative opportunities in the field.

Recently, we also began offering free subscriptions to students and academics

There are also various student discounts for Leonardo Books, the journal and other publications.

Slide 5 – Useful Links & Question and Answer

Here are a list of useful links. Please do feel free to ask any questions and I will try to respond to them as best as I can. If not, I will follow them up with you directly later on.

I have passed around a blank sheet, if you can provide your name, email address, and anything specific you are interested in, I will see what I can do to help.