Celebrating 7th edition of the Digital Art Weeks in Singapore

“Only by nurturing a culture of sustainability can a world be forged that is not only cleaner and greener, but one in which all are reared and geared for a sustainable future common to all”. - Arthur Clay, DAW Director

History of the DAW

The DAW International began in 2005 as a trans-disciplinary event 150 “Zappy” Birthday under the direction of Arthur Clay and organized to celebrate one of the world’s leading international universities for technology and the natural sciences, the ETH Zurich. The organizing body behind the DAW Festival consists of internationally recognized artist and curator Arthur Clay (Artistic Director), ETH Zurich Professor of Computer Science Jürg Gutknecht (Festival Chair), Principal Investigator at ETH Zurich's Future Cities Laboratory Stefan Müller Arisona (Science Chair), and Steve Gibson (Educational Chair), Reader in Innovation Digital Media at Northumbria at Newcastle. In 2008, the Festival committee consisting of group international artists, scientist, researchers and educators was established who have since assisted in programming, promoting and financing the festival worldwide. The Festival has been presented in Zurich and Basel Switzerland, Shanghai and Xian China and in BC Canada. Over the last seven years, it has earned the recognition of the artists, appreciation of scientists, and has brought satisfaction to its sponsors and enjoyment to the general public.

Art & Science Creatively Connected

Into its 7th year, the DAW International has been acknowledged as an internationally roaming festival showcasing the ideas of the future, a platform for innovation, and an example of inter-disciplinarity in practice. The Festival is supported by ETH Zurich, ETH Globe, various governmental agencies of Switzerland including Presence Switzerland, Pro Helvetia and the hub of swissnex offices from around the world. By connecting art and science creatively, the DAW has played a role of synergist and catalyst in the promotion of innovation in art, science and technology and has contributed to development of long lasting partnerships by setting up collaborations and on going exchange programs worldwide. Known for its trans-disciplinary approach to promoting the arts and sciences, DAW International contributes each year to knowledge transfer by setting up conferences, organizing creative workshop, and assisting in research residencies. The Festival has generated an international following and supports the growing demands for interdisciplinary exchange platforms that combine art and science through intercultural dialogue.
The DAW Programme

The DAW international bridges art and science within the cultural context. Under the motto “art and science creatively connected”, the festival program presents diverse perspectives on innovations in art, science and technology from authoritative voices from around the world. Consisting of symposia, workshops, exhibitions and performances, the DAW program offers insight into current research and innovations in art and technology as well as illustrating resulting synergies during its events, making artists aware of impulses in technology and scientists aware of the possibilities of application of technology in the arts. Being a Swiss-based Festival, DAW International promotes the image of the Switzerland abroad as an outward-looking country with a wealth of knowledge and talented people, high-tech capabilities and creativity. A touch of “swissness” is always manifested in the festival’s core events showcased by leading Swiss figures from the arts, science, education, technology and the industry.

DAW Singapore 2013

In its 7th edition, the ETH Zurich-based festival Digital Arts Weeks International (DAW) comes to the Lion City to explore the crossroads between arts, science and technology and at the same time focusing on the importance on nurturing “a culture of sustainability” as its general theme and within the context of Singapore. Driven by interdisciplinary initiatives, the planned events promote innovations in both the arts and the sciences and showcase in particular collaborations between Switzerland and Singapore. The program for the festival was developed in collaboration with institutes and organizations in Singapore with the understanding that local integrations are the necessary ingredient for any event to have success in Singapore. DAW’s local partners include the Singapore ETH-Centre - the host of the festival and who showcase the latest in innovations in things urban; swissnex Singapore – whose early support allowed the festival organization to network and unfold in Singapore; the Singapore Polytechnic – who in collaboration with DAW integrated their students into the festival through a hands on workshop on augmented reality; the ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands – who is our most significant venue and where the unique symposium on the culture of sustainability will be held and where a unique brand of environmental art that addresses global issues will be showcased; the Japan Creative Centre – who will host an exhibition where Singaporean children are given the chance to respond creatively theme of sustainability in workshops; the Artist Village – who contributed much to giving the festival the needed “local flavour” through the participations of local artists and by offering the festival off label cultural venues.

Acknowledgement

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