

FESTIVAL AND THE CITY

Ars Electronica was always on the move: Past sites have included Marienstraße's shopfronts (2007), the Tabakfabrik (2010), the streets of Spittelwiese (2014) and POSTCITY (2015–2025). In 2026, it returns to the city center of Linz, organized across three distinct hubs—the OK QUARTER, MED CAMPUS and DANUBE TRIANGLE—continuing its nomadic tradition.

TICKETS



Tickets can be purchased on site at the INFODESK at OK QUARTER or at the ARS ELECTRONICA CENTER (DAY PASS and FESTIVAL PASS only).

You can also purchase your tickets online and exchange them for a badge at all our INFODESKS—at OK Platz, at splace at Main Square or at JKU MED Campus.



WE GUIDE YOU



With our guided tour program, we invite you to explore this year's thematic exhibitions at Lentos Kunstmuseum, the attics of Ursulinenhof and the FESTIVAL WALK, which features both known places and hidden spots across the city. Together we will engage in a discussion around this year's themes and meet the people who help shape the festival.

No time to wait for a tour but still want the highlights? Swing by one of our Intro Sessions—at the Priesterseminar (first stop on the FESTIVAL WALK), the attics of Ursulinenhof (look for our guide next to *Update of the Anthropocene Great Acceleration Charts*), or Lentos Kunstmuseum. Just 10 minutes, no registration needed.

OK QUARTER

- 1 OK Linz & Moviemento** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
INFODESK 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
- 2 Ursulinenhof Linz** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Landstraße 31
- 3 Ursuline Church** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Landstraße 31
- 4 Nordico Stadtmuseum Linz** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Simon-Wiesenthal-Platz 1

MED CAMPUS

- 5 JKU MED Campus (MED Campus I)** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
INFODESK 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Krankenhausstraße 5

DANUBE TRIANGLE

- 6 Main Square Linz** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Hauptplatz 1
- 7 FIFTITU%** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Domgasse 14
- 8 University of Arts Linz Domgasse** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Domgasse 1
- 9 IT:U Digital City Studio Linz** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Pfarrgasse 9
- 10 PopUp Store** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Pfarrgasse 1
- 11 splace** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
INFODESK 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Hauptplatz 6
- 12 University of Arts Linz – Hauptplatz 6** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Hauptplatz 6
- 13 University of Arts Linz – Hauptplatz 8** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Hauptplatz 8
- 14 Lentos Kunstmuseum** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Ernst-Korfeld-Promenade 1
- 15 Ars Electronica Center** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Ars-Electronica-Straße 3
- 16 Stadtwerkstatt** 09:00–04:00, SUN 09:00–18:00
Kirchengasse 4

SATELLITE LOCATIONS

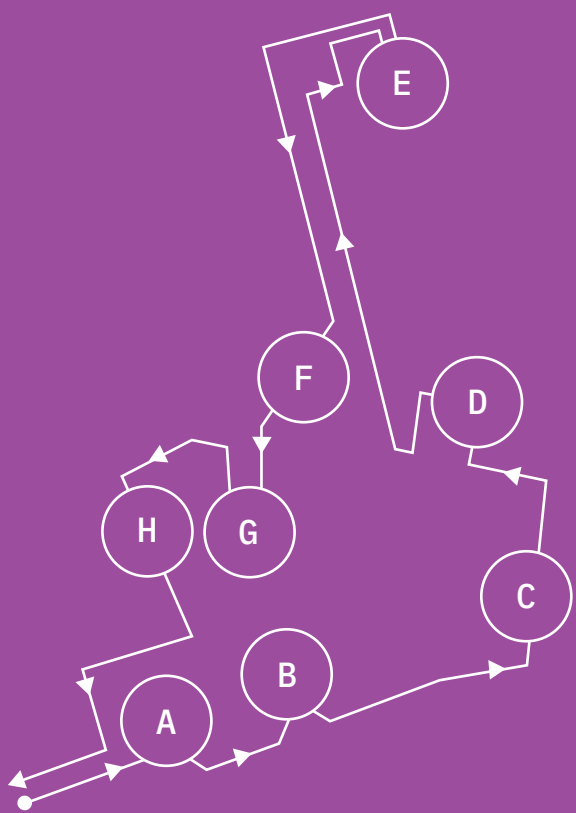
- 17 Donaupark** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Museumstraße 14
- 18 Brucknerhaus Linz** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Untere Donaulände 7
- 19 Underpass Ars Electronica Center / Rudolfstraße** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Hauptstraße 2
- 20 Anton Bruckner University** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Alice-Harnoncourt-Platz 1
- 21 Atelierhaus Salzamt** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Obere Donaulände 15
- 22 Linzerie** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Landstraße 12

- 23 Damen & Herrenstraße DH5** 12:00–21:00
Herrenstraße 5
- 24 St. Mary's Cathedral** 10:00–17:30, SAT–SUN 12:30–17:30
Domplatz 1
- 25 bb15** 10:00–19:00
Hafnerstraße 4
- 26 Theater Phönix** 14:00–15:00, SAT–SUN 14:00–17:00
Wiener Straße 25
- 27 Powerplayground** 10:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Blumauerstraße 47
- 28 galerie wuensens aircube** 10:00–18:00
Volksfeststraße 36
- 29 Design Center Linz** 11:00–19:00, SUN 10:00–18:00
Europaplatz 1
- 30 Posthof Linz** 18:30–23:00
Posthofstraße 43
- 31 Tabakfabrik** 11:00–14:00
Peter-Behrens-Platz 7–8

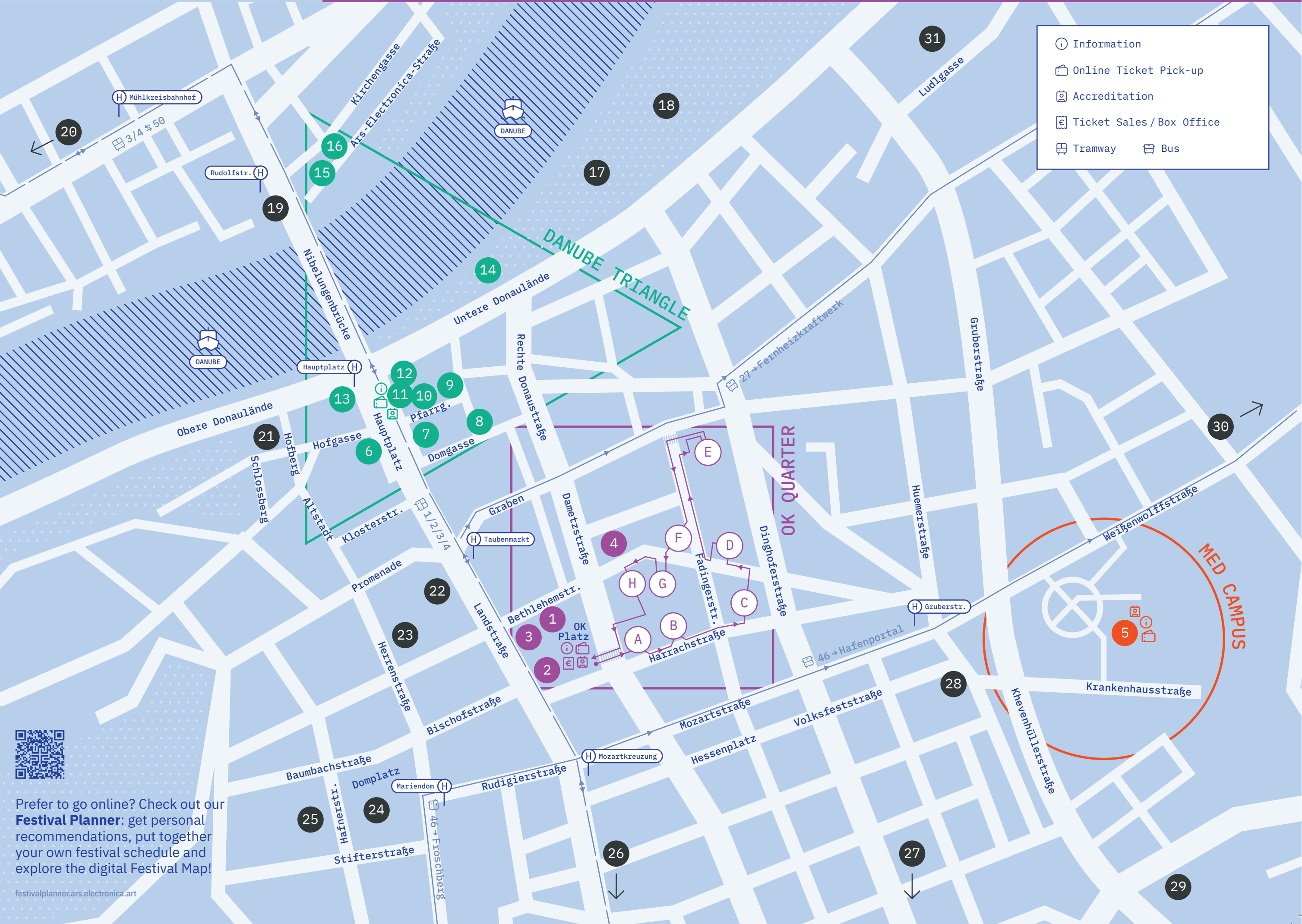
FESTIVAL

WED–SAT 10:00–19:00
SUN 10:00–18:00

The FESTIVAL WALK: *Negotiating the Real – The Desire to Believe* asks as part of the theme exhibition what we take to be real—and who gets to decide. Reality is never simply given. It is produced through power and institutions, through collective narratives, and algorithms. Belief systems, colonial legacies and technological transformations all shape the frameworks through which we make sense of the world. Across eight venues in the heart of Linz—churches, a museum, a hospital, a school—the FESTIVAL WALK traces the mechanisms through which reality is continuously made and unmade.



- A Priesterseminar
- B Seminary Church
- C Elisabethinergarten (Residential Park)
- D Sisters of St. Elisabeth
- E Francisco Carolinum Linz
- F BRG Fadingerstraße
- G C. Bechstein Centrum Linz
- H Catholic Private University Linz



EXPANDED 2026 – CONFERENCE ON ANIMATION AND INTERACTIVE ART

15 21

Free

What's new in the world of animation research? *EXPANDED 2026* digs into that question through talks by leading artists and researchers. Plus, for the first time, we will be hosting a forum specifically designed for young researchers. Visit the *Expanded Play Gallery – Exhibition of Playful Media* at Atelierhaus Salzamt to see animation in practice and to immerse yourself in a wide range of artistic methods and technological approaches.

CREATE YOUR WORLD

5

For Families
Free

Step onto a real movie set at *Film City*! Try your hand at directing, makeup or sound design, or jump into live improvised scenes with the pros—everyone becomes part of the show. There's even more to explore among the many Open Labs: dive into AI at *AI Wonderland with Dynatrace & CoderDojo*, or craft your own zine about the future with *GRAND GARAGE*. And don't miss the *u19—create your world Exhibition*, which showcases prize-winning works from young artists.

österreichischer Filmpreis 2026 / Akademie des Österreichischen Films © Oliver Stangl

JKU medFOCUS

5

For Science Enthusiasts
Free

Curious what future medicine looks like? At *JKU medFOCUS*, the Faculty of Medicine at Johannes Kepler University Linz opens its doors to the public. Join the tour with Dr. Franz Fellner and see an operation room up close and in action. Explore virtual anatomy at JKU medSPACE, where you can immerse yourself in the anatomy of the heart, the brain or the eye, or join a guided tour through the labs at Kepler University Hospital. Or maybe you'd rather dive into how AI is reshaping diagnosis and treatment with the Clinical Research Institute for Medical Artificial Intelligence? Together, these formats prove that the future of healthcare depends as much on medical research and clinical practice as it does on technology—always with humans at the center.

FLOOD THE ZONE WITH COURAGE

6

Free

Can conflicting views coexist? On Linz's Main Square, see how artistic practice, research and civic engagement come together in new forms of protest. Take part in performances, hands-on workshops and activist interventions in this collaboration between the University of Arts Linz, Attac Austria, the Circus of Knowledge at JKU Linz and Ars Electronica.



Reality Screenshots / Electrico 28 & Domestic Streamers © Saulius Ziura

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

15

This year calls for a double celebration! In 2026, the Ars Electronica Center and the Futurelab both turn 30—reason enough to launch some new exhibitions at the Center. *Hello Worlds!*, developed by Futurelab together with Toyota Motor Corporation's Advanced R&D and Engineering Company, invites visitors to question and help shape what comes next: today, robots, vehicles and other intelligent systems simulate—and even perform—abilities once thought uniquely human. Is our understanding of what it means to be human changing? Ars Electronica Solutions is joining the celebrations with an exhibition of its own: *A Glimpse Behind the Scenes* gives visitors a chance to look into their world of fascinating experiential spaces and how they are created.



ARS ELECTRONICA 2026
Festival for Art, Technology & Society

FUTURE BEGINS NEGOTIATING HUMANITY

9.–13.
SEPT.
LINZ

■ OK QUARTER
● MED CAMPUS
▲ DANUBE TRIANGLE

NEGOTIATING BEYOND HUMANITY

2

For Art Lovers
For Science Enthusiasts

Taking place in the historical attics of Ursulinenhof, *Negotiating Beyond Humanity* expands as part of the theme exhibition the festival topic towards the more-than-human worlds. From microbial activity in soil and bodies, it moves to how other beings sense and navigate their environments, and finally to the far-reaching ecological consequences of human actions. Across these encounters, the exhibition asks whose voices, knowledges and agencies are recognized, reminding us that shared futures cannot be understood through human perspectives alone.

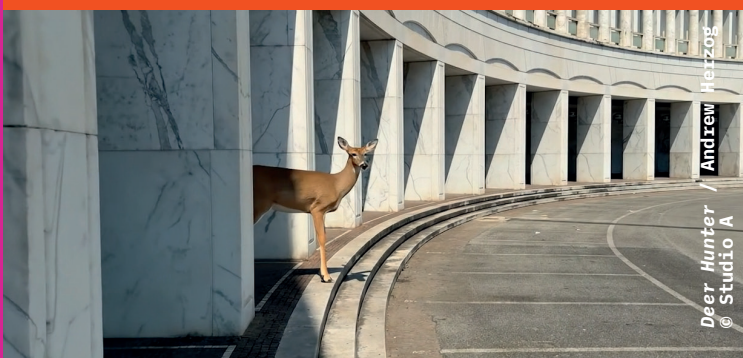
Ol'factory Biome / Maki Ueda, Civic Creative Base Tokyo © Junpei Kato

NEGOTIATING HUMANITY

14

For Art Lovers

This year's theme exhibition *Negotiating Humanity* understands art as an infrastructure for negotiation, as a space in which perceived certainties can be challenged. Across three parts, the exhibition explores our systems of beliefs and questions how realities are produced and what forms of coexistence become possible when we expand our understanding of the human. At Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, six award-winning works from the Prix Ars Electronica and the S+T+ARTS Prize take up these questions.



Deer Hunter / Studio A © Andrew Merzoug

CAMPUS EXHIBITION

5 8 12 13

Free

What does a campus look like when it spans continents? This year, 45 universities from Europe, Asia, the Americas and beyond turn the Ars Electronica Festival into one large campus, designed to pose hard questions and explore difficult subjects together—a space where academic freedom is championed. Initiated by Ars Electronica and the University of Arts Linz, the Campus Exhibition—located at MED CAMPUS as well as at the venues of the University of Arts in the DANUBE TRIANGLE—showcases talents from international higher-education institutions that take unique approaches to teaching and artistic practice.

FEATURES EXHIBITION

C E 15

Taking place across several locations, this exhibition brings 16 international partner institutions together to explore different perspectives on the relationship between human intention, algorithmic process and biological life. A few examples: at the Francisco Carolinum, the Barcelona Supercomputing Center's interactive installation *Quantum Compass* uses quantum physics to reflect on how meaning is constructed; the National Asian Culture Center asks, in *Artificial You*, how human perception and identity change in the age of intelligence; while at the Ars Electronica Center, MAEID's *Sybil* turns gesture into germinating seeds.

Sound Bananas / Ligeti Zentrum © Quirin Nebais

WELCOME TO ARS ELECTRONICA FESTIVAL 2026

Ars Electronica 2026 turns the festival into an infrastructure for negotiation. In a modern world where conflict increasingly plays out through language, and the act of naming itself becomes a contested site of struggle, it is important that art continues to be an open space where perceived certainties can be challenged. A festival cannot ever be truly "neutral", but it need not be a judge either: it can accommodate dissent without necessarily resolving it, shifting the question from "Who is right?" to "How can contradictory yet legitimate concerns coexist?" This is conflict culture—not consensus, but the ability to engage with ambiguity and disagreement. Under the theme of *NEGOTIATING HUMANITY*, this capacity extends to Artificial Intelligence itself, which no longer just fulfills user requests, but can decide and act upon its own accord, ultimately reshaping what it means to be human. Perhaps humanity itself was never fixed, only ever iterated upon and negotiated, again and again.

DANKE

As Europe's largest festival for art, technology and society, Ars Electronica works with hundreds of partners from all over the world. Thank you to all our supporters and sponsors—without you, this festival wouldn't be possible!



ars.electronica.art/negotiatinghumanity/de/partners/

LIVING ARCHIVES AT DEEP SPACE 8K

15

What if archives could evolve instead of gathering dust? *Living Archives* turns the past into something alive, reimagined through new technology—catch it at Deep Space 8K on Saturday, September 12th! Also check out the full Deep Space 8K program of immersive experiences across all five festival days (registration required).

MERGING VISIONS / Merve Sahin © Merve Sahin

MEET LEARN DEBATE

1 2

Five days of talks and debates on the conflicts shaping our world. The conference program opens with *Negotiating Reality* and a discussion on AI, disinformation and democracy online. *Contested Futures* asks how Europe negotiates power, machines and labor. *Tech-Bro-Topia* looks into the myths behind tech's biggest promises and *AI for Social Impact* initiative, developed with CARE Austria, explores humanitarian tech. *Negotiating with Water* closes the program on Sunday, turning to the subject of rivers, oceans and those who control them. Hands-on workshops let you dive in, while networking events like our Town Hall meetings bring artists, curators and researchers from all around the world together. There are no easy answers here, just the practice of engaging with disagreement. Register for workshops and Town Hall meetings on our website!



Hard Times - Soft Sounds / Moritz Simon Geist © Robert Arnold

FESTIVAL OPENING

24

For Music Lovers
Free

WED 9.9.
19:00–23:45

This year, St. Mary's Cathedral and the Domplatz will once again become the vibrant stage for the Opening of the Ars Electronica Festival. Starting outside on the Domplatz, Seba Kayan and Orwa Saleh will kick things off with a blend of club beats and traditional Arab music, followed with a performance by NENDA, as well as a participatory reading of the Declaration of Human Rights. Inside the cathedral, music spanning over five centuries will gradually unfold, from Thomas Tallis' Renaissance polyphony to Japanese sound artist evala's and soprano Ayako Tanaka's digital soundscapes. As the evening reaches its climax, Markus Poschner and the Bruckner Orchester Linz will perform György Ligeti, Olivier Messiaens and Wagner, and the night will close with a first glimpse of TANZ LINZ's new contemporary dance piece, *Worship*.



The Rhinoceros in the Room / Itamar Gov © Itamar Gov