

ArtsIT2014 report



ArtsIT 2014 took place 10-12 November in Istanbul, Turkey. The host venue was the Minerva Han, the center-city based Communications Center of the Sabancı University who sponsored ArtsIT2014. Minerva Han is located in the very heart of the city in the up and coming area of Karaköy, which offered a unique location for the international delegates to present their works.

ArtsIT was coined and established in its incarnate first international conference covering the Arts and Information Technologies in Taiwan in 2009. Subsequently hosted biannually in Esbjerg, Denmark in 2011, and Milan, Italy in 2013, the Istanbul 2014 event introduces the event as an annual occurrence to signify the rapid developments in ICT and the equally increase of uptake by artists wishing to adopt digital technologies into their art works. ArtsIT therefore proudly presents an array of the art form, both across and between the transdisciplinary borders that previously restricted such collaborations, communications and interactions.

Analogy, metaphor and adaptations were prevalent at the Istanbul presentations that ran parallel to adjacent digital and cultural festivals.

Alongside the delegate presentations, two keynote speakers presented their works, its history and message.

On the first day, Professor Murat Germen – highlighted his original reportage techniques in his keynote titled "From Analog to Digital, Fictive vs. Documentary: An Ongoing Journey". Starting with a showcase of pieces illustrating specific creative output of technical prowess, Germen continued to detail how artists have an important societal role to play in spreading awareness of significant issues that often are contained and concealed under an umbrella called "development". This was never more prevalent than in the images featuring recent political riots and subsequent police interventions where a number of protestors were killed. Complementing this series were ariel images of ecological devastation for the sake of new highways and habitat, and more. A clear message was shared.

On the second day, Professor Paul Brown's keynote titled "Notes Towards a History of Art, Code and Autonomy" began with a historical redress of the history of computer adoption in the arts, something he was a central figure in pioneering as a leading digital artist. The scholarly audience were then taken through Brown's own personal history of creating art from computer code with contemporary examples of commissions that had been showcased recently at important leading art venues as well as others for upcoming exhibitions and events.

The closing event was a round table 'ICT ART CONNECT' gathering with officer representatives from the European Commission (DG CONNECT) and invited guests who together asked the question "What is the outcome if work on novel ICT - Information and Communication Technologies - is linked with artistic expression?"

The SubHotel, Karaköy, was the conference central accommodation and gala dinner venue. Although central to the 'action spots' the residence is suitably quiet, offering a very special atmosphere reminiscent of "art-themed hotels" such as the Gershwin, New York, and others in Berlin. This hotel is highly recommended for its charm, exemplary staff service – always with a smile, and the best breakfast in Istanbul with all fresh locally resourced produce. ArtsIT2015 will be hosted in Esbjerg, Denmark.



ARTSIT 2014
ISTANBUL

Fourth International
Conference on
Arts and Technology

November 10 - 12, 2014
Minerva Han, Karaköy,
Istanbul, Turkey

<http://artsit.org/2014/show/home>

ArtsIT
Arts and Technology

EAI European Alliance for Innovation
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