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Author: Ms. Daniela de Paulis
University of Amsterdam, Italy

ASTROARTS: THE CULTURAL PROGRAMME OF ASTRONOMERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Abstract

Inspired by the vision of international cooperation through culture and astronomy, AstroArts was co-founded in 2012 by visual artist Daniela de Paulis (IT/NL) and astronomer Thilina Heenatigala (Sri Lanka), as an international online initiative, lead by professionals working in different fields. AstroArts includes the 'guest artist of the month' and the Global Astronomy Month programmes. Each month, one artist is invited to present her or his work through a series of blog posts and as part of a Google Hangout. The Google Hangout usually includes guests from several of the AWB ongoing programmes, together with the artist, in order to foster collaboration and interdisciplinary discussion. Global Astronomy Month (GAM) is a very popular project by Astronomers Without Borders: founded in 2010 as a follow up of the International Year of Astronomy, GAM is a global platform for astronomy related events that take place every year in April. During GAM, AstroArts is widely featured through online panel discussions with artists and scientists, live film screenings and live performances, often especially designed for web streaming. The online format is designed to facilitate global interaction between the artists and people viewing from all around the world. Space research is one of the fields represented through AstroArts. AstroArts, unlike most art/science platforms, aims at presenting both experimental and figurative arts, in line with the global collaborative mission pursued by Astronomers Without Borders. Since January 2015, AstroArts features a residency programme, which offers the opportunity to develop cultural and artistic projects, utilizing the AWB astronomy network and online resources. Specialists from the arts and humanities can apply throughout the year with proposals for projects that address the cultural potential of astronomy and space. The AWB AstroArts Residency offers the opportunity to interact with AWB's diverse international network of astronomers, amateur astronomers, science educators, and space scientists for research and development of the project. Projects developed as part of the virtual residency will foster global participation, making the most of online resources. Applicants may be artists, filmmakers, choreographers, writers, philosophers, or other creative and inquisitive individuals at any stage of their careers who are interested in engaging in a collaborative artistic process, are open to an exchange of creative ideas, and have an interest in global perspectives. The Astronomers Without Borders website features all current and past contributions, offering a valuable archive of performances, talks and articles on the art, astronomy and space science fields.