

Dutch Electronic Art Festival (DEAF)

The Power of Things



**Festival: May 16–20 | exhibition: May 16 – June 3 | 20 installations | 45 programs
70 speakers and artists | 7 locations**

DEAF is back again and we are eagerly looking forward to another fascinating, exciting Dutch Electronic Art Festival. DEAF2012's exhibition, located in the beautiful former Post Office downtown Rotterdam, project presentations, symposium and performances will show a broad audience what artists and designers are creating in their labs and how their discoveries can contribute to the development and design of technology and society at large. DEAF2012 will also serve as a place for international experts to exchange knowledge and experience and forge new connections that will help them take the next step in their professional development.

www.deaf.nl



Exhibition, former Post office, Coolsingel

Opening: May 16 20:00, exhibition: May 17 – June 3.

The DEAF exhibition features art works that are 'relationally' designed and works in which interaction, in whatever form, serves as the starting point for bringing art into being. The pieces are sometimes biological in nature, sometimes technological, and often a mix of the two. How things relate to each other, how they connect, and how biological, cultural, social and technological structures, forms and networks subsequently arise: these are the questions artists, designers and scientists will address at DEAF2012. They'll explore how materials, dead and alive, have their own individual effective capacities and constantly alter their environments and themselves. They are vital and display a vital beauty. Beauty: it is a word we had nearly forgotten in an age when everything merely seemed to have to be functional.

Works:

Mushroom Death Suit – Jae Rhim Lee

Maelstrom – Roman Kirschner

Terrestrial Ball – Kianoosh Motallebi

Sandbox – Driessens & Verstappen

Ideofon 1 – Dick Raaijmakers

One-Sheep Sweater – Christien Meindertsma

Pigeon D'Or – Tuur van Balen

Hostage pt. 1 & Scan – Fredrik de Wilde
Notion Motion – Olafur Eliasson
Pulse – Markus Kison
Sealed – Jessica de Boer
Irrational computing – Ralf Baecker
15 Minutes of Biometric Fame – Marnix de Nijs
Protocell Field – Phillip Beesley
Woodworms, Microphone, Soundsystem – Zimoun
The Small protein Translation Machine – Tissue Culture and Art Project
Protei – Cesar Harada
Sentient city Survival Kit – Mark Shepard
Sentient city Survival Kit: Serendipitor Walks Meeting point – Mark Shepard

Off site

Nano Supermarket – Next Nature Network
Dear Steve – Herman Asselberghs



Club- and performance program

May 16 – 19, WORM, Rotterdam

DEAF presents and extended club- and performance program in collaboration with TodaysArt, REWIRE, V2_ and WORM. With amongst onthers: Edwin van der Heide, Jimmy Edgar, Kuedo, The Sight Below, Kangding Ray, Eglyptrixx, Ital Tek, Pierre Bastien, Lower Dens, Conforce and TokTek



Vital Beauty, Symposium and Publication

May 16, de Balie, Amsterdam

With Lars Spuybroek (moderator), Thierry Bardini, Wendy Steiner, Arjen Mulder, Timothy Ingold and Philip Beesley.

The symposium focuses on the question of how the age-old notion of beauty can regain an importance appropriate to the 21st century. Our need for beauty has not diminished, as hard as modernism tried to erase it from art and life and supplant it with the sublime. It was a sublime that increasingly associated itself with negation and deconstruction. In contrast, vital beauty, as defined by John Ruskin more than 150 years ago, is a beauty of sympathies and affinities with life forms. Yet vital beauty must be reinvented, since life forms today can be technological as well as natural. The concept of vital beauty raises the question of how we should design our environments, our objects and even our lives, and of how we might one day invent a politics of beauty.

"Beauty is the one aim which by its very nature is selfjustifying."

– Alfred N. Whitehead

During the symposium V2_ presents its latest publication *Vital Beauty: Reclaiming Aesthetics in the Tangle of Technology and Nature*. With contributions from: Caroline van Eck, Gustav Fechner, Mark Frost, George Gessert, Arjen Mulder, John Ruskin and Daniel N. Stern.

More

There is lots more to discover at DEAF, please have a look at the website for workshops, debates, presentations and special events. Go to www.deaf.nl