DIGITAL SPRING 2016 >>ARTIVISM<<
OPEN CALL

Digital Spring is a Salzburg based biennial media art festival organised by ARGEkultur, subnet, Fotohof, Salzburger Kunstverein and further partners. In its first edition the festival deals with the topic „Artivism" (art & activism).

In her book „Digital Activism Decoded" the cultural scientist Richelle Rogers defines digital activism as „the use of digital media in a collective effort to bring about social or political changes beyond the established processes of decision making" - in other words: It's about the civil society's possibilities to achieve social or political changes by means of digital technology. In art history the definition of the term „tactical media" traces back to the nineties of the past century. It describes media art projects that are able to address and criticize the prevailing political and economical systems. In such sense for example The Yes Men use net art and guerilla communication for their subversive activism.

„Hacker, hoaxer, whistleblower" - it's not only the internet phenomenon „Anonymous" that has numerous faces, it's digital activism itself. It played a central role in the political changes of the Arab Spring as well as for the obedience critical, anti-capitalistic „Occupy Wall Street" movement. With the use of the internet and social media protest no longer depended on appearing in the classical mass media to reach publicity and effectiveness - the situationist do-it-yourself dream, which should compensate the unbearable lightness of being, became tangible.

In its first edition the Digital Spring festival deals with the current social relevance of „artivism" via digital activism and the overlaps between media art and scientific or socio-political fields in artistic and discursive ways. Does theory end in the streets? What can be expressed and achieved by digital activism? Where are the boundaries of the (digital) system?

WE WANT YOU!

Concepts which have a direct focus on Salzburg and its democratic deficits will be realized within the first edition of Digital Spring. No matter if the project is about failed refugee policy, the ban on begging, right-wing vandalism, the lack of possibilities for asylum seekers on the job market, obsolete laws, cases of corruption, neglected environmental standards, discrimination, privileges of the church etc. - we are looking for non-commercial media art projects that raise the awareness for socio-political conflict zones and fathom these zones in innovative artistic forms. The submitted projects can be designed for one (or more) of the participating (culture) venues, for the public space and/or the virtual room. The projects should not have been presented to the public elsewhere before. Depending on their extent and type the projects will receive financial support from € 300 (min.) to € 3000 (max.) and assistance in form of premises, (technical) infrastructure and public relations work.

Deadline
November 1, 2015
to: office@digitalspring.at

Data
project description incl. synopsis (max. 500 words), technical rider, budget plan, artists biographies – overall submission should not exceed 10MB!

Production period
December 2015 - March 2016

Festival/presentation
March 6 to 13, 2016

Queeries
Cornelia Anhaus: office@digitalspring.at