

International **DIGITAL ART** Festival

DA Fest is an international festival taking place in Sofia on every two years with the aim to present new trends and important achievements in the fields of digital arts to the Bulgarian audience – digital video, interactive performance and installation, net art, sound art, robotics and generative systems, and other interdisciplinary forms

The festival program includes exhibitions, performances, screenings, presentations and workshops that take place in the main building of the NAA on 1 Shipka Street, Sofia and other city locations. Invited artists from around the world present contemporary artistic trends, research and technology and demonstrate important advances in the field of digital arts.

DA Fest started in 2009 with the idea to support the MA "Digital Arts" of the NAA, and to present and promote the general public important achievements and latest trends in this field. The festival is building a platform for dialogue and cooperation between art and education.



Tzeni Argiriou
(GR)



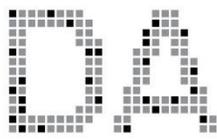
Jeroen van Loon
(NL)



Peter William Holden
(UK)



RaumZeitPiraten
(DE)



The festival curators Venelin Shurelov and Galina Dimitrova-Dimova invite artists and researchers from local and international scene, while giving the chance for artistic debut of Academy students and other young artists.

In the past six editions of the festival took part over 300 well-known artists and researchers from 20 countries around the world. For most of these internationally recognized artists this is the first visit to Bulgaria, and the meeting with the Bulgarian audience is always very inspirational. Bulgarian artists working in the field of digital arts also take part in the festival and have the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences with their foreign colleagues.

Among the participants are artists and artistic collectives such as: Andrea Paciotto (IT), Andy Graydon (Hawaii/DE), Arno Fabre (FR), Bernd Oppl (AT), Brian Knep (USA), Christian Delécluse (FR), Cleaning Women (FI), Cod.Act (CH), Derek Holzer (USA/DE), Don Foresta (USA/FR), Geumhyung Jeong (South Korea), Guillaume Baychelier (FR), Hans Tammen (USA), hexler (R J Fisher) (DE), Jan Klug (NL), Mark Coniglio (USA/DE), Nika Oblak & Primoz Novak (SI), Paolo Cirio (IT), Paul Granjon (FR/UK), Peter William Holden (DE), Piotr Wyrzykowski (PL), post theater (DE), Reynold Reynolds (USA/DE), Tzeni Argiriou (GR), UBERMORGEN (CH/AT), Vibeke Sorensen (USA/SG), and many others.



Cod.Act
(CH)



Bosch & Simons
(NL/ SP)



post theater
(DE / JP/ USA)



Vibeke Sorensen
(SG)

With its specific focus, the festival is known and recognized by the Bulgarian public as one of the most interesting events happening in Sofia every two years. For a comparison with the first editions where we counted around 1000 visitors, on our sixth there were more than 2000 people, participating in the performances, workshops, artists' talks and visiting the exhibition.

Our main target groups are people with interested in the field of Contemporary art and culture, regarding their age, professional and social status. We are welcoming people who are interested and curious to know more about innovations, nowadays technologies. People, who are willing to explore and interact with this new media. That is why we are giving space for the young public, who is somehow involved in Contemporary art field, as they are one of our most active followers.

DA FEST digits:

300 participants, selected and invited by the curators, to present their work during the festival's events, from more than 20 countries;

500 participants in our films and video selection, from 25 countries world wide;

200 participants in the workshops;

70 volunteers;

5000 visitors to the exhibitions;

2500 people visited the performances;

1000 people participated in the artists' talks and presentations;

2000 viewers during the films and video selection;

5000 people enjoyed the audio-visual concerts and the DJ/VJ party from the evening program of the festival;

Or public of more than 15 000 people and the Seventh editions promises even to grow this number.

To guaranty this high reach we also started our own YouTube channel and we provide also streaming for most of the events. We are well presented in the Social media as well.



Thanks to the many years endeavor, DA Fest is the biggest event in the area of digital based and transitory art in Bulgaria. Every edition is multiplying the visitors' number and the festival is more and more popular as a stage for presenting and generating new media art. The artists and the institutions to whom we address our invitations, often are using the festival as a networking place. Many new ideas and collaborations starts during the festival's days, which keeps us on the track of the global trends in one of the fastest developing art field.

We trust and rely on stable partnership and collaboration with government organizations, local and international cultural and educational institutions, embassies, NGOs and business organizations, who want and seek to support contemporary culture. Among them are: Sofia municipality - Sofia City Culture Programme, National fund "Culture", Goethe Institut Bulgaria, Instituto Cervantes – Sofia, Institut Français de Bulgarie, British Council, Instytut Polski w Sofii, Austrian Embassy, USA Embassy, Embassy of Kingdom of the Netherlands, Societe Generale Bank, Open Fest, Move.BG and others.

Our main media partners are mainly online cultural news feeds and national radio stations: Jazz FM, BTV Radio, Darik Radio, въпреки.com, Portal Culture and others. All our partners highly appreciate the collaboration we have build during the festival.



Arno Fabre
(FR)



Anna Bacneva & Stefan Christov
(FR / BG)



Andreas Muxer
(AT)



Derek Holzer
(USA / DE)

DA LAB

The festival emerged as an initiative to support the Master's Program in Digital Arts at the National Academy of Art, which was founded in 2008 and is the only specialized educational program in this field in Bulgaria. Thusly festival editions are organized by the MA program team and held at the National Academy of Art in Sofia.

Over time, the scale of the festival has grown considerably, and now he is looking for new spaces and audiences for the different modules in the program. That is why its organizers plan the next edition of the festival to take place in different places around the capital, such as DNK - Dance and Performance Area at the National Palace of Culture, Cultural Center of Sofia University, Goethe Institute, French Institute, Credo Bonum Gallery and others.

The new edition of DA Fest is organized by DA LAB Foundation, founded by the festival curators and organizers Venelin Shurelov and Galina Dimitrova-Dimova, in the aim to unfold the festival activities and to make more regular events such as exhibitions, presentations, workshops and other initiatives in the field of digital arts in order to maintain interest and develop the knowledge of the audience to these arts.

DA Fest curators:

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More about DA Fest:
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[YouTube Channel](#)
[FB page of DA Fest](#)



WhosAppl workshop
of posttheater (DE)