



Culture, Communication and New Technologies :
"The Impact of New Technologies on European Culture"

CONFERENCE

ON

A NEW SPACE FOR CULTURE AND SOCIETY

(NEW IDEAS IN SCIENCE AND ART)

*Under the auspices of Mr Václav HAVEL
President of the Czech Republic*

19 - 23 November 1996

Prague Castle - Czech Republic

Programme prepared by the Secretariat

Council of Europe

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1. The challenge:

The organisation of a five-day conference on new ideas in art and science to be held for specialists from several countries in the fields of art, science, philosophy and sociology. The objective of the meeting is to discuss some of the major directions in art and science today with practitioners in various fields, particularly those concerned with the fundamental transformations taking place in certain areas of knowledge and the effect of those changes on contemporary culture and society.

The event will be a cross between conference and workshop, encouraging the maximum exchange between all participants in an attempt to grasp the meaning of the changes and to propose cultural policy directions promoting their positive evolution. The conference will be held from 19 to 23 November 1996 in the Presidential Palace of Prague, under the auspices of President Václav Havel.

2. The subjects:

(i) **Art and Science:** Our two modes of experimentation, deriving an order from things observed, have proposed in the modern era a New Renaissance: science, by inventing a new space, and art, by prefiguring that space and making it habitable and part of the human experience.

(ii) **Fractal Geometry & Chaos Theory:** The mathematical and scientific discoveries confronting us today, the continuation of the century's scientific revolution, play an important part in the new description of space and spatial organisation being proposed, with profound consequences for society.

(iii) **The New Technologies:** The technical products of the 20th century's scientific revolution have become the tools of the cultural transformation implicit in that revolution, building and defining a new mental space for Western civilisation.

(iv) **The socio-political and cultural implications:** The reorganisation of society and culture is heavily influenced by the role of communication and the media, and their interface with artistic creativity defines a potentially new cultural dynamic, particularly important for all countries in Europe as changing political, economic and technological circumstances force countries to redefine their societies and the needs and responsibilities of the individual citizen.

3. The programme:

The three days of in-depth discussion will each have a certain number of presentations by specialists and practitioners in science, art and the social sciences, complemented by a discussion with the participants. Each presentation will be a brief point of introduction of a particular idea, opening the debate to all present.

Speakers will not be speakers in the traditional sense, but will rather outline a basic idea for the others, and, with help from the moderator, develop that idea, particularly in its relation to the other disciplines.

The third day of discussion will end with a round-table on possible actions to be taken and recommendations to be made to the Council of Europe for initiatives in the field. To guarantee that this new cultural space be truly European, recommendations should include ways to assure that it develops as such and that it expresses all that is important to evolving European culture, and at the same time be prepared to interact globally with those who are interested.

Important to the conclusion of the Conference is further encouragement of the interface and cooperation between art and science, the continuation of the dialogue begun and support to initiatives where that dialogue already exists, as an essential part of the research into the future of Western civilisation. Closing the gap that has existed for generations between the two should be an objective of the conference discussion and its aftermath as a means of injecting a new dynamism into the cultural development of the continent.

4. Topics and speakers:

Tuesday, 19 November 1996 : Opening of the Conference

Morning:

Arrival of participants

Afternoon:

- 6:00pm Opening address
Jaromír Talíř, Czech Ministry of Culture
Peter Leuprecht, Deputy Secretary General of the
Council of Europe
- 7:00pm Opening reception in the Rudolf Gallery at the
Presidential Palace

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Wednesday, 20 November 1996: *The New Space of Science*

Morning (10:00am):

- The New Scientific Paradigm, *Ervin Laszlo*
- Chaos Theory, a Space-Time Pattern, *Ralph Abraham*

Moderator: *Siegfried Zielinsky*

Afternoon (2:30pm):

- Changing Scientific Perspectives, *Ilya Prigogine*
- Fractal Geometry and the Representation of Nature,
Benoît Mandelbrot
- Art and Science, Parallel Spaces, *Leonard Shlain*

Moderator: *Ivan M. Havel*

Thursday, 21 November 1996: Art and the New Space

Morning (10:00am):

- The role of the Artist in Defining the New Space, *Don Foresta*
- The New Art Space, *Otto Piene*

Moderator: *John Wyver*

Afternoon (2:30pm):

- The Artist and his Tools, *Steina Vasulka*
- The Dis-Embodied Re-Embodied Body, *Jeffrey Shaw*
- The New Emerging Culture, *Tor Nørretranders*

Moderator: *Erkki Huhtamo*

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Friday, 22 November 1996: Society and the Impact of New Ideas

Morning (10:00am):

- New Definitions of Reality, *Sigfried Schmidt*
- Interactive Space and Collective Intelligence, *Pierre Lévy*
- Technology, Instability and Culture, *Bernard Stiegler*

Moderator : *Patrick Talbot*

Afternoon (2:30pm):

Plenary Forum : Discussion of ideas for *exploring the new space, scientifically and artistically, and participating in its definition and construction*. Moderator : *Kirill Razlogov*

7:00 pm **Closing adress**
Václav HAVEL, President of the Czech Republic

Visit of the exhibition "Along the Frontier" in Rudolfinum
Reception given by the Minister of Culture

Saturday, 23 November 1996: Visit organised in the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art

11:30am - Opening of the exhibition of *Zdeněk Pešánek*

12:30am - Projections and showings of interactive artistic work
Laboratory of Vilém Flusser

1:00pm - Press Conference

1:30pm - Closing reception in the Auditorium of the Museum

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5. Place:

The Conference will be held in the Ballgame Hall of the Presidential Palace of Prague.

6. Participants:

Seventy specialists and practitioners in art, science and education, as participants, speakers or observers, concerned by the cultural and social transformations being discussed and capable of putting into action and disseminating the ideas proposed by the conference, plus eleven specialists and officials from the Council of Europe and three international journalists as reporters. Delegations from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and from the European Parliament.

7. Languages:

Czech, French and English with simultaneous translation.

8. Multimedia:

The Conference will be recorded in both audio and video, including the on-line connections, so that the material may be edited and organised subsequently for television transmission and as educational material to be distributed Europe-wide. A documentary on the event will be made by the Kratky film a.s.

The discussion will also be transmitted to distant sites, first the Museum of Modern Art in Prague, as well as other sites in cities in Europe and North America interested in the debate, the Mindship in Copenhagen and Columbia University in New York.

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The Conference is a project of the Council of Europe with supporting partners in both the public and private sectors (Office of the President of the Czech Republic, the Prague Castle Administration, SPT Telecom, the Open Society Fund - Prague, UNESCO, the Goethe Institute in München and in Prague, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, Kratky film a.s., Czech Airlines (ČSA), the French Institute in Prague, the ZKM [Zentrum für Kunst und Medien] in Karlsruhe, and various technical partners.

9. Biography of Speakers and Moderators

- **Ralph Abraham** is a mathematician and professor of Chaos Theory at the University of California in Santa Cruz
- **Don Foresta** is the Director of the Laboratory of Electronic Language and a researcher in the New Technologies
- **Ivan M. Havel** is a scientist and the Director of the Center for Theoretical Study (CTS) in Prague
- **Erkki Huhtamo** is a curator and professor of media in Helsinki
- **Ervin Laszlo** is the founder of the General Evolution Research Group and member of the Club of Budapest
- **Pierre Lévy** is a philosopher and professor in the department of hypermedia at the University of Paris VIII
- **Benoît Mandelbrot** is a mathematician, former researcher for IBM, professor at Yale University and creator of fractal geometry
- **Tor Nørretranders** is the Director of the Mindship Foundation and Third Culture Copenhagen and a scientific writer
- **Otto Piene** is an artist and former Director of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies at MIT
- **Ilya Prigogine** is a professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and the laureate of the 1977 Nobel Prize for Chemistry

- **Kirill Razlogov** is the Director of the Russian Institute for Cultural Research in Moscow
- **Jeffrey Shaw** is an artist and Director of the Institute for Visual Media in ZKM (Center for Art and Media) in Karlsruhe
- **Leonard Shlain** is a writer and surgeon in San Francisco and author of "Art & Physics, Parallel Visions in Space, Time & Light"
- **Siegfried J. Schmidt** is a professor at the University of Siegen - (D)
- **Bernard Stiegler** is a philosopher and the Director of research in the National Audio-Visual Institute in Paris
- **Patrick Talbot** is the former Cultural Attaché at the French Embassy in New York and the director of the National School of Art in Nancy
- **Steina Vasulka** is an artist in the new technologies and the Director of STEIM in Amsterdam, also co-founder of the Kitchen
- **John Wyver** is an independent television producer and Director of Illuminations, specialising in arts programming - London
- **Siegfried Zielinsky** - Director of the Higher School of the Arts and Media -Cologne

10. Invited Experts and Participants:

Kati ABERG - Artist - Helsinki

Alberto ABRUZZESE - Professor of Sociological Communication - University of Rome

Monique AILHAUD - Foundation Sophia Antipolis - Nice

Jaroslav ANDEL - Director of the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art - Prague

Kamen BALKANSKI - Artist - Sofia

Peteris BANKOVSKIS - Art Critic - Lithuania

Andrej BEDNAREK - Professor - The Film, Television and Theatre School - Lodz

Nedžad BEGOVIĆ - Film-maker - Sarajevo

Michael BIELICKY - Artist - Director of the Multimedia Center- Prague

Pierre BONGIOVANNI - Director of the International Centre of Video Production (CICV) - Montbelliard

Alexei BOURAVKIN - Head of the Chair of Information and Technology in Culture- Belarusian University of Culture - Minsk

Frank BOYD - Director of ARTEC - London

Bazon BROCK - Professor at the University of Wuppertal (D)

Andreas BROECKMANN - Director of the Organisation V2 - Rotterdam

Janusz BYSZEWSKI - Artist - The Royal Castle - Warsaw

Pentair Fernando CALHAU - President of the Institute of Contemporary Art - Lisboa

Isabel CARLOS - Art critic, curator for the Institute of Contemporary Art - Lisboa

Marek CHOLONIEWSKI - Director of Muzyca Centrum Art Society - Krakow

Radúz ČINČERA - Artist - Theatre director - Prague

José Da COSTA RAMOS - Minister Assistant for Multimedia - Portugal

Biserka CVJETIČANIN - Head of the IRMO department - Coordinator of Culturelink in Zagreb

Dieter DANIELS - Professor of Art history at the School of Graphics and the Arts in books - Leipzig

Fritz DARKO - Artist - (Croatia)

Irina EFTEEVA - Artist, Film-maker - (Federation of Russia)

Sveinn EINARSSON - Adviser in the Ministry of Culture - Reykjavik

Paolo FABBRI - Former director of the Italian Institute in Paris - Institut of Visual Arts in the University of Bologna

Alain FLEISCHER - Director of the Institute of Contemporary Art - Le Fresnoy (F)

Fred FOREST - Artist - Professor of Sciences of Information in the University of Nice

Dimitar FRANGOV - Balkan Media Sofia

Egon GÁL - Institute of Philosophy in the Academy of Sciences - Bratislava (Slovakia)

Marco GAZZANO - Professor of media studies - Director of the Video Festival of Locarno

Richard GOODERICK - Administrator in Arts Council, London

Jean-Pierre GREFF - Author - Director of the School of Decorative Art - Strasbourg

Elemer HANKISS - Sociologist - Former Director of the Hungarian Television - Budapest

Jill K. HARTLEY - Scientist - New York

Murgu HOREA - Professor at the Academy of theatre and film - Former member of National Council of the Audiovisual - Bucarest

Cyril HÖSCHL - Scientist - Director of the Psychiatric Center, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine - Prague

Michael HUTTER - Professor at the University of Witten- Herdecke (D)

Iouri IAKOVETS - Researcher - Moscow

Stephan IGLHAUT - Cultural programme of the Siemens Foundation - Medialab - Munich

Barry JAMES - Journalist for the Herald Tribune International - Paris

Georges-Albert KISFALUDI - Professor at the School of Fine Arts - Nantes

Ryszard W. KLUSCZYNSKI - Director of the Centre of Contemporary Art - Warsaw

Dimitri KONSTANTINIDIS - Director of FRAC Alsace - Sélestat

Jiří KOTALIK - Theorist - Dean of the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague

Piotr KOWALSKI - Artist - Paris

Richard KRIESCHE - Artist - Director of the department of new technologies - Graz

Violetta KUTLUBASIS-KRAJEWSKA - Artist - Warsaw

Marta KUZMA - Curator, Art Critic - Kiev

Fernando LAGRAÑA - ITU - Geneva

Benoît LEGARE - Museums of Strasbourg

Franz LIEBL - Professor at the University of Witten-Herdecke (D)

Krasimir MARKOV - Mathematician - President of the International Conference on "Theories of Information and Applications 96"

Dan MATEI - Director of the Information Center for Culture and Heritage - Bucharest

Daniel P. McVEIGH - Ocean of Know - New York

Rossen MILEV - Journalist - President of the Association for mass media and communication in the Balkan countries - Sofia

Konstantin MINOSKI - Faculty of Philosophy of Skopje

Alla MITROFANOVA - Artist - Gallery 21 - St. Petersburg

MUNTADAS - Artist working with the new technologies - Barcelona

Zdenek NEUBAUER - Philosopher and Biologist - Professor at the Charles University in the Natural Sciences Faculty Prague

Martin PALOUS - Philosopher, President of the Helsinki Czech Comity-Prague

Marko PELJHAN - Multimedia Artist - Ljubljana

Biljana PERCINKOVA - Professor - Skopje

Miklos PETERNAK - Director of the Centre of Multimedia - Budapest

Antoanela PETKOVSKA - Professor of sociology and art - Faculty of Skopje

Emilia PETRISOR - Department of mathematics and computers at the University of Timisoara

Anatoli PROKHOROV - Vice president of the Animation Studio Pilot - Moscow

Rodolphe RAPETTI - Director of the Museums of Strasbourg

Jeremy REES - Director of International Visual Arts Information Network (IVAIN) London

Raymond REHNICER - Architect - Sarajevo

Florian RÖTZER - Author and Theorist Medialab - Munich

Bernhard SEREXHE - Curator - Media Museums (ZKM) - Karlsruhe

Vladimir SHIELOV - Researcher, President Global Music Heritage-Moscow

Sergey SHTERNIN - Artist - St Petersburg

Alfred SMUDITS - General Secretary of Mediacult - Vienna

Luis SOARES - Conseiller du Ministre de la Culture Portugais - Lisbonne

Ibrahim SPAHIC - President of the International Peace Center - Sarajevo

Martin SPERKA - Director of the Visual Media Department at the Fine Arts Academy - Bratislava

Marleen STIKKER - Founder of De Digitale Stad - Director of the Society for Old and New Media - Amsterdam

Gertfried STÖCKER - Director of Ars Electronica - Linz

Miško ŠUVAKOVIC - Philosopher - Academy of Music - Beograd

Trifon Anchev TRIFONOV - Founder of the New Technologie Center "Virtus" Sofia

Marin TUREA - Artist, film-maker - Chisinau (Moldova)

Juan URIAGEREKA - Scientist, Professor at the University of Maryland

Evgueny VELIKOV - Scientist - Academy of Sciences - Moscow

Nebojsa VILIC - Curator - Art Critic - Skopje

Rodney WILSON - Director of the department of Film, Video and Broadcasting in the Arts Council - London

Agnieszka WOŁODŹKO - Artist - Gdansk

Gene YOUNGBLOOD - Writer, Media specialist - New York

Pérsa ZERIS - Professor - Assistant in Communication - Panthion University - Athens

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