

ElectroFringe

www.electrofringe.net

Step off the grid at Electrofringe 2008

September 2, 2008 - Australia's largest festival of experimental electronic arts and culture, 'Electrofringe', will burst through the cracks of Newcastle from October 2 – 6, 2008, for its eleventh year as part of 'This Is Not Art'. More than 100 emerging and established artists from Australia and overseas will take part in 80 events over five days including workshops, gigs, screenings, performance and public intervention.

Held across 14 spaces in Newcastle – and at various unexpected locations in between – Electrofringe remains dedicated to skills development and artistic exchange between up and coming and professionally practicing artists.

Electrofringe in 2008 brims with new ventures. These include an artists-in-residence program and a three-week interactive media exhibition. New program gems include a hybrid media/dance performance, an all-girls soldering workshop, a chorus composed for Bluetooth-enabled mobile phones, an audiovisual 'love-in', and a chamber recital for robots.

Special international guests include Birchville Cat Motel (NZ), Domenico Sciajno (Italy), xtine (US), The League of Imaginary Scientists (everywhere) and The Green Eyl & Sengewald (Germany). Japan is well-represented by elongated harshcore musician Maruosa, noise artists Pig & Machine, and experimental multi-instrumentalist KK NULL.

Electrofringe 2008 features an impressive screening program including award-winning highlights from the Japan Media Arts Festival and SIGGRAPH 2008, surround-sound selections from New York's harvestworks Digital Media Arts Centre and eclectic works from France's Arcadi festival. There are also two specially curated screening reels called ElectroEtre and ElectroProjections compiled from open, international call-outs.

Weird and wonderful crossovers between computer gaming and art are explored through several workshops and artist presentations. Festival favourites Dorkbot return to seduce the inner nerd from his / her closet, while the Hidden Village duo from Adelaide will wield their eclectic collection of retro game consoles and circuit-bent technologies for a sound performance. Cipher Cities from the Australian CRC for Interaction Design in Brisbane will host a Game Design Competition, while Sophie Loizou, Scott Eggert and Mat McCosker will demo the software behind their Brain-Controlled Musical Instrument.

Prior to the festival, Chris Poole from Western Australia, and the duo of Martyn Coutts and Willoh S. Weiland will arrive in Newcastle as part of Electrofringe's first year supporting a residency program, with help from The University of Newcastle. Over the duration of the festival Coutts and Weiland will develop an interactive performance work

called 'I Want You More Than Anything', playfully revealing how much public space people will sacrifice to fulfill their living dreams.

Poole's residency is based at the Lock-up Cultural Centre. He is building a wind farm installation from pre-loved fax and printer parts to generate enough power to illuminate a glass statue of the Virgin Mary whenever a stray wind blows.

The Illudere interactive media exhibition, curated by Electrofringe co-director Elmar Trefz, runs from September 19 to October 6 at Newcastle's John Paynter Gallery at the Lock-up Cultural Centre. It showcases diverse media artists from Berlin, Mexico, London, Amsterdam and San Francisco. Light-hearted and interactive exhibitions will explore how humans relate with each other and with machines.

The This Is Not Art official gigs showcase – co-presented by Electrofringe and Sound Summit for two memorable nights on Friday October 3 and Saturday October 4 – will not disappoint this year. The line-up includes Mt Eerie/Microphones (USA), Naked On The Vague (Syd), Unkle Ho (The Herd), Lucky Dragons (USA), Rose Turtle Ertler (Melb) Pikelet (Melb) and many, many more.

Electrofringe will bid its own special farewell to another festival year by hosting a Sunday night closing gig featuring Gooley on the Inside, Tranny Cops Rave Safe Team, Post Girls, b12shot, Nanna Knife Fight, Press Eject, DJ Svensimu.

Electrofringe 2008 is directed by Alex White, Elmar Trefz and Somaya Langley.

For more information about please contact Kate Hennessy at: electromedia08@gmail.com. For more information on the festival and the full program, see here: <http://www.electrofringe.net/>

More about This Is Not Art:

This Is Not Art is the umbrella name for the National Young Writer's Festival, Electrofringe, Sound Summit (independent musicians) and Critical Animals (critical & creative theory) held in early October in Newcastle for the past 11 years.

This Is Not Art is auspiced by the Octapod, Newcastle, with major support from Arts NSW and the City of Newcastle. For more information on This Is Not Art, contact Claire Hargreave: clairehargreave@gmail.com. For more information on the festival and the full program, see here: <http://www.thisisnotart.org/>

This project is assisted by the Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian government's arts funding and advisory body and the NSW Film and Television Office.

