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## **cast01 Networking Art and Technology Conference on Communication of Art, Science and Technology**

From 21 to 22 September 2001, the Fraunhofer Institute for Media Communications will be holding the cast01/"Living in Mixed Realities" conference at Schloss Birlinghoven, Sankt Augustin. This international event will be presided over by the German Federal Minister for Education and Research, Edelgard Bulmahn, and is aimed at anyone who works at the interface of art, culture, new technologies and media science.

Some 250 delegates from the worlds of art, culture, science, education, business and politics are expected to attend. The program features presentations and discussions on the latest results from the field of research, state-of-the-art technologies and cutting-edge artistic projects that tackle the subject of Mixed Reality.

### **The event is to be rounded off with the following special features:**

- netzspannung.org, the media laboratory for digital culture on the Internet goes online;
- digital sparks, the cartography of students' media projects in Germanspeaking universities, will be unveiled to the public.

In contrast to virtual reality architectures, which aim to fully immerse human users in a virtual space, Mixed Reality architectures combine social and cultural actions in real space with processes in virtual environments. Network structures enable new forms of cooperation, and support the generation and discovery of new information in media knowledge spaces.



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With the number of projects that tackle this subject topping 450, the conference will be presenting the best entries as selected by an international panel of judges. These entries are classified into seven categories:

1. Mixed Reality - the extended space
2. Interactive transmission formats
3. Living in a networked world
4. netzspannung.org / Digital archive and artistic production online
5. Tools and strategies of inter-media production
6. Models showing the interaction of bodies and digital media
7. Building expertise / On teaching new media

On show will be media art projects and innovative research projects from the EU program Information Society Technologies (IST), along with tools and strategies for inter-media productions. Many questions will be addressed, including those regarding the significance of electronic monitoring, controlled space and global and local communication. Eminent scientists and artists from all over the world will be giving lectures and presentations. These key figures include Roy Ascott, Natalie Jeremijenko, Bill Buxton, Jill Scott, Victoria Vesna and Hiroshi Ishii.

The special features of cast01:

**netzspannung.org -  
the media laboratory on its Internet launch**

netzspannung, the media laboratory on the Internet, is going online at cast01. netzspannung.org is an Internet platform for media and artistic production and inter-media research. netzspannung.org is a competence centre for media art and media technology geared towards the producers of digital culture - i.e. artists, curators, scientists, producers and companies. netzspannung.org is an environment for exchanging information and ideas, has tools for Knowledge Discovery and for specific productions and cooperations, and



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features its own [netzspannung.org/journal](http://netzspannung.org/journal). Aimed at professionals, [netzspannung.org](http://netzspannung.org) also offers the culturally aware public the opportunity to get involved in the design and exploration of complex communication spaces in the context of artistic, social and technical projects.

**digital sparks -  
a cartography of students' media projects in German-speaking universities**

The "digital sparks" initiative presents contemporary student media projects with the aim of lending particular weight to the importance of teaching for sustained media development. As a cartography of outstanding works from the fields of media art, design and media informatics, "digital sparks" offers an intensive in-sight into the diversity of the results and course contents in German universities. From the 52 submitted projects, an independent panel of judges selected three projects as being particularly outstanding. These projects were created in the Faculty of Media Art at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst in Leipzig, in the Institute for Media Technology at the Technical University of Ilmenau, and in the Design Faculty of the Technical University of Cologne. The prizewinners will be presenting their work during the award ceremony at the cast01 conference.

**Selected cast01 submissions - papers, posters,  
screenings and digital sparks - are exhibited online. -  
Information:**

On the conference:  
<http://netzspannung.org/cast01/en>

On [netzspannung.org](http://netzspannung.org):  
<http://netzspannung.org/en>

On digital sparks:  
<http://netzspannung.org/digital-sparks/en>



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cast01 // Living in Mixed Realities is organised by the research group Media Art Research Studies (MARS) from the Fraunhofer Institute for Media Communications (formerly known as the GMD Institute) and is sponsored jointly by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the European Commission. In charge of the MARS Exploratory Media Lab are Monika Fleischmann and Wolfgang Strauss.

**Press lunch at cast01:**

On 21 September between 1pm and 2pm, a press lunch will be held in Schloss Birlinghoven, where journalists can meet with the event organisers and keynote speakers from the conference, as well as representatives from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the European Commission.

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