

## Ars Electronica 2018: The mistake as an art form

People make mistakes. You can be ashamed of it, you can stand by it, it does not change anything: the mistake is part of the basic equipment of being human. As an "art of imperfection" the mistake or error is the motto of this year's Ars Electronica. The subject of this year's Ars Electronica shows the trial-and-error discovered YInMn blue.



The subject of this year's Ars Electronica shows the trial-and-error discovered YInMn blue. (c) Ars Electronica

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From the 6th to the 10th of September, Ars Electronica will again be held in the center of Linz. The motto this time is "Error - The Art of Imperfection". The program includes more than 500 individual events, which are offered along a festival mile from the main station up to the Pöstlingberg. Twelve locations are recorded and transformed into temporary spaces for freedom and freedom, all about ideas and visions for the future. At Ars Electronica, artists, scientists, engineers, designers, entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from all over the world come to Linz. Together, they ask about current

technological and social interactions and their possible manifestations in the future. A festival mile will be played across the city center, with POSTCITY as a festival hotspot. Festival visitors can once again look forward to highlights such as the Great Concert Night, the u19 - CREATE YOUR WORLD Festival or the high-caliber conference program. Other venues include the Linz Art University, the Salzamt Atelierhaus, the Brucknerhaus, the OÖ Kulturquartier, the LENTOS Art Museum, and not to mention the Ars Electronica Center, just to name a few.



Remains of Quayola (UK / IT): This project combines nature with the tradition of landscape painting. Landscapes are digitized with 3D scanners and printed on large-format durable paper. This results in hybrid formations that are both real and artificial. (c) Quayola

### You can learn from mistakes

Mistakes are not only negative, they are very popular in science. Last but not least, many relevant findings are determined thanks to trial and error. For example, Mas Subramanian and his team in a trial in 2009 actually wanted to test the magnetic and electrical properties of magnan oxide, but instead came across a hitherto unknown pigment, the YInMn blue. This new color has been the first

blue pigment ever since cobalt was discovered in 1802 and originated from a typical trial-and-error approach, where scientists also experimented with yttrium, indium and manganese (hence the name). This blue was perfectly suited as a symbol for the theme “Error - The Art of Imperfection” and was chosen by the organizers of the subject of this year’s Ars Electronica as a subject.

The mistake is multifaceted: it can be the source of innovation but also the catalyst of catastrophic accidents - but ultimately one can and should learn from disasters.

