



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. Agenda

### Tuesday, 19 November 1996 : Opening of the Conference

#### Morning

Arrival of participants: Transfer to the Hotels

Belvedere (Milady Horákové 19- Prague 7- Tel:374 741)

Parkhotel (Veletržní 20 - Prague 7 - Tel: 380 71 11)

#### Afternoon

5:30pm Departure from the hotels by bus to the  
Presidential Palace (Pražský hrad, Prague 1)

6:00pm Opening address in the Rudolf Gallery by  
*Jaromír Talíř*, Czech Minister of Culture  
*Peter Leuprecht*, Deputy Secretary General of the  
Council of Europe

6:30pm Opening reception

8:00pm Return by bus to the hotels

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

**Morning**

9:30 am Departure from the hotels to the Gameball Hall  
(Míčovna Pražského hradu)

10:00am Opening of the Conference by  
*Raymond Weber*, Director of Education,  
Culture and Sport at the Council of Europe

- The New Scientific Paradigm, *Ervin Laszlo*

*Coffee break*

-Fractal Geometry and the Representation of  
Nature, *Benoît Mandelbrot*

Moderator: *Pierre Bongiovanni*

1:00 pm Lunch offered by the Prague Castle Administration

**Afternoon**

2:30 pm

- Changing Scientific Perspectives, *Ilya Prigogine*

*Coffee Break*

- Chaos Theory, a Space-Time Pattern,  
*Ralph Abraham*

- Art and Science, Parallel Spaces, *Leonard Shlain*

Moderator: *Ivan M. Havel*

6:30 pm Departure by bus to the hotels

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Thursday, 21 November 1996: Art and the New Space

**Morning**

9:30 am Departure from the hotels to the Gameball Hall

10:00 am  
-The role of the Artist in Defining the New Space,  
*Don Foresta*

*Coffee break*

- The New Art Space, *Otto Piene*

Moderator: *John Wyver*

1:00 pm Lunch offered by the Prague Castle Administration

**Afternoon**

2:30pm

- The Artist and his Tools, *Steina Vasulka*

- The Dis-Embodied Re-Embodied Body,  
*Jeffrey Shaw*

*Coffee break*

- The New Emerging Culture, *Tor Nørretranders*

Moderator: *Erkki Huhtamo*

6:30 pm Departure by bus to the hotels

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

**Morning**

9:30 am Departure from the hotels to the Gameball Hall

10:00 am

- New Definitions of Reality, *Sigfried Schmidt*

-Interactive Space and Collective Intelligence,  
*Pierre Lévy*

*Coffee break*

-Technology, Instability and Culture,  
*Bernard Stiegler*

Moderator : *Patrick Talbot*

1:00 pm Lunch offered by the Prague Castle Administration

**Afternoon**

2:30 pm

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

Moderator : *Kirill Razlogov*

*Coffee break*

5:00 pm **Closing adress**  
*Václav HAVEL*, President of the Czech Republic

6:30 pm Departure by bus to the Rudolfinum

7:00 pm Reception given by the Minister of Culture

Visit of the exhibition "Along the Frontier"

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**Saturday, 23 November 1996: Visit organised in the  
Center for Modern and Contemporary Art -  
National Gallery in Prague**

(Dukelských Hrdinů 47, Prague 7 - Tel: 24 301 801-803)

12:00am Welcoming remarks by *Jaroslav Anděl*,  
Director of the Center

Special tours of the exhibitions :  
*Dawn of the Magicians ?*  
*Art, Science, Society at the turn of the millennium*  
and  
*Zdeněk Pešánek 1896-1965*

12:30am Special projections of video art

1:00 pm Reception

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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 Head Office in München and the Goethe Institute in Prague, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, Kratky film a.s., Czech Airlines (ČSA), 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
- **Pierre Bongiovanni** - Director of the International Centre of Video Production (CICV) - Montbelliard
- **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
- **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

## 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

**Jonathan BARTON** - Director of the Information Society Observatory - The London School of Economics - London

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

**Nedžad BEGOVIĆ** - Film-maker - Sarajevo

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

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

**Frank BOYD** - Director of ARTEC - London

**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

**Michael CENTURY** - Industrie Canada - Quebec

**Marek CHOLONIEWSKI** - Director of Muzyca Centrum Art Society - Kracow

**Serguei CHRISTOTCHEVSKI** - Researcher - Moscow

**Radúz ČINČERA** - Artist - Theatre director - Prague

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

**José Da COSTA RAMOS** - Minister Assistant for Multimedia - Portugal

**Fritz DARKO** - Artist -Croatia

**Charlotte DAVIES** - Director of Visual Research Softimage Inc. Quebec

**Leonid DIAGILEV** - Deputy Rector on Scientific and Creative Work-Belarusian Academy of Arts Minsk

**Vladimir DJAMBAZOV** - Musician Composer - Sofia

**Juraj ĎURIŠ** -Director of the Centre for Electronic Media- Bratislava

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

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

**Bronac FERRAN** - Senior Live Arts and Combined Arts Officer- Arts Council of England-London

**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

<p><b>Dimitar FRANGOV</b> - Balkan Media Sofia</p> <p><b>Egon GÁL</b> - Institute of Philosophy in the Academy of Sciences - Bratislava</p> <p><b>Ivan Ladislav GALETA</b> - Artist - Founder of the Multimedia Center Zagreb</p> <p><b>Marco GAZZANO</b> - Professor of media studies -Director of the Video Festival of Locarno</p> <p><b>Richard GOODERICK</b> - Administrator in Arts Council, London</p> <p><b>Jill K. HARTLEY</b> -Project coordinator - Ocean of Know - New York</p> <p><b>Cyril HÖSCHL</b> - Scientist - Director of the Psychiatric Center, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine - Prague</p> <p><b>Michael HUTTER</b> - Professor at the University of Witten- Herdecke (D)</p> <p><b>Stephan IGLHAUT</b> - Cultural programme of the Siemens Foundation - Medialab - Munich</p> <p><b>Raivo KELOMEES</b> - E-Media Center of Estonian Academy of Arts- Tallin</p> <p><b>Georges-Albert KISFALUDI</b> - Professor at the School of Fine Arts - Nantes</p> <p><b>Ryszard W. KLUSCZYNSKI</b> - Director of the Centre of Contemporary Art - Warsaw</p> <p><b>Dimitri KONSTANTINIDIS</b> - Director of FRAC Alsace - Sélestat</p>	<p><b>Jiří KOTALIK</b> - Theorist - Dean of the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague</p> <p><b>Piotr KOWALSKI</b> - Artist - Paris</p> <p><b>Richard KRIESCHE</b> - Artist - Director of the department of new technologies - Graz</p> <p><b>Violetta KUTLUBASIS - KRAJEWSKA</b> - Artist - Wroclaw</p> <p><b>Fernando LAGRAÑA</b> - ITU- Geneva</p> <p><b>Benoît LEGARE</b> - General Secretary- Museums of Strasbourg</p> <p><b>Franz LIEBL</b> - Professor at the University of Witten-Herdecke</p> <p><b>Helmut MARK</b> - Media Department Academy of Arts -Leipzig</p> <p><b>Dan MATEI</b> - Director of the Information Center for Culture and Heritage - Bucarest</p> <p><b>Robert O.McCLINTOCK</b>-Institute for Learning Technologies- Columbia University - New York</p> <p><b>Daniel P. McVEIGH</b> - President of Ocean of Know - New York</p> <p><b>Konstantin MINOSKI</b> - Faculty of Philosophy of Skopje</p> <p><b>Alla MITROFANOVA</b> - Artist - Gallery 21 - St. Petersburg</p> <p><b>Eduard MUKA</b> - Artist- Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts - Tirana</p> <p><b>Antonio MUNTADAS</b> - Artist working with the new technologies - Barcelona</p>
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**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

**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 Politecnica 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 and Prague

**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

**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

**Agnieszka WOŁODŹKO** - Artist - Gdansk

**Gene YOUNGBLOOD** - Writer, Media specialist - New York

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

**Siegfried ZIELINSKY** - Director of the Academy of the Arts and Media -Cologne



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