

ESO/ESA/IAU/Excellence Cluster 'Universe'

Astronomy Communication Seminars

— Monthly half-hour seminars about contemporary issues in astronomy communication

Monday, 21 September 2009 - 14:00-14:30

ESO Council Room



Art Meets Astronomy – Chance and Challenge of Meta-Communication

Tim Otto Roth

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Abstract: Tim Otto Roth is renowned for his large art & science projects in public space. In 2003 he started his first project related to astronomy at a public light façade in Munich. For his pixel trip on the retinas of particle and astrophysics he was awarded with the International Media Art Award by the Center for Art and Media ZKM Karlsruhe in 2004. A lot of attention was paid to his recent project oscillating between particle and astrophysics: “Cosmic Revelation” changed the cosmic ray detector array of the KASCADE experiment at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology into a giant flashing light field of 40.000 sqm. Tim Otto Roth will introduce a couple of his astronomy and space related projects and will discuss the meta-communicative aspects of art & science projects. Meta-communication means on the one hand not a one way communication but an intensive dialogue between artist and scientist. There is an excellent common ground for artists & astrophysicists having both a much differentiated concept of colour and a very long tradition creating pictures. On the other hand meta-communication underlines that an art & science project is more than just a PR event of scientific results. In fact a successful cooperation develops its sustainable power focusing less the individual results but reflecting the changes of paradigms behind. So such a project can develop a long time potential addressing above all to a large spectrum of different interest groups. Finally Tim Otto Roth will report also about the financial challenge to realise his quite big projects in public space and will discuss different strategies.

