



ISEA2014, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, OPENS  
REGISTRATION

*October 30 – November 8, main location Dubai*

The start of winter marks an exciting time for the art and culture community in the United Arab Emirates. The International Symposium on Electronic Arts (ISEA) marks the 20th edition by its induction to the Middle East via Dubai with Zayed University as its hosting institution. ISEA will be taking place from the 30th of October to the 8th of November 2014 in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and the rest of the United Arab Emirates. The symposium consists primarily of three aspects of peer-reviewed conference, juried exhibitions, and various in-conjunction and other partner events. The conference will examine research and development, both locally and internationally. It is the intention, through the theme *Location*, to bridge and highlight ideas presented in previous editions and highlight local innovation or ideas that have made an impact in the United Arab Emirates.

ISEA is the major annual nomadic international academic gathering of artists and scientists in the field of the electronic and emergent arts. It has been held in 4 continents and over 20 cities, world-wide, since 1988. It consists of an academic conference, accompanied by many art events like exhibitions, concerts, performances, public events etc. A number of workshops and tutorials are organised, especially to have east and west meet and find the connections between local culture and modern media arts. With Keynote presentations given by media archaeologist Erkki Huhtamo and cultural theorist Sally-Jane Norman

The symposium is expecting to attract mounds of participants with over 200 scholars, artists, and institutions presenting at ISEA2014's Academic Conference. There will be more than 50 sessions and related events throughout the 3-day conference. Panel discussions like Seth Thompson's "***The Jazeera Al Hamra Digital Heritage Project: A Model for Digitally Preserving the Heritage of the Arabian Peninsula***" along with research papers on East and West cultures like "***Locating East West Robot Culture***" by Kirsty Boyle & Angela Ndalianis will all be taking place and highlighted on the programs found electronically and in print throughout the conference.

The **ISEA2014 Education Forum** has the theme *Location*. Which will not only focus on the physical geographical aspect of that but also cultural similarities/differences, and diverse impactful social issues, with the theme centering all the work and events taking place over the ten days of the symposium. Other thematic influences like Technology, science and Art : East Meets West and Emerging Economies / Emerging Identities appear. Along with Nomadic Shifts & Digital Archeology, Nomadic Highway-Bridging Media and Collaborative Spaces and Fibers & Sensory Mediation are all included.

Educational systems worldwide is currently under stress to develop and function at a foundational level, the conference will divulge into the semantics of the process of internationalizing higher education and adapting the various western models into local institutions. Over the last decade the investment pattern in the Middle East has focused on the growth of educational practices; be it satellite campuses of western institutions or reintegrated programs into regional universities. These patterns and paths of academic assimilation will be discussed and highlighted through many of the conferences activities. The outcomes of such panels and workshop are designed to possitvely impact the environment on a socio-political level among the scholars and participants alike.

For the first time in the Middle East the chance to change and reel Art and Art Education on an International level is taking place in Dubai. Participants from all backgrounds will be flying in and actively partaking in these innovative events. For information on the ISEA2014 Conference Program see:

[http://www.isea2014.org/files/contents/082014\\_SymposiumProgram\\_Web\\_Conference.pdf](http://www.isea2014.org/files/contents/082014_SymposiumProgram_Web_Conference.pdf)