Burning Man Symposium to Explore Synergies Between Interactive Art and Silicon Valley

Burning Man: Art & Technology, A Symposium

Saturday, February 23, 2019, 2-4 pm
De Young Museum, Koret Auditorium, Golden Gate Park
50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, San Francisco

Advance Registration Required; Seating is Limited

This program explores the creative spirit of Burning Man as an original western cultural movement. Its innovative paradigm of art as a participatory and interactive experience is unattached to traditional museums or commercial art markets, and is increasingly marked by technology. We intend to explore the affinity between art and technology with the rise of Silicon Valley, and the parallel evolution of the Burning Man movement. Both are pillars of contemporary art and technology based in the Bay Area, and both have a global reach.

The keynote address by Stanford University’s Fred Turner will focus on the cultural and maker-movement aspects of Burning Man, and its synergy with the rise of Silicon Valley. These fueled the opportunity for new development and beta testing at Black Rock City in the spirit of utopian art.

The other three presenters will trace the evolution of the Burning Man movement from a beachside festival to a temporary full city. They will explore the linkage between the art and technology, the institutional and curatorial responses to the art produced there, and its organizational challenges, successes, and ethos.
Agenda
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Fred Turner, Professor of Communications, Stanford University, “What Burning Man Does for Silicon Valley”
Turner will explore the connections between the rise of Silicon Valley and the parallel evolution of the Burning Man movement based in San Francisco, both as cultural movements with a universal status that links art with emerging technology.

PRESENTERS

London, an award-winning official photographer of Burning Man, will present a slideshow of images from the event that captures the last ten years of its development and transformation.

Nora Atkinson, Curator of Craft, Smithsonian American Art Museum & Renwick Gallery, “When the Man Met the Man: Burning Man’s Journey from the Desert to the Museum”
Atkinson will address the institutional approach to Burning Man as an art movement that values collective creativity, yet lies outside of commercial art markets. How can museums and other cultural institutions respond to the unique challenge of interpreting, collecting, and preserving the record of the art produced at Black Rock City, and the synergy of the art and technology that underlies these works?

Katherine K. Chen, Associate Professor of Sociology, CUNY Graduate Center, “Catalyzing Creative Communities: How Burning Man Encourages Artistic Prosumption”
Chen will focus on the organizational sociology of the Burning Man movement, looking at its accomplishments, challenges, limitations, and culture.

PARKING

Free street parking is available on John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Drives near the De Young museum during February. Paid parking is available in the Music Concourse Garage located directly under the museum and its entrance can be found at Fulton St. at 10th Ave.

Sponsors:
ArtsWest, a program of the Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University
Stanford Arts Institute, Stanford University
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

For more information and to register:
http://artswest.stanford.edu

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