



The Role of Art in the Context of Science Festivals in Germany - Preliminary Findings

EFRP Meeting Poznan, 24/25 April 2010

Artistic festivals with a social and intellectual agenda



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Background

- > Rapprochement between two great ways of exploration, discovering and knowing: science & art
- > Science Communication Events (SCE): science festivals, science summers, science days etc.
- > In Germany, a new phenomenon which is poorly understood (lack of research)



Background: Variety of actors

Germany (selection)

- Science on Stage e.V.
- Science Centers, Museums
- Science in Dialogue, Science Summer, Science Days, Science Weeks, City of Science

Europe (selection)

- European Science Communication Event Association / EUSCEA
- European Network of Science Centres and Museums / ESCITE
- WONDERS





Definitions

White Book SCE (2005) of EUSCEA:

- > Science Show, Science Theatre, Film, Exhibitions, Competitions, Experiments, etc.
- > Aimed at both informing about scientific issues and breaking down barriers between the scientific community and the general public



Definitions

- > Examples of interactive formats and publicly oriented Science Communication Events (SCE)
- > Offer a wide range of activities, attract a variety of audiences, use different formats and models
- > Budgets between 5.000 € and 2 Mio. €



Research Design

Focus:

Science Summer

Science Years

City of Science Berlin 2010: Competition ‚Art & Science‘

Methodology:

Desk Research, Screening of Reports & Interviews



Findings (preliminary)

- > Main feature of the scene
- > Role of ‚Science-Culture‘
- > Structure & character of actors
- > Formats

- > Art/artists as an ‚add-on‘ (?)
- > Exemplary experience



Findings (preliminary)

> Exemplary experience: ... role and function of art in science festivals?





Conclusions

- > Opportunities
- > Challenges
- > Threats
- > Framework questions