

S'pore to host international electronic art

ANDREA ONG

COME July, Singapore will play host to the prestigious International Symposium on Electronic Art (Isea) for the first time.

The biannual symposium, which began in 1988, is the main showcase and networking event for artists and researchers

who combine art with new media and technology. This means audiences can expect cutting-edge technology and art combined.

Singapore beat four other cities – Beijing, Belfast, Adelaide and Turin – in 2006 to win the bid to host Isea.

Singapore, the second Asian country to host Isea after Japan

in 2002, won because of “its technologically developed status and strong emphasis on interactive and digital media research and development,” said Professor Gunalan Nadarajan, artistic director of this year’s Isea.

To be held from July 25 to Aug 3, this year’s symposium is expected to draw more than 800 participants from around

the world.

Two programme highlights are a peer-reviewed conference and a main exhibition of 16 art pieces by 22 artists-in-residence, who have been working at labs at the National University of Singapore since last month.

The value of electronic art lies in how it “creates highly en-

symposium next month

gaging and people-friendly ways to encounter and understand new technologies”, said Dr Gunalan.

“There’s something very special about being in the same place with people of similar concerns and engaging with such cutting-edge technology,” said Australian artist-in-residence Jodi Rose, 38.

Ms Rose is working on a sound art project called the Global Bridge Symphony, where she made “music” with vibrations of cable and suspension bridges around the world.

She is collaborating with engineers here and using technology usually meant for monitoring the safety load and structure of bridges.

Said Dr Gunalan: “Because these art forms are driven by technological development and the curiosity to engage with new technologies, their potential for growth is literally endless.”

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For more information, visit www.Isea2008singapore.org.



LIKE A STRING INSTRUMENT: Ms Jodi Rose tapping into the music made by the vibrations on cable and suspension bridges. (PHOTO: JODI ROSE)