

FOREWORD

In the last year of the millennium the astonishingly rapid technological developments in computing and telecomms have continued. The 'convergence' phenomenon is now well recognised, not only at the broad industrial sector level but also within the cultural sector as museums, Libraries, archives and other types of cultural institutions increasingly face common challenges and opportunities from the new technologies. These are global trends which Europe can and should play a leading role due to its remarkable cultural heritage and its strong efforts and capabilities in science and technology. Moreover, it is not only a question of applying the new technologies in the cultural sector since the field of cultural heritage can itself help act as a technology driver. This is illustrated by a quotation from Dominique Gonthier of the European Commission: 'ask not only what technology can do for culture, but what culture can do for technology'. This view is reflected in the inclusion for the first time of cultural heritage at a key area in the European Commission's Fifth Framework Programme (key action line III).

Ten years ago in 1990, the first EVA [Electronic Imaging & the Visual Arts] conference was held at London University moving to the National Gallery in London in 1992 for the third EVA. In 1998 the main European EVA was held in Florence and then Berlin was selected as the venue for the 10th anniversary main EVA Conference in 1999. A key issue is helping to bring together East and West European initiatives in the area of 'Culture x Technology'. EVA'99 Europe Berlin, [also the 6th EVA in Berlin] thus takes a critical position in the world wide series of EVA Conferences, which have now spread as far as Japan, Russia and the USA, as well as across Europe.

The main objective of the EVA Conferences and also of EVA'99 Europe Berlin is to provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas, experiences and plans between people from the cultural sector, scientists and technologists from industry, universities and research institutes, as well as government.

To this end, not only results from research and development projects, but also applications will be presented. The exhibition will include a wide selection of innovative project results as well as new products and services. In particular, there will be news on the latest situation of the Fifth Framework Programme and encouragement given to help in creating new partnerships. In summary, EVA'99 Europe Berlin will be an interdisciplinary, multi-sectoral forum with local, European and international participants.

The opening keynote paper by Professor Lutz Heusinger (Marburg Photo Image Archive) will discuss practical issues on image indexing for art and architecture based on working with 1.5 million images and related cultural policy issues. Norbert Kanter (Art & Exhibition Hall, Bonn, Germany) will present a closing paper on art video content on the internet.

The first two conference days address three main issues:

- Digitising: Beginning New Media Applications including a variety of topics from large scale 2-D imaging for the internet to 3-D and sound digitisation
- Cultural Databases: Capture - maintenance - retrieval - including papers on the 'hot topic' of content based retrieval as well as museums and general applications including architectural and design
- Presentations: Multimedia projects - culture on the World Wide Web ranging from landscape art to on-line publishing and integrated multimedia systems for libraries

The EU and International Conference day begins with news and perspectives from the European Commission followed by papers and a panel on Central, East & West European national and regional initiatives. Finally, there are papers from North America and Asia, and a panel on international co-operation.

Prior to the conference on Tuesday 9th November 1999 there will be a series of tutorials on two major themes: Visitor oriented design of media projects and Digitisation strategies and creation of digital image archives.

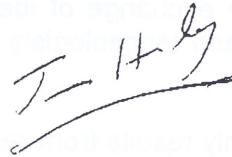
The accompanying exhibition will have about twenty stands. Exhibitors come from as far as Rumania and the Ukraine as well as from EU countries with companies, universities and research institutes all participating.

The purely cultural side is not neglected - on the evening of Wednesday 10th November a special event 'Homage to Kandinsky' is planned, as well as guided tours of the magnificent New Art Gallery at the Kulturforum.

Our special thanks to the Prussian State Cultural Foundation for hosting EVA'99 Europe Berlin and in particular to its president, Professor Klaus-Dieter Lehmann, who will give the welcoming speech to the conference. Also many thanks to Dr Andreas Bienert and his colleagues who have worked so hard to make this 10th anniversary EVA Conference a success.



Gerd Stanke



James Hemsley