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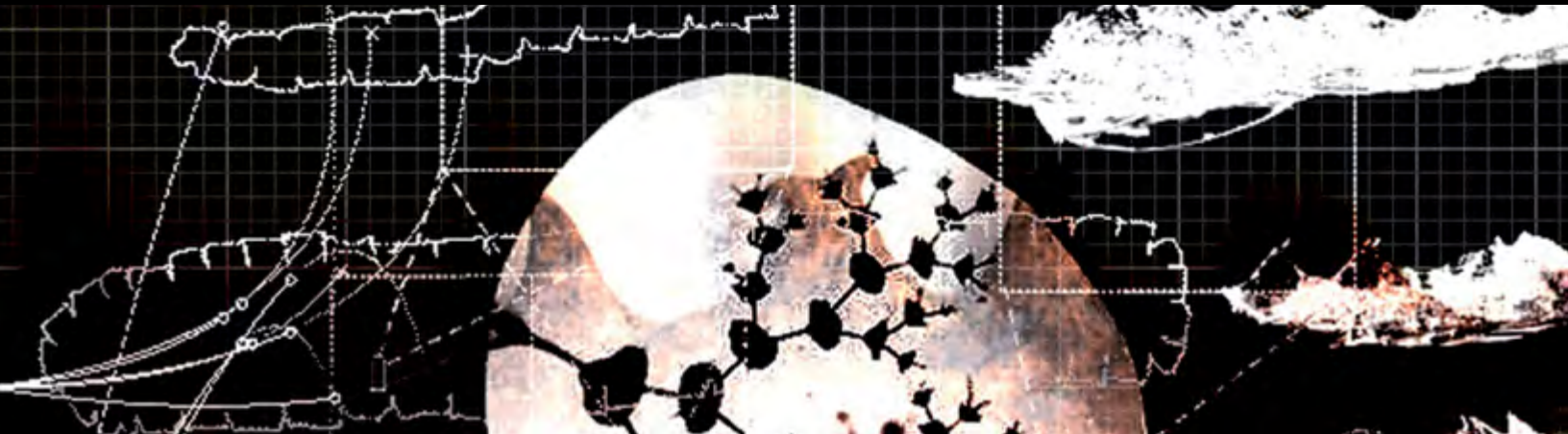
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**L**eo

**E-SCAPES**

**ARTISTIC EXPLORATIONS OF NATURE AND SCIENCE**



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# Introduction: The Physical and Virtual Structures of the Landscapes of Contemporary Art

As the Editor in Chief of the Leonardo Electronic Almanac (LEA) I am pleased to present our first catalog born from a collaboration between LEA, Sabanci University, Kasa Gallery and Goldsmiths, University of London. It's been almost two years since LEA's digital media exhibition platform began, thanks to the hard work of Vince Dziekan and Özden Şahin.

We are thrilled with the reception that the LEA Digital Platform has received. We are thankful for such a large participation that proves that there is an audience interested in being part of contemporary artistic development within the field of art, science and technology.

The LEA Digital Platform has pioneered a space of rigorous curatorship within social media such as Twitter, Facebook and Flickr that appeared to be conceived more for spontaneous and casual interactions than the formal display of images. Our major curatorial challenge was that of using these media for dissemination and presentation while at the same time retaining some of the more rigorous structures of a museum display.

The strategy that has paid off for LEA and its online exhibition platform was to not solely engage with the artworks and the artists in a limited process of display and dissemination but to consider the social media platform as merely one stage in a larger exhibition process – a fluxus methodology applied to curating in order to revel in, as well as take advantage of, the fluidity of contemporary social networks.

It had always been my intention of actually 'making' in a physical

space the exhibitions that we were showing online. The partnership with Kasa Gallery, of which I am the Director and supported by Sabanci University, has provided the physical space in Istanbul from which selected shows can premiere before traveling to other galleries around the world.

In this process, both LEA and Kasa Gallery foster international collaborations in the fine arts with partners like Mike Stubbs at FACT, Janis Jefferies at Goldsmiths, Peter Ride at Westminster University, Richard Rinehart at the Samek Art Gallery and Christiane Paul at the New School.

These are just a few of the people that LEA is now working with, while we continue announcing and growing our 2012 program of digital media exhibitions.

Operating across LEA's social media platforms these online exhibitions have become part of the LEA web archives as well as the background to our exhibitions in the physical space of Kasa Gallery and other international galleries and museums.

Encouraging a playful and expansive mode of discourse, the adopted format provides artists with the opportunity to devise, recreate or represent a portfolio of artworks, processes or ideas sequentially over a month-long series of images or 'frames.'

Our inaugural season was launched in the autumn of 2010 and featured projects by Paul Catanese and Jane Prophet, to whom I

am most grateful for their patience and support in this process.

Paul Catanese inaugurated the LEA Online Exhibition Platform with his exhibition *Visible from Space* in September 2010. The show was designed as a series of 'digital artworks and sketches,' almost an artist's diary and impression of the world as seen from space. Issues related to the landscape, its representation and political structure, mixed with the poetics of its visuality, were combined in an enticing sequence of images. Research and development for *Visible from Space* was supported by a month-long residency in June 2010 at the Goldwell Open Air Museum, located just outside Death Valley.

Together with Paul Catanese, the online exhibition *Explorations of Structure* by Jane Prophet (originally released in October 2010) is being installed in Kasa Gallery, while I am writing this introduction. In her portfolio of images, Jane Prophet takes previously completed artworks and re-evaluates them as explorations of structure. Prophet uses innovative media combined with traditional aesthetics to address issues related to the use of scientific methods and technologies in creating art. This can be seen in her use of elements derived from fractal mathematics to the treatment of politics of landscape. She demonstrates through her works, which exist in a variety of forms, the ability to fascinate the audience with innovative aesthetics.

Both online exhibitions and this catalog are accompanied by interviews with the artists by myself and Vince Dziekan.

This is the first catalog to signal LEA's renewed activity and presence on the international art world at the intersection of art, science and technology. There are many people to whom I have to say thanks: Vince Dziekan, for his curatorial work; Özden Şahin, who has worked with me and supported me with LEA's and Kasa Gallery's relaunch;

and, last but not least, Christiane Paul who has believed in LEA's relaunch project since its beginnings.

It is my hope that LEA will continue to foster the integration of the physical experience of artworks with virtual online exhibitions that, by disseminating artworks through social media platforms, contribute to raising awareness and reshaping the visual aesthetics of the XXI century by finding new ways for engagement and participation.

Lanfranco Aceti  
LEA Editor in Chief  
Kasa Gallery, Director



The Jane Prophet exhibition can be followed online:  
Facebook: <http://ow.ly/2WiNR>  
Flickr: <http://ow.ly/2WiPw>  
Twitter: <http://ow.ly/2WiQM>

The Paul Catanese exhibition can be followed online:  
Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/xVZiW7>  
Flickr: <http://bit.ly/AuKbdw>  
Twitter: <http://ow.ly/2WiQM>