

## **ROY ASCOTT, STELARC AND MANOS DANEZIS AT THE IONIAN UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE**

Groundbreaking pioneers of contemporary art and science will be this year's keynote speakers for the international interdisciplinary conference of the Ionian University taking place in Corfu: British **Roy Ascott**, Australian with Cypriot origin **Stelarc**, (both winners of "Golden Nica" at Ars Electronica), and Greek astrophysicist Dr **Manos Danezis**.

### **Conference TABOO - TRANSGRESSION - TRANSCENDENCE in Art and Science**

**Roy Ascott**, artist and researcher at the domain of Cybernetics and Telematics President of the Planetary Collegium and the DeTao Master of Technoetic Arts at the Beijing DeTao Masters Academy in Shanghai. (<http://avarts.ionio.gr/festival/2016/en/conference/speakers/ascott>)

**Stelarc** is a performance artist who has visually probed and acoustically amplified his body, with the use of engineering, robotics, artificial intelligence and biotechnology, in virtual and mixed reality. He is a professor at Curtin University, Australia (<http://avarts.ionio.gr/festival/2016/en/conference/speakers/stelarc>). Apart from his conference contribution, Stelarc will contribute to the 10th Audiovisual Arts Festival's program with a workshop on performance art. In parallel, the Ionian University is organizing a retrospective exhibition for educational purposes.

Dr **Manos Danezis**, astrophysicist, mathematician and computer programmer, is known for his pioneering educational work, not only as an Assistant Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Athens, but also as a lecturer and presenter of educational broadcasts on Quantum Cosmology and Astrophysics (<http://manosdanezis.gr/index.php/short-bio>).

The conference will take place in Corfu on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 under the theme: *"Taboo-Transgression-Transcendence in Art and Science"* and is incorporated in the *10<sup>th</sup> Audiovisual Arts Festival's* program, organized by the Ionian University (May 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016). The conference ambitions to incite the dialogue on issues relevant to the nature of the forbidden and the liminal as expressed in science and art (detailed description: <http://avarts.ionio.gr/festival/2016/en/conference/description>).

Festival's official website: <http://avarts.ionio.gr/festival/2016/en/>