The Second Annual Digital Arts and Culture (DAC) Conference will bring artists, multimedia practitioners, scientists, theorists, and members of industry to the Georgia Institute of Technology to explore established and evolving forms of digital culture. The first DAC conference was hosted in Bergen, Norway, in 1998. DAC99 will take place at several locations on campus and around Atlanta between October 28 and 30. The event is co-sponsored by the Department of Humanistic Informatics, University of Bergen and several Georgia Tech organizations, including the Center for New Media Education and Research; the Ivan Allen College; and the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture.

DAC99 will provide the opportunity for more than one hundred scholars, artists, and technologists from Europe, the Pacific Rim, and the Americas to learn more about Georgia Tech and its work in communications technology. The conference will help to define the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture as a world leader in the cultural and humanistic study of new media. Throughout this decade, the School has won increasing recognition for its innovative approach to new media studies, an approach which is reflected in the conference’s combination of digital performances and artifacts, as well as scholarly papers and panels that explore the meaning of new media for our culture today.

Most conference events – speakers, performances, installations, and a digital artists salon – will be held at the Georgia Center for Advanced Telecommunications (GCATT). Additionally, several special evening events will take place as part of the conference:

- Thursday, October 28: an opening reception with digital performance and hypertextual readings at the Nexus Contemporary Art Center
- Friday, October 29: a banquet and key-note performer
- Saturday, October 30: a closing reception and “art party” at Macquarium Intelligent Communications

Many members of the contemporary digerati will be on-hand at DAC99: Espen Aarseth, Jay David Bolter, Robert Coover, Elliott Peter Earls, N. Katherine Hayles, Michael Joyce, Lev Manovich, Stuart Moulthrop, and Janet Murray. Others will be virtually present through a series of invited video addresses. Those invited to participate in this way include Orlan, Nam June Paik, Sandy Stone, Paul Virilio, and Slavoj Zizek. Other conference participants include:

- scholars of new media and online magazine editors
- internet designers and multimedia programmers
- authors of interactive fiction and poetry
- VR artists and new media theater directors
- creators of socially intelligent agents and theorists of artificial intelligence
- self-proclaimed “hactivists”

Many of the works to be presented at DAC99 have been awarded honors in design competitions such as the trAce AltX Hypertext Competition and ID Magazine’s Interactive Media Review. Notable new media performances and digital art installations from events such as Brazil’s Sao Paolo Biennial, the Boston Cyberarts Festival, the Transmedia Festival in Berlin, and Italy’s Biennale Internazionale Dell’Arte Contemporanea will be brought to a single location for this event. In short, DAC99 will bring to Atlanta an eclectic forum of cutting-edge cultural works that represent the diversity and promise of the international digital culture movement.