



Art and Innovation

Objective:

Build, or modify, something along aesthetically pleasing lines that does something deliberately by itself. Purposefulness is not essential. Or, using robotic principles (or tawdry but eloquent scientific justification), make a brand-new device that serves a not-so-obvious purpose.

Background:

One of the key hindrances to assembling something interesting is the idea that it must have a preset shape or purpose ahead of time. In the necessary process of just assessing your available components, you may stumble across an idea, which will be initially obscure, but you can almost see the shape in the pieces before you. Therefore, take some advice; when in doubt, think with your hands and see what emerges.

This competition is for those who dislike following any form of rules. More of a showing than a competition, the idea is to introduce severe design non-linearity's into (un)commonplace devices, demonstrating the extremes of innovation. As well, it is interesting how often electrical and motorized improvements result in whole new sciences never dreamed of before.

Competitor Design Parameters:

Robot Art (or robot sculpture): The only requirement is that the work must move, blink or animate in some way. To give it a small bias, consideration will be given to devices that use solar energy in ambient lighting environments, and feature no "off" switch.

1 - Devices must have some sort of self-starting capacity which is derived from a deliberate conversion of electrical power into another form (i.e.: motorized toilets are allowed. Breeze-powered mobiles are not).

2 - Competitors may be of any size up to where said competitors cannot fit through a normal office door. There is no minimum size restriction.

3 - Robot Competitors must not deliberately damage, soak, or scratch the display areas, other competitors, judges, or spectators in any way. The event organizers will disqualify any competitor they feel represents a danger.

4 - The device must use only mechanical power, or mechanical power converted from a source of electrical energy. Chemical, compressed gas, nuclear, or combustion power methods are not allowed to run in the competition area, though they will be allowed to run outside if acceptable to the designers and judges. Devices must not be dangerous, threatening, or explosive.

Scoring Method:

All entries will be judged based on public interest as decided by a poll. It is suggested to leave information and documentation regarding your device near it in case you're not around to describe its function!