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PQ 2023

PQ TALKS



VITAL INFORMATION

The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space invites proposals for PQ Talks, a series of lectures, discussions, and presentations that explore contemporary trends in the expanded field of performance design, scenography and performance space architecture that will take place in Prague, 8–18 June 2023. Proposals are accepted from all types of applicants, including established freelance, educational, and emerging artists and theorists.

Curator

Barbora Přihodová

Dates

Call published:
31 October 2021

Deadline for submission:
30 June 2022

Official announcement of included talks:
30 November 2022

15th Edition of the Prague Quadrennial:
8–18 June 2023

Location

PQ Talks will be organized in the main theatre space of the Hall called **Jatka78**.

To Submit Applications

Please, fill out the [application form](#).

Submission Requirements

- ◆ Name(s) of presenter(s)
- ◆ Description of the proposed talk, including an indication of the chosen format (max. 250 words)
- ◆ Email contact information
- ◆ Short bio(s) of the presenter(s)

You can also send the application via email call@pq.cz in case you have trouble filling in the form.

Copyright

By submitting to PQ Talks you grant permission to the Prague Quadrennial to reproduce, edit, and display the imagery of the work in any way it desires, whether for promotion, retrospectives, or archives, etc... in perpetuity. All other rights reserved. All projects are obligated to secure all necessary author's rights and copyrights for all components (design, video materials, music, text, etc...) that will be utilized as part of their presentation, and guarantees that PQ organizers will not be held responsible for any claims made by third parties.

Please Note

While excited to offer a platform for exchange, PQ cannot at this time cover participating presenter's expenses. PQ can provide needed documentation and letters of invitation in support of any grant applications undertaken by participants.

PQ Talks tends to be a large event with many participants. Due to the program's complex logistics, selected presenters will be asked to submit their Power Point presentations ahead of time.

CONTEXT

About PQ

Organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and realized by the Arts and Theatre Institute, the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space is the largest international festival event dedicated to scenography, performance design and theatre architecture. Since 1967 PQ has been an exchange, networking and educational platform exploring the best works in scenography and design for performance.

While celebrating the diverse forms of performance design/scenography around the globe, the Prague Quadrennial strives to present it as an art form concerned with the creation of holistic performance environments, not just decorative backgrounds; these performative spaces creatively respond to current issues of our world, ask important questions, and invite us to participate in unique moments. Every four years, PQ's central curatorial concept shapes the festival and offers its participants a fresh look at the artistic reflection of our times in performance designs and scenographies.

The 2023 edition will recognize the need to experience performance design/scenography in its performative format: live and with audience engagement. Our recognition of these predominant trends has led us to rename PQ a festival rather than an exhibition.

Curator

Barbora Příhodová, Ph.D., (she/her) is a theater historian with specialization in performance design/scenography. Her practice encompasses writing, editing, curatorial, and research projects. Since 2009, she has collaborated with the Prague Quadrennial as a consultant, writer, and editor. She co-curated PQ Talks in 2019, and she is one of the hosts of the PQ Podcast "Global Performance Encounters".

Among her projects are the feature documentary film *Theatre Svoboda* (2011), which she co-developed as a scriptwriter, researcher, and assistant director. She also co-curated exhibition [Shakespeare in Prague: Imagining the Bard in the Heart of Europe](#) (Columbus Museum of Art and the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, 2017).

Her academic publications include the edited book *Scénografie mluví [Scenography Speaks: Conversations of Jarka Burian with Josef Svoboda]* (2014); essays and book reviews in *Theatre & Performance Design*, *Theatre Design & Technology* and *Performance Research* journals; and book chapters in *The Routledge Companion to Scenography* (2018) and *The Disappearing Stage: Reflections on the 2011 Prague Quadrennial* (2012).

Barbora is based in Philadelphia where she teaches academic writing at Villanova University and history of performance design/scenography at University of the Arts.

CURATORIAL CONCEPT

PQ Talks

As one of the curated programs of the Prague Quadrennial 2023, PQ Talks will create a platform for a critical conversation around performance design/scenography and space¹ in their various forms. Discussion panels, round tables, keynote presentations, and eight-minute flash talks, grouped in broad thematic blocks, will bring together diverse communities of performance designers, scenographers, scholars, and students from around the world. Our main impetus is to inspire and enrich our audiences by exciting new ideas while promoting an open and inclusive dialogue across different scenographic cultures.

As we meet in Prague in 2023, we envision PQ Talks as a feast of rare ideas, propositions, and provocations that will complement PQ's programming of live performances, installations, workshops, and other events. As an international community, we hope to reflect on the new artistic pathways that have emerged not only from the global pandemic, but also from other long-term crises, caused by climate change, racism, and neocolonial processes, to name a few. We are especially interested in discussing the following areas:

- ◆ What **forms and practices in performance design and space** have emerged despite the restrictions of collective gatherings and mobility?
- ◆ How have the above-mentioned crises transformed our views and models of **collaboration** in performance design/scenography?
- ◆ What **impact** have performance designers and scenographers had on their **societies, politically, ecologically, and socially**?
- ◆ To what extent have **science and technologies** transformed performance design and space?
- ◆ What are the new ways to **teach, promote, and critically reflect** on performance design/scenography and space?
- ◆ How can we work towards **decolonizing** performance design and scenography?
- ◆ What is the role of performance design/scenography and space in helping us to **envision what the world and theatre could look like in the post-pandemic future**?

We also welcome proposals **outside the defined** questions, as we believe that PQ Talks should reflect the interests of the community.

We welcome proposals that engage in dialogue and are in the following formats:

- ◆ Flash talks (max. 8-minute presentation of an idea or a project)
- ◆ Discussion panels and round tables (30–60 minutes). You may submit a proposal for an individual contribution or a whole panel/round table. Preferably, discussion panels and round table submissions should include contributions from at least two different countries/institutions/disciplines.

¹ While scenography is often understood as cooperation between separately practiced professions of set, costume, lighting, sound and projection designs, the Prague Quadrennial strives to present performance design/scenography as an interdisciplinary and inherently collaborative art form. The art form creates and shapes performance environments and spaces, responding to current issues and opening dialogue through artistic experience.

We encourage contributions by presenters with a limited command of English. In curating the program, we will do our best to accommodate your proposals and specific needs while upholding values of diversity and inclusion.

– **Barbora Příhodová**, PQ Talks Curator

PQ 2023

RARE

For PQ 2023, we would like to invite you to share the RARE: art springing out of ideas, materials, artistic approaches, and design practices that connect to the human level from within your environment, with its genius loci and unique situation. In the current state of precarity, uncertainty, and epochal change, we call on performance designers, scenographers, and performance practitioners to use their RARE imagination and creativity to help us envision what the world and theatre could look like in the post-pandemic future.

This is a unique moment to use our art, imagination, creativity, and ability to create environments that others may come to enjoy in the future – at PQ 2023 and beyond. Since we have all been deprived of meeting in the same physical space for quite some time, let's turn PQ 2023 into the RARE opportunity to move from virtual spaces into specific places offering an in-person experience, in which physicality and materiality of scenography become central: where your senses and predicaments will be taken into account.

– **Markéta Fantová**, PQ Artistic Director

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