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PQ 2023

**PERFORMANCE
SPACE EXHIBITION:
ACTS OF ASSEMBLY**



VITAL INFORMATION

The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space invites proposals for PQ Performance Space Exhibition that explore contemporary developments in performance space and theatre architecture. The Exhibition will take place in Prague, 8–18 June 2023. Proposals are accepted from all performance space makers and creators.

Curator

Andrew Filmer

Dates

Call published:

31 October 2021

Deadline for submission:

30 April 2022

Official announcement of included spaces:

31 August 2022

15th Edition of the Prague Quadrennial:

8–18 June 2023

To Submit Applications

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

Submission Requirements

- ◆ Submission contact first name
 - ◆ Submission contact surname
 - ◆ Submission contact email address
 - ◆ Submission contact phone number
 - ◆ Submission contact mailing address
 - ◆ Submission contact biography
 - ◆ Collaborators
 - ◆ Organization
 - ◆ Website links
 - ◆ Briefly describe your relationship to the space you are submitting (for instance, designer, operator, owner, etc.)
 - ◆ Video Author/Makers (if relevant)
 - ◆ Sound recording Author/Makers (if relevant)
- You can also send the application via email call@pq.cz in case you have trouble filling in the form.

Submission Details

Responding to the curatorial concept, your submission should take the form of a portfolio of material traces, which together should provide insight into the specific qualities of your space: its feel, its textures, its atmospheres, its actions, and its operations. These may include one or more of the following:

- ◆ A short film (of up to 5 minutes)
- ◆ A sound recording
- ◆ An object or thing
- ◆ An architectural fragment
- ◆ A visual image (of any kind)

Films and sound recordings should focus on conveying the multisensory experience of your space. Including multiple voices is encouraged, but static interviews should be avoided. Films need not be professionally produced and may be filmed on a smartphone.

All submissions should be accompanied by a short-written statement of no more than 400 words specifying how your proposed submission responds to the curatorial concept.

Your submission should include your written statement, your film and/or sound recording, digital versions of any visual images, and digital documentation of any physical objects or fragments you wish to include. Please supply full details of the size and dimensions of any physical objects.

If you include spoken dialogue in a film or sound recording you are welcome to do so in your own language. However, your film must contain English subtitles for any non-English dialogue, and a separate written transcription in English for any non-English dialogue in a sound recording.

Film submissions should be formatted as follows: MP4, AVI, MOV, AVI.

Sound submissions should be formatted as follows: WAV, MP3, FLAC.

Should your submission be selected for inclusion in the exhibition we will provide you with details of how, when and where to deliver any physical objects and materials. You will be responsible for any production or transportation costs associated with realizing and delivering your material traces to the exhibition – and the arrangements for having them returned to you.

Copyright

By submitting to the Performance Space Exhibition 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.

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

Andrew Filmer is Senior Lecturer in Theatre and Performance in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies at Aberystwyth University, UK. His current research examines the sites of encounter between performance and architecture and performative explorations of endurance running. Previous research has examined performers' experiences and practices in the backstage spaces of theatre buildings and located and site-specific performance practice. He co-edited *Performing Architectures: Projects, Practices, Pedagogies* (2018) and edited a special double issue of *Theatre and Performance Design* on 'Theatre Architectures' (2019). Andrew co-convenes the Theatre & Architecture Working Group of the International Federation for Theatre Research and co-curated the Working Group's Shared Pedagogies and Shared Practices events at PQ2015. He has an ongoing research collaboration with the collective TAAT ('Theatre as Architecture Architecture as Theatre') and is working with National Theatre Wales on the Ever After Project, exploring post-pandemic futures for theatre and performance. Andrew was a member of the Selection Jury for the Performance Space Exhibition at PQ 2019.

CURATORIAL CONCEPT

Acts of Assembly

Performance spaces are dynamic; they are places of gathering, assembly and appearance. Performance spaces are sites of encounter; where bodies, objects, materials and technologies meet. Performance spaces are sites of possibility; they are places for imagination, storytelling and world building. Performance spaces are resistant; they are stages for protest, for redress, for repair. Performance spaces are situated; always negotiating environmental, cultural, economic, and political forces. Performance spaces are shared; they are places of communal attachment, memory and ownership.

The Covid-19 pandemic has provided a catalyst for us to re-think many of our assumptions about theatre, about the world in which we make it, and about its relationship to that world. As an ecological crisis, the pandemic disrupted the operation of theatres and performance spaces as physical sites of assembly by requiring us to adapt to the unseen, undetectable presence of a virus. Such adaptations – including developments in event streaming and digital media – ask us to consider performance itself as an assembly or assemblage. Performance can now happen in multiple places, with and for different groups of people, simultaneously.

The Performance Space Exhibition at PQ 2023 will provide a forum for re-considering how performance spaces operate as acts of assembly and sites for community. How do they create connections? How do they facilitate encounters? How do they function as spaces for social action and the making of culture?

We welcome the submission of any type of space that has been created or adapted for performance, whether large or small, indoor or outdoor, purpose built or appropriated, temporary or permanent. The space need not have been designed by an architect.

Your submission should respond to at least some of the following questions:

- ◆ What does your space do; how does it perform?
- ◆ How does it create space for the appearance of individuals and/or communities?
- ◆ How does it negotiate social and cultural differences?
- ◆ How has the Covid-19 pandemic shifted or altered the function of your performance space?
- ◆ How does your performance space create connections between the human and non-human world?

– **Andrew Filmer**, Performance Space Exhibition Curator

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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

Contact

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