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# PQ 2023

## PQ PERFORMANCE: RARE EXPERIENCES



# VITAL INFORMATION

The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space invites proposals for PQ Performance. PQ Performance is a curated, non-competitive project that is part of the Prague Quadrennial Festival that will take place 8–18 June 2023 in Prague. Proposals are accepted from performance designers, directors, choreographers, performers and artists of all career levels, without any age limit. Students can apply to the PQ Studio Stage open call.

All performance formats operating scenographically will be considered. These include but are not restricted to site-specific, durational, conceptual, walking, running, sitting, visual performances, dance, theatre, puppet theatre, opera, and ritual.

## Curator

Carolina E. Santo

## Dates

Call published:

**31 October 2021**

Deadline for submission:

**31 January 2022**

Official announcement of included performances:

**31 May 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
- ◆ Video Author/Makers (if relevant)
- ◆ Sound recording Author/Makers (if relevant)
- ◆ Planned duration of your performance

You can also send the application via email [call@pq.cz](mailto:call@pq.cz) in case you have trouble filling in the form.

pany, who will need to be self funded. By selecting participating artists more than a year before the festival, it is our hope that participants will have the opportunity to secure funding from other organizations or grant bodies. PQ can provide needed documentation and letters of invitation in support of any grant applications undertaken by participants.

## Submission Details

Applicants should provide the submission form filled with the following information written in English, French or Portuguese:

- ◆ A written proposal of up to 500 words specifying the desired venue and how your performance responds to the space in terms of scenography
- ◆ A short biography of up to 250 words of the artist or company
- ◆ Link to a website or another platform displaying mediated files (audio, video, image) referring to previous, current or the proposed work itself
- ◆ Any non-English film should be subtitled in English

### Planned Locations of PQ Performances

All performance venues are outdoors, except for the National Gallery.

- ◆ The Prague Market (Pražská Tržnice)
- ◆ National Gallery / Veletržní palác
- ◆ Paths connecting different venues of the PQ
- ◆ Green city zones such as Letná Park, the Vltava River, etc.

## Please Note

PQ will contribute to the expenses of a small number of projects. PQ cannot cover the expenses or production costs for every participating artist or com-

# 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

Carolina E. Santo designs for theatre and performance. Her research has been supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian and the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundations. She completed a master's degree at the Zürich University of the Arts and a PhD at the University of Vienna.

Addressing scenography from a philosophical point of view has redefined her work as Geoscenography, suggesting that performance can reaffirm or renegotiate the notions of space, place and territory. Her site-specific and participatory performances develop complex spatial narratives for alternative productions of knowledge.

Her work has been presented at the Teatro Nacional D. Maria II in Lisbon, Nuit Blanche in Paris, Center of Contemporary Arts Magasin des Horizons in Grenoble, Site Specific Performance Festival at the Prague Quadrennial 2019. She has participated in several international conferences specialized in theatre and performance (IFTR, PSI, PQ, UDS) and also published internationally (Terre Urbaine, Routledge, Eres, Patrick Frey).

Her teaching experience includes visiting lectures at the Haute école de théâtre de Lausanne, La Manufacture; Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle; Université Paris 8; University of Regina, Canada; UTS Sydney, Australia; and Bratislava Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Slovakia.

# CURATORIAL CONCEPT

## RARE Experiences

Imagine a place where you can practice acrobatics, find your scuba diving gear, buy fresh fruit and vegetables from a local farmers market, purchase a hammer, a new carpet, or the latest laptop; meet your friends at the café, go to the theatre or a rock opera concert after having dinner on the terrace of a smokey food truck, while a Hollywood production is being filmed. And if you peel back the layers, be prepared to exhume ghosts and unveil the darker usages of this space. Welcome to the main venue of PQ 2023, Pražská tržnice, a city within a city opening to multiple possible worlds!

This is a call for inventive and resourceful artists to celebrate life as a rare experience of encounters. We encourage you to explore the potentials of performance as a scenographic ability to imagine, create and express new realities within existing realities, devise rare experiences and stage singular possible worlds – past, present or future. Let the vibrancy of this location defy the periods of forced isolation we have all experienced, in which mundane objects and everyday gestures of domestic life blended with our deepest fears, frustrations, and anxieties. How can we explore the humane potential of performance to celebrate the experience of being together in the world? How can we foresee the future of theatre and performance as a sustainable practice of encounters?

Think of what needs to be performed urgently. This is a moment for phenomenal states of presence and collective assemblages. Take responsibility, take care, be attentive to the connections between living systems as ecosystems and while doing so, let your secretive-, personal-, inner-, local-world become part of the world. Let these encounters inspire future presents. Let your performance reveal the potentials of space. Spread the space within you, expand it, share it and explore these rare experiences.

Bring your world to PQ23!

– **Carolina E. Santo**, PQ Performance Curator

## FR

Imaginez un lieu où vous pouvez vous entraîner à l'acrobatie, trouver votre équipement de plongée sous-marine, acheter des fruits et légumes à des producteurs locaux, vous procurer un marteau, un nouveau tapis ou le dernier ordinateur portable ; retrouver vos amis au café, aller au théâtre ou écouter un concert d'opéra rock après avoir dîné sur la terrasse d'un food truck enfumé, alors qu'une production hollywoodienne est en cours de tournage. Et si ce lieu vous intrigue, vous pouvez mener l'enquête pour réveiller ses fantômes et en dévoiler des usages plus sombres. Bienvenue au marché de Prague (Pražská Tržnice), qui accueillera la prochaine PQ23, une ville dans la ville où tous les mondes semblent possibles.

Ceci est un appel à célébrer la vie et à chérir la rareté de nos rencontres. Nous vous invitons à explorer le potentiel scénographique de la performance pour imaginer de nouvelles réalités, et créer des expériences communes qui mettent en scène la singularité des mondes possibles - passé, présent, futur. Laissons la vibration extravagante du marché de Prague éclipser les périodes de confinement forcé que nous avons tous endurées, et qui ont laissé nos peurs, nos frustrations et nos angoisses les plus profondes contaminer nos gestes quotidiens jusque dans nos espaces domestiques. Comment la performance peut-elle célébrer cette expérience unique d'être ensemble au monde ? Comment pouvons-nous envisager l'avenir durable du théâtre et de la performance en tant que possibilités de mise en commun et de rassemblement ?

Pensons à ce qui doit être raconté de toute urgence comme un acte de partage. Le temps est venu de créer des états de présence phénoménale et des expériences communes, mais aussi d'assumer nos responsabilités, de prendre soin de nous et des autres, d'être attentifs aux relations interspécies comme écosystèmes du vivant, tout en laissant notre univers local, intime et secret s'ouvrir au monde. Voyons comment ces rencontres peuvent inspirer des futurs présents. Laissons la performance révéler les potentialités de l'espace. Répandons l'espace qui est en nous, élargissons-le, partageons-le et savourons ensemble la rareté de ces rencontres.

Venez partager votre monde à la PQ23 !

– **Carolina E. Santo**, curatrice PQ Performance

## PT

Imagine um lugar onde é possível treinar acrobacia, alugar um equipamento de mergulho, comprar frutas e legumes a agricultores locais, adquirir um martelo, um tapete novo, ou o mais recente computador portátil, beber um café com os seus amigos, ir ao teatro ou a um concerto de ópera rock depois de ter jantado no terraço de um food truck fumegante, enquanto decorre a filmagem de uma superprodução de Hollywood. E se começar a investigar, prepare-se para encontrar fantasmas e desvendar os aspectos mais obscuros deste lugar. Bem-vindo ao mercado de Praga (Pražská Tržnice) onde vai decorrer a próxima PQ23, uma cidade dentro da cidade que se desdobra em vários mundos possíveis!

Esta chamada destina-se a todos os artistas que queiram celebrar a vida e a raridade dos seus encontros. Convidamos a explorar o potencial cenográfico da performance para imaginar, criar e expressar novas realidades, fabricar experiências comuns que realcem a singularidade dos mundos possíveis – passado, presente ou futuro. Deixemos a vibração extravagante deste mercado-cidade-mundo desafiar os períodos de isolamento forçado que todos vivemos, em que os gestos e objetos do nosso quotidiano se confundiram com as nossas frustrações e angústias mais profundas. Como é que a performance celebra a experiência de estarmos juntos no mundo? Como imaginar um futuro sustentável para o teatro e a performance como ocasiões para provocar encontros raros?

Pense no que tem para dizer já, de forma urgente. Chegou a altura de cultivar estados de presença fenomenais e coletivos, de assumir responsabilidades, de cuidar, de prestar atenção às ligações interspécies como ecossistemas vivos. E ao fazê-lo, deixar que o seu mundo secreto, pessoal, interior e local se abra ao resto do mundo. Vamos deixar que estes encontros inspirem futuros presentes, e que a performance revele a potencialidade dos espaços. Venha divulgar o espaço que existe dentro de si, expandi-lo, partilhá-lo e explorar estas experiências raras.

Traga o seu mundo para a PQ23!

– **Carolina E. Santo**, curadora PQ Performance

# 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

## Contact

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