

16th Prague Quadrennial

Open Call for Proposals
PQ Publication Cultures

The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space invites proposals for the upcoming PØ edition's program section PØ Publication Cultures.
The edition will take place in Prague, June 8–17, 2027.

About Prague Quadrennial

The Prague Quadrennial (PQ) is the world's largest event dedicated to scenography, performance design, and performance space. PQ aims to create opportunities for the presentation of contemporary scenography and performance design, to map and support innovative work in this field, and to provide an inclusive space for dialogue between professionals, students, and the wider public.

PQ combines elements of both an exhibition and a live art festival. Its program typically includes hundreds of exhibitions, installations, performances, workshops, and expert discussions, featuring both competitive and non-competitive program sections.

PQ 2027 is conceptually and organizationally managed, on behalf of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, by the Czech Cultural Institute based in Prague.

The 16th edition of the Prague Quadrennial will take place from June 8 to 17, 2027. Its main venue will be the Prague Exhibition Grounds.

Prague Quadrennial 2027 will explore the theme of *Absences and Silences as spaces of potential for new scenographic futures*. Absences and silences are not understood as voids, but as spaces of potential: As forms of historical and artistic reflection, or aesthetic and dramaturgical tools, and as testing grounds for thinking about new scenographic possibilities.

Learn more about the Artistic Concept, Theme, and the 16th edition of PQ in general [here](#).

PØ Publication Cultures in Program of PØ 2027

PØ

PROGRAM SECTIONS PREPARED BY
PQ CURATORIAL TEAM

PQ 60
PQ Performance Space
PQ Performance
PQ Talks
PQ Studio

☞ **PQ Publication Cultures**
This section is competitive.

PQ Hive: Kids, Youth, and their Families

EXHIBITIONS CURATED BY PARTICIPATING
COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

Exhibition of Countries and Regions
Student Exhibition

PQ Publication Cultures **highlights the rich variety of publications** produced about scenography, performance design, and performance space, while also **reflecting on how knowledge in these fields is shared and cultivated**. This includes books and journals, as well as a range of other formats and media, and, importantly, the knowledge communities that sustain and transmit this understanding.

An important part of this section is the **PQ Best Publication Award**.

Curator

Pavel Drábek

Open Call Timeline

- Call Published:
October 1, 2025
- Deadline for Submission:
September 30, 2026
- Longlist Announced:
January 15, 2027
- Shortlist Announced:
January 31, 2027
- Preparation Period:
February 1, 2027 – June 7, 2027
- 16th Prague Quadrennial
June 8–17, 2027

Submission

Please note that to submit your proposal, you will need to create a free account on PQ's online platform Eventival.

The proposal must be submitted in English.

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Contact

In case you have any questions or trouble filling in the form, please get in touch at call@pq.cz.

Curatorial Concept

Scenographers, theatre designers, and technology experts, scholars, as well as practitioners, create a global knowledge community. Together with publishing houses and institutions, they produce publications about contemporary and historical scenography and performance design. The PQ Publication Cultures program aims at exhibiting and promoting recent publications in the disciplines represented at the Prague Quadrennial, and sharing them with the global community. For PQ 2027, the PQ Publication Cultures program aims to particularly encourage connections within this global community and help the exchange of expert knowledge of scenography and performance design. This is to help the knowledge community, to give learning opportunities to students, and to promote an open culture.

The PQ Publication Cultures program includes:

- **PQ Best Publication Award:** an exhibition with a prize for the best publication, selected by an expert jury (see the call)
- **Author Readings:** a series of authors' readings from the shortlisted and selected publications, held at PQ 2027

PQ Best Publication Award

The PQ Best Publication Award is a competitive program that aims particularly at promoting and sharing recent publications in the disciplines represented at Prague Quadrennial, and connecting authors, editors, and publishers from across the world. We encourage opportunities that will allow the learning of innovative practices and the sharing of specialist knowledge.

Any book-length publication (or comparable) that has come out between November 2022 and September 2026 can be entered for the award and will be considered. We welcome publications from all scenographic disciplines and genres, such as costume, sound, lighting, set, mask, makeup, prosthetics, props, puppetry, stage technology, virtual and digital performance, installation art, visual and material dramaturgy, curations of public performance spaces, and theatre architecture, including studies of historical practices. We also wish to appreciate the quality of the submitted publication as an artefact in its own right.

All submitted publications that fulfil the criteria will be considered and will be promoted on the dedicated PQ website. The specialist jury will announce the longlisted and shortlisted publications in early 2027. The winners of the PQ Best Publication Award will be announced at the Award Ceremony during the course of the Prague Quadrennial 2027. The submitted publications will be exhibited and promoted online and onsite at PQ 2027.

Author Readings

As part of PQ 2027, a special series of authors' readings will be held with participating authors of shortlisted publications. Authors will present their publication and may also read selected passages from their work (in the original language), followed by a Q&A session (60 mins). Where possible, the publications may be sold and signed.

– Pavel Drábek

What Are We Looking For?

We seek publications and contributions that promote and share recent works in the disciplines represented at Prague Quadrennial, connecting authors, editors, and publishers worldwide. The aim is to facilitate the exchange of expert knowledge, support learning opportunities for students, and promote an open culture in scenography and performance design.

We welcome publications that:

- Cover all scenographic disciplines and genres, including costume, sound, lighting, set, mask, makeup, prosthetics, props, puppetry, stage technology, virtual and digital performance, installation art, visual and material dramaturgy, curations of public performance spaces, and theatre architecture, including studies of historical practices.
- Contribute to the global knowledge community and enable learning opportunities.

This call is open to:

- Authors, editors, publishers, and institutions from all over the world.

Eligibility & requirements:

- All submissions must fall within the broad disciplines of scenography and performance design, including relevant subdisciplines.
- **All submitted publications** that meet the criteria **will be considered** and presented on the PQ website.
- The publication needs to be **published between November 1, 2022, and September 30, 2026**.
- In the case of new journals, the first issue needs to fall into the eligibility period.
- PQ team members (program curators, jury members, etc.) may be longlisted or shortlisted but are **not eligible** for the award.

Formats considered:

- **Any book-length publication** (or comparable work), including monographs, journals, professional websites, and digital platforms with curated content, in physical, digital, or hybrid format.
- Publications in **any language and format** (physical, digital, hybrid).
- Monographs, special issues within series, journals, and professional websites and digital platforms with curated content, are also welcomed.
- New editions of earlier publications will be considered only if substantially revised, updated, or expanded.

Conditions of Participation

While excited to offer a platform for exchange, PQ cannot commit to fully cover submitters' expenses.

By selecting the long and short lists of authors ahead of time, it is our hope that they will have the opportunity to secure funding from other organizations or grant bodies.

PQ provides:

- For **all the submissions**:
 - inclusion on the PQ website and/or Digital Archives
 - acknowledgement within the edition's program
- For **all the long-listed** submissions:
 - inclusion in the catalogue of the edition
 - festival pass for submitter
- For participants of **Author Readings**:
 - **letters to support funding applications** (letters of support, recommendation, and invitation, tailored to funder requirements)
 - general technical and production support, individual needs upon discussion
 - discounted accommodation at partners hotels
 - festival pass

PQ cannot provide:

- funding for the creation of the publication
- covering travel and accommodation costs
- covering book shipping costs and any customs duties

Applicant provides:

- By submitting to the PQ Best Publication Award, the applicant grants **permission** to the Prague Quadrennial and its organizer **to exhibit the publication**, in its whole, onsite during PQ 2027, and to use associated imagery, excerpts, or texts for promotion, catalogues, archives, or retrospectives, in perpetuity. All other rights remain with the applicant.
- Applicant submitting publication(s) of a physical nature (prints) **provides two copies** of the publication to the PQ organizer. After presentation at PQ 2027, the copies will be catalogued in the specialized public library of the Czech Cultural Institute.
- Applicant is responsible for **covering the shipping costs** and any **customs duties**.
- Applicant provides a **digital copy** of the publication to PQ organizer. This copy is for jury review purposes solely and will not be shared in any other way.
- All submitted publications are obligated to **secure all necessary authors' rights and copyrights** for all components (design, photos, text, etc.) that will be utilized as part of their presentation. Applicant guarantees that PQ organizer will not be held responsible for any claims made by third parties.
- We encourage applicants to create an **introductory video for the publication of 3–5 minutes** in length, addressing potential readers. Applicants may opt in to have the video published as a part of the publication's presentation on the PQ website and/or its Digital Archives.

Proposal Requirements

- submitter's details
- publication title
- author(s) and contributors
- publisher and distributor information
- ISBN, ISSN (if applicable)
- website/URL (if applicable)
- relation of the submitter to the publication (author, publisher, translator, i.e.)
- abstract / annotation (max. 300 words)
- introductory video of 3–5 minutes in length
- digital copy of the publication, in the .pdf format or else (if applicable)
- electronic-only publications – please provide two representative printouts
- physical copies – please provide two copies of the publication to the PQ office by September 30, 2026

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Shipping of the physical copies

Please mark the package as „**Books for international competition – no commercial value, not for resale, cultural material**“ to avoid unnecessary delays caused by customs procedures.

Delivery address:

Prague Quadrennial
Czech Cultural Institute
Celetná 17
110 00 Prague 1
Czech Republic

Meet the Curator

Pavel Drábek is a Czech-British theatre historian and theorist, Shakespeare scholar, translator, writer and theatre practitioner. He has taught at the University of Hull (UK) as Professor of Drama and Theatre Practice (2013–2025) and at Masaryk University (1999–2012). He is a dramaturg and moderator with the Authors' Reading Month Festival (since 2019), and has been a programme curator and member of PQ's International Team since 2017.

He has been artistic director, manager and producer, award-winning author (playwright, librettist, composer, radio dramatist, translator), dramaturg, translator and adapter, actor and musician. He led the Ensemble Opera Diversa opera and music company (1999–2015). His publications include Otakar Zich's *Aesthetics of the Dramatic Art: Theoretical Dramaturgy* (Karolinum, 2024; co-ed. with David Drozd and co-trans. with Tomáš Kačer); *The Art of Making Theatre* (Bloomsbury, 2022; as co-author of Pamela Howard); and *Transnational Connections in Early Modern Theatre* (Manchester UP, 2020; co-ed. with M. A. Katritzky).

Pavel holds a Master's (Masaryk U, 1998), a PhD (Charles U, 2002), a habilitation (Masaryk U, 2010), and a professorship (U of Hull, 2013).

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[GET IN TOUCH: CALL@PQ.CZ](mailto:CALL@PQ.CZ)

Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space is initiated by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and organized by the Czech Cultural Institute.

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