

# 16<sup>th</sup> Prague Quadrennial

Open Call for Proposals  
PQ Talks

**The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space invites proposals for the upcoming PØ edition's program section PØ Talks. 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.

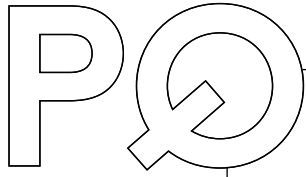
PQ 2027 is conceptually and organizationally managed, on behalf of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, by the Czech Cultural Institute based in Prague.

The 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> edition of PQ in general [here](#).**

## PQ Talks in Program of PQ 2027



PROGRAM SECTIONS PREPARED BY  
PQ CURATORIAL TEAM

PQ 60  
PQ Performance Space  
PQ Performance

☞ **PQ Talks**  
*This section is non-competitive.*

PQ Studio  
PQ Publication Cultures  
PQ Hive: Kids, Youth, and their Families

EXHIBITIONS CURATED BY PARTICIPATING  
COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

Exhibition of Countries and Regions  
Student Exhibition

PQ Talks are a **series of critical conversations** that explore contemporary scenography, performance design, and performance space in their different forms. It complements what can be experienced at Prague Quadrennial through exhibitions, performances, and workshops.

## Curators

Rachel Hann, Renato Bolelli Rebouças, and Barbora Přihodová

## Open Call Timeline

- Call Published:  
October 1, 2025
- Deadline for Submission:  
June 30, 2026
- Notification of Accepted Proposals:  
September 30, 2026
- Final Confirmation:  
November 30, 2026
- Preparation Period:  
December 1, 2026 – June 7, 2027
- 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:call@pq.cz).

# Curatorial Concept

We envision PQ Talks as a platform that inspires and enriches PQ's audiences with new ideas and perspectives. Drawing on PQ's overall theme of *Absences and Silences*, we aim to revisit forgotten histories, recognizing that looking back serves as a mirror for possible futures. We want to amplify new and marginalized voices, and create an inclusive space for collective reflection, imagining, and dialogue across diverse scenographic cultures. This section will offer opportunities for artists, scenographers, performance designers, and researchers, among others, at all stages of their careers and studies to express themselves, discuss their work, and open up broader issues surrounding contemporary performance design and space (including spatial design, costumes, light, sound, media, etc). We hope to explore what we have in common, as well as learn from our differences, and strengthen the cross-cultural, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational global community we constitute.

Three organizing themes frame the curatorial approach for PQ Talks, namely: **worlding\***, **surviving**, and **futuring\***. The three themes offer crosscutting forums for cultural, ecological, and technological perspectives.

In line with the three themes, we are especially interested in discussing the following questions:

## Worlding

- What is the role of design and designers in the performances of worlds?
- What do those who design performance have in common?
- What are the 'undercommons'\* of scenography that are invisible to institutions, whether networks, gossip, mentoring, knowledges, or practices?
- What are the challenges of rethinking scenography in a world in multiple crises (climate, ecological, political, economic, and human crises)?

## Surviving

- What are the marginalised imaginations of scenography—including costume, lighting, projection, sound, object, and spatial design—historically and today?
- What Ancestral, Global South, Black, working class, queer, trans, nonbinary, or technical histories and perspectives on scenography have been absent or silenced?
- What practices and perspectives decolonize, anticolonize, and countercolonize scenography?
- What is the role of scenography and performance spaces in wellbeing, community building, and personal understanding?

## Futuring

- What inspirations and innovations does scenography miss out on from other areas and disciplines, such as geography, sociology, archeology, visual arts, media, architecture, urban design, etc.?
- What does artificial intelligence (AI) do, and what might scenographers do with AI?
- What policies are needed to manage the introduction of AI into performance making?
- What are the emerging collaboration models and processes of scenography in terms of methodologies, techniques, technologies, and materials?
- What old, new, or renewed pedagogies afford insight into the relationship between practice and theory?

We also welcome proposals **outside the defined questions**, as we believe that PQ Talks should reflect the interests of the various communities that come together at PQ.

PQ Talks will feature a variety of formats, and we invite applications for **discussion panels (60 minutes)** and **individual flash talks (10 minutes)**. Professionals, academics, and students are welcome to apply. Alongside these open call formats will be curated keynotes and a new forum for open exchange, privileging student and emerging voices, alongside established ones, to share ideas and experiences at PQ. This will be organised in the lead-up to PQ and during the festival around key thematic areas.

– Rachel Hann, Renato Bolelli Rebouças, and Barbora Příhodová

**\*worlding** is a concept that proposes that all existence is made up of processes in constant motion and that multiple understandings of 'world' can co-exist depending on cultural, material, or sensory characteristics. This is different to understandings of 'the world' as fixed, static, or as a resource for human consumption. It is also different to 'worldview', which is a shared or individual culturally coded perspective on how ideas of world and politics combine. As applied to scenography, see Rachel Hann's *Beyond Scenography* (2019, Routledge).

**\*futuring** is a concept that considers how imaginations of 'the future' are produced through cultural and material contexts or assumptions. The action of futuring is speculative and looks to plot or map multiple possible futures. See Tony Fry's *Design Futuring: sustainability, ethics and new practice* (2018, Berg).

**\*undercommons** is a concept introduced by Stefano Harney and Fred Moten to describe the practices that exist within, beneath, and outside of institutions (such as universities, the state, or capitalism). Undercommons practices refuse to be captured or counted within metric systems and offer modes of resistance, solidarity, and survival against dominant institutional processes. See Fred Moten and Stefano Harney's *The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning and Black Study* (2013, Minor Compositions).

## What Are We Looking For?

We welcome proposals in the following formats:

- **Flash talks** (max. 10-minute presentation of an idea or a project, max. 2 speakers)
- **Discussion panels** (60-minute sessions, including Q&A time). Example formats include roundtables, curated papers, creative provocations, group performance lectures, etc.). Preferably, discussion panels' submissions should include contributions from at least two different countries/institutions/disciplines.

PQ Talks will be held **primarily in English**. We **welcome** contributions from presenters with **limited English** proficiency and those with **non-academic experience**. What matters most are your **ideas**, and we will help ensure they are communicated effectively.

We reserve the right to adjust the length and format of selected contributions in consultation with the applicants. In curating the program, we will do our best to accommodate your proposals and specific needs while upholding values of diversity and inclusion.

**Online presentations will not be supported.** Presentation materials will need to be sent in advance due to the technical production needs of the space.

→ **This call is open to students and professionals at all stages of their careers.**

## Location

Prague Exhibition Grounds, Křížík Pavilion, Prague, Czech Republic

## Conditions of Participation

*While excited to offer a platform for exchange, PQ cannot cover participating presenters' expenses.*

*By selecting participants well ahead of the event, it is our hope that participants will have the opportunity to secure funding from other organizations or grant bodies.*

### PQ provides:

- inclusion in the catalogue of the edition
- acknowledgement within the edition's program
- **festival passes for presenters**
- discounted accommodation at partner hotels
- **letters to support funding applications** (letters of support, recommendation, and invitation, tailored to funder requirements)
- general technical and production support, individual needs upon discussion

### PQ cannot provide:

- funding for the creation/production of the talk or the participants' travel costs

### Selected applicant provides:

- The selected applicant is responsible for the **creation of the talk and its realization** in Prague during the Prague Quadrennial 2027, in accordance with the talk's description as stated in their application.
- By submitting to the PQ Talks, the applicant grants **permission** to the Prague Quadrennial and its organizer to capture, reproduce, edit, and display the **recordings of the work** in any way it desires for non-commercial use, whether for promotion, retrospectives, catalogues, educational and research purposes, or archives, etc., in perpetuity. All other rights reserved.
- All projects are obligated to **secure all necessary authors' rights and copyrights** for all components (design, video materials, music, 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.

*Please point out in the submission form if such a wide copyright provision would be limiting for you due to the nature of the proposed talk.*

## Proposal Requirements

- submitter's details
- name(s) of presenter(s)
- talk format indication
- description of the proposed talk (max. 250 words), including the title, number of presenters
- short bio(s) of the presenter(s) (max. 100 words)

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## Meet the Curators

Dr. **Rachel Hann** is Associate Professor in Performance and Design at Northumbria University, Newcastle (UK). She researches material cultures of scenography, transness, and climate crisis. Rachel is author of *Beyond Scenography* (Routledge 2019), which was shortlisted for the Prague Quadrennial 2019 Best Publication Award.

In 2013, Rachel co-founded the international network Critical Costume, and in 2014, co-edited a special issue of *Scene* (Intellect) on costume. Her work in the formation of this network was shortlisted for the Theatre and Performance Research Association (TaPRA) Early Career Prize 2017 for 'leadership in costume and practice research'.

From 2024-2025, she is Principal Investigator for an AHRC Fellowship that examines the producing cultures for trans-led theatre and performance work in the UK. Rachel is also a former Chair of the TaPRA. From 2014-2018, Rachel was an Executive Officer for TaPRA, having previously co-convened the Scenography working group (2010-2013). She graduated with a PhD from the University of Leeds in 2011, after a BA(Hons) Drama awarded in 2005 from the University of Hull.

Dr. **Renato Bolelli Rebouças** is Brazilian scenographer, costume designer, visual artist, researcher, and professor at the Laboratory of Performative Practices, University of São Paulo, and visiting researcher at NYU's Performance Studies Department and the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics. He develops projects, studies, workshops, and curatorship in site-specific works, urban intervention, exhibitions, and scenographic installation, exploring space, memory, context, and imaginary. He leads the research platform Scenography Expanded from the Global South, connecting artists, researchers, and students globally.

He collaborates with artists, collectives, and institutions in theatre, dance, opera, exhibitions, and performance art in Brazil and the UK, including XIX Theater Group, Marta Soares, Teatro da Vertigem, Contact Theatre, Frank Castorf, Hiroshi Koike, and MAPA Theater, developing sustainable projects with discarded materials.

His research has been presented in Brazil and abroad in exhibitions, performances and conferences, including MITsp, Barbican Centre, Berlin Biennale, Volksbühne, Prague Quadrennial, World Stage Design, Museum of Contemporary Art Geneva, Contact Theatre, University of the Arctic (Tromsø), Unirio, among others. He received the Shell Theatre Award (2008) and Manchester Theatre Awards' Best Young Show (2016). He co-founded Grafias da Cena Brazil, Brazilian OISTAT Center, and their platform, and is also co-convenor of IFTR' SWG and Brazil's PQ 2023 curatorial team (Best Teamwork Award).

**Barbora Příhodová**, Ph.D., is a curator, researcher, editor, and educator specializing in modern and contemporary scenography. She has collaborated with the Prague Quadrennial since 2009, co-curated PQ Talks in 2019, and curated the program in 2023. Her work has been recognized by the Fulbright Research Scholarship, the Mellon Fellowship, and the New York Public Library Research Fellowship. She has lectured about scenography internationally and prior to joining PQ, taught at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and Villanova University (USA).

As a visiting professor, she regularly collaborates with the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (DAMU), where she also serves as a member of the Doctoral Studies Board. She is also a member of the Artistic Board at the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts in Brno (JAMU) and the editorial boards of the journals *Divadelní revue*, *Theatralia*, and *Theatre and Performance Design*.

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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.

[info@pq.cz](mailto:info@pq.cz)  
[www.pq.cz](http://www.pq.cz)

Czech Cultural Institute  
Celetná 17, 110 00 Prague  
Czech Republic  
Org. ID: 00023205  
VAT ID: CZ00023205  
[www.nipk.cz](http://www.nipk.cz)

