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PQ 2023

**PQ BEST
PUBLICATION AWARD
IN PERFORMANCE
DESIGN
& SCENOGRAPHY**



VITAL INFORMATION

The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space invites proposals for the Best Publication Award. Any book-length publication in the relevant subjects in any language is eligible. Publications can be monographs, theoretical and historiographic studies, as well as publications about practice, including new journals of performance design and scenography. In order to be eligible, the work needs to be published between 1 August 2018 and 31 October 2022.

Curator

Pavel Drábek

Dates

Call published:
31 October 2021

Deadline for submission:
31 October 2022

Official announcement of included publications:

January 2023 (long list), **March 2023**
(short list), **June 2023** (winners)

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

Submission Requirements

The submission to the PQ Best Publication Award needs to include:

- ◆ Two physical copies of the publication posted to PQ by the deadline; if the book is electronic, please send two printouts
(Please mind that the package should be marked as a "gift" to avoid unnecessary delays caused by the customs procedures. Note that the submitted materials will not be returned. All submitted books will become part of the Arts and Theatre Institute Prague Public Library open to thousands of students and professionals.)
- ◆ Electronic cover documentation comprising:
 1. a short synopsis in English (300–500 words)
 2. a short video in English (3–10 minutes) introducing the book
 3. a PDF of the publication (if possible, as this will help the jury access it)
 4. contact details for the publisher and author (or editor)
- ◆ The electronic synopsis will be displayed on PQ's website to help promote the submitted publications. This will be done in connection with the PQ Knowledge Exchange Platform (pq.cz/pq-knowledge-exchange-platform).

Address for Submission of the Publication

Prague Quadrennial
c/o Arts and Theatre Institute
Celetná 17
110 00 Prague 1
Czech Republic

Submission email for electronic cover documentation: call@pq.cz.

All electronic submissions need to have PQ PUBLICATIONS in the subject line.

To Submit Electronic Cover Documentation

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

CONTEXT

About PØ

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

Pavel Drábek is Professor of Drama and Theatre Practice at the University of Hull, UK, specializing in Shakespeare and early modern theatre, translation and adaptation, and theatre theory. He has edited the third, enlarged edition of Pamela Howard's *What is Scenography?* (2019) and her new book *The Art of Making Theatre: An Arsenal of Dreams in 12 Scenes* (2022), as well as numerous volumes, journal issues and a publication series. As a practitioner he founded and led the Ensemble Opera Diversa, a professional Czech company, and has written opera librettos, stage plays and radio plays, and has translated for different performance media.

CURATORIAL CONCEPT

PQ BEST PUBLICATION AWARD IN PERFORMANCE DESIGN & SCENOGRAPHY

All over the world, artists and creators, scholars and specialists as well as publishing houses and institutions produce a wealth of publications about contemporary and historical scenography and performance design. The PQ Best Publication Award aims at promoting and sharing knowledge about the recent books in the disciplines represented at the Prague Quadrennial, connecting authors, editors and publishers from across the world. We particularly encourage publications that are available in open access, and are keen to learn of innovative practices of sharing specialist knowledge.

Any book-length publication in the relevant disciplines that has come out in any language between 1 August 2018 and 31 October 2022 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 wish to recognize new and groundbreaking findings on any aspect of scenography and performance design – from underrepresented creators, techniques and cultural practices, to innovative methodologies in documentation, analysis and representation in the broadest sense of the discipline. 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. A jury will announce a long list in January 2023; a short list in March 2023. The winners of the PQ Best Publication Award will be announced as part of the awards ceremony at the PQ 2023 festival (8–18 June 2023).

– Pavel Drábek, PQ Best Publication Award 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

Contact

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