



Prague Quadrennial
of Performance Design
and Space

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CALL FOR PAPERS:

60 Years of PQ as a Meeting Place of Scenographic Worlds Online Symposium

Deadline for Application:

31 May, 2025

Date of the Online Symposium:

11–12 September, 2025

For nearly 60 years, the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space has been the world's largest exhibition and festival dedicated to scenography, performance design, and performance space. Since its founding in 1967, PQ has continuously evolved, navigating political and cultural shifts while remaining a vital space for scenographic experimentation and innovation. Taking place every four years without interruption, it has grown into a global meeting ground for performance designers, artists, scholars, and students, fostering interdisciplinary and intergenerational exchange across artistic and cultural differences.

As PQ approaches its 60th anniversary in 2027, we are preparing **PQ60**, a special program that will focus on the Prague Quadrennial in its transformations over the past 60 years. The aim of **PQ60** is not only to recognize PQ's continuous existence but also to reflect on its role as a platform for scenography worldwide and, ultimately, chart paths for the future.

Prague Quadrennial



Open call for an international online symposium

As one of the first activities of **PQ60**, Prague Quadrennial organizes an international online symposium. This symposium intends to open the discussion about PQ as a unique global phenomenon by foregrounding the local histories, national and regional contributions, and international collaborations that have shaped its identity since its beginnings. We would like to explore PQ's role in three main areas:

- developments of performance design, scenography and performance space;
- exhibiting and curating performance design, scenography, and performance space;
- and PQ's role as a platform for cultural diplomacy and exchange (particularly in the context of the Cold War).

Questions we would like to address include, but are not limited to:

- Over the 60 years, scenography, performance design, and the approaches to theatre architecture and performance space have evolved significantly. In what ways have artists, designers, curators, and researchers shaped the ideas of modern and contemporary scenography and space at PQ?
- PQ has been a platform for presenting numerous countries and regions, as well as various practices – but certainly not all. What artistic and curatorial visions from specific countries, regions, and international participants have been underrepresented in PQ's history?
- PQ has held different positions in various cultural and political contexts around the world, shaped by local histories, systems, and imaginaries. What images, what specifics, and what institutions have played a part in this history?
- The last 60 years have seen many political and cultural turning points and developments; the history has been rather eventful. What instances of censorship, restrictions or cultural regulations have occurred in the context of PQ? How have different countries, regions, or artists experienced and responded to them?
- Prague is a peculiar place in the centre of Europe. Coming to present at PQ is never without its challenges. How did different countries and regions negotiate their presence at PQ during the Cold War? What strategies did they use to navigate state-controlled cultural policies? How much has changed since then?

We are inviting the community around PQ – where various worlds of scenography come together – to gather and reflect on where the complex discipline of scenography and performance space stands; where the long history of our gatherings has brought us; and what paths we are on now. As artists, thinkers and scholars of scenography and performance space, let's articulate, express, and actualize how the scene around us is set.

**Formats:**

We welcome brief contributions that open discussion through concrete historic case studies. Contributions can take one of the following formats:

- Individual papers (15 minutes)
- Flash Talks (8-10 minutes)

Please indicate which format you think best suits your contribution. The program team reserves the right to adjust the length and format of selected contributions in consultation with the applicants.

The symposium will be held in English. We encourage contributions by presenters with a limited command of English; in curating the program, we will do our best to accommodate your proposals and specific needs.

How to submit:

Between 5 and 31 May, a submit form will be available at www.pq.cz/projects/pq60/. Please use this form to submit a description of your talk (max 250 words), a short bio (max 50 words), a title and an indication of the chosen format.

Important Dates:

- Call Published: 7 April, 2025
- Submit Form Opened: 5 May, 2025
- Deadline for Application: 31 May, 2025
- Notification of Acceptance: 15 July, 2025
- Confirmation of Participation: 31 July, 2025
- Date of the Online Symposium: 11–12 September, 2025

Questions should be directed to: call@pq.cz

Symposium Programme Team

Barbora Příhodová, PhD., is Artistic Director of PQ. She is a theatre historian with specialization in performance design and scenography. She has collaborated with PQ in various roles since 2008.

Anna Hejmová, PhD., is curator, researcher and author in the field of visual culture, theatre photography and theatre architecture. She is a member of The Academy of Performing Arts in Prague and PQ Archive Specialist.

Pavel Drábek, PhD., has been a programme curator with the PQ since 2017. He is Professor of Drama and Theatre Practice at the University of Hull (UK) and visiting professor at Janáček Academy of Performing Arts (CZ) and Charles University (CZ).

The Symposium is organised by the Arts and Theatre Institute, a contributory organisation of the Ministry of Culture Czech Republic.