

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

Open Call for Proposals  
PØ Studio

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

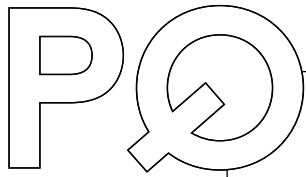
PQ 2027 is conceptually and organizationally managed, on behalf of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, by the Czech Cultural Institute based in Prague.

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 Studio in Program of PQ 2027



PROGRAM SECTIONS PREPARED BY  
PQ CURATORIAL TEAM

PQ 60  
PQ Performance Space  
PQ Performance  
PQ Talks  
 **PQ Studio**  
*This section is non-competitive.*  
 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 Studio is a space for learning, making, and experimenting. It invites artists, designers, researchers, and students to engage in hands-on workshops that explore various practices of scenography and performance design. From materiality and technologies to eco-conscious approaches and critical reflection of scenography, PQ Studio **offers opportunities to develop skills, exchange experiences, and create in a collaborative environment.**

## Curator

Markéta Fantová

## Open Call Timeline

- Call Published:  
October 1, 2025
- Deadline for Workshop Submissions:  
May 31, 2026
- Notification of Accepted Workshop Proposals:  
August 31, 2026
- Final Confirmation of Selected Workshops  
and Workshop Leaders: September 30, 2026
- Calls for Workshops' Participants Published  
October 1, 2026
- Deadline for Workshops' Participants Applications  
December 31, 2026
- Selection of Workshops' Participants  
January 1–31, 2027
- Notification of Selected Workshops' Participants  
February 1, 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.

[ENTER THE SUBMISSION FORM](#)

## 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

## What is PQ Studio

PQ Studio is the part of the Prague Quadrennial where learning, creating, thinking, and dreaming happen in the same breath.

It is where we meet in a room, or a street, or a park, or in our case, in a unique location of the historical water treatment plant, with people we didn't know before, to try things we have never tried before.

It is where we can step out of the well-worn pathways of our daily work and let the unexpected lead.

PQ Studio is not a classroom. It is not about perfecting. It is about trying, failing, and discovering in the company of others, in discussion with others, created for others to witness. It is a place for those hungry to learn something new, to teach something that might disappear if it is not passed on, to create something that could not exist anywhere else but here.

## Resonance with the main PQ 27 Artistic vision

The 2027 edition of PQ carries the theme *Absences and Silences* — not referring to those as to any kind of emptiness, but as spaces with potential for new scenographic moments.

In PQ Studio, we are seeking what has been overlooked, delayed, or forgotten. We are interested in the skills pushed to the margins, the ideas once deemed too strange or risky, the local traditions fading from view, the scenographic gestures so common we stop noticing them.

We want to work with the knowledge that is slipping away.  
We want to open the drawer marked *for later* and see what was left there.  
We want to explore the things that have been waiting in the quiet.

PQ Studio is for those who want to bring these absences and silences into form — not necessarily to fill them, but to work inside them, to see what they make possible.

## About the PQ Studio space

At the quiet edge of Stromovka Park stands the Bubeneč historical water treatment plant, a place of mystery, memory, and possibility. Once a vital part of the city's lifeline, it has spent decades in stillness, its grand halls and intricate machinery preserved like a time capsule of another era. Now, this building opens its doors to us as both a site of inspiration and a collaborator in our creative explorations.

Here, light filters through vaulted spaces, casting shadows on worn brick and steel that tell stories of engineering brilliance and care. Beneath, a labyrinth of tunnels invites us to step briefly into its cool, resonant depths, where the presence of water lingers in sound and scent. Gardens and open areas above ground offer contrast and breath, tying the industrial site back to the park's natural rhythms.

This site is more than a backdrop; it is a living archive of the city's past and a reminder of the artistry embedded in function. Its palpable materiality, the weight of stone, the texture of iron, and the layers of history offer a rare canvas for performance, scenography, and reflection. To work here is to be immersed in a dialogue with space itself: a conversation between water, air, machinery, nature, and time.

↓

**We especially welcome proposals that explore:****• Materiality**

We look for workshops that bring into focus some of the almost forgotten skills, overlooked techniques, and knowledge that risk fading from memory. Here, materials could become storytellers, textures that carry history, ephemeral substances that inspire wonder, and elements that are meant to be experienced by all of our senses.

**• Space & Sites**

The historic water treatment plant offers a canvas layered with history. There is an incredible maze of tunnels that will be open for exploration, though not for long stays, allowing them to remain special spaces for impactful moments and discoveries. The outside garden, ground-level spaces, and nearby Stromovka Park with the train line connecting the city center and PØ Studio location expand the possibilities for creative experimentation, offering a rich palette of environments. Imagine a workshop rooted in a place where water meets air, steel meets soil, and time is etched into every corner. Here, performances and installations can inhabit these unique spaces, turning the site into both stage and collaborator.

**• Technology**

This is an invitation to experiment with technology not only as progress, but as a process of reworking and rewiring the approaches and relationships we have with innovation. Rather than chasing the newest advancements, this workshop seeks to revisit everyday, outdated, or refurbished technologies and techniques, transforming them into unexpected scenographic actions, shared moments, and interventions. We would like to create a space for reimagining current and old technology in the context of scenography and performance design.

- NOTE: Workshops that feature the newest inventions and innovative technological approaches in performance design will be included in a separate section of the PØ Studio - Light Spot and Sound Spot planned for the space of the theatre ARCHA+.

**• Text, Body, and Object**

A devising laboratory where language, movement, and material collide. Set within a location rich in objects, textures, and spatial layers, this workshop invites bold reconfigurations of narrative and design. Participants are encouraged to play with scale, light, shadow, future thoughts, history, politics, or any ideas that are deeply rooted in the theatre tradition of storytelling.

**• Ecology**

Once a site dedicated to cleaning water, this location becomes a fertile ground for eco-minded scenography. The workshop emphasizes sustainable practices, from material selection to spatial design, architecture, lighting, costumes, and much more. Here, creativity aligns with responsibility, and the environment becomes both muse and a partner.

**• Critical Reflections**

We also seek proposals for a 5-day workshop engaging participants in collective thinking about the past, present, and future of scenography/performance design and performance space; their evolution and transformation. Preferably drawing on the context of what can be seen, felt, and experienced during PØ 2027, the workshop should create a shared space to think together about how performance design operates across different cultural, political, and artistic contexts, taking into consideration other languages than English, so the main focus is on mutual understanding rather than linguistic precision.

— Markéta Fantová

# What Are We Looking For?

We are seeking workshop proposals for:

- **short** workshops – 1 day
- **medium** workshops – 2 to 3 days
- **long** workshops – 4 to 5 days
- Each workshop should end with a **shared result** – whether a small exhibition, performance, gathering, walk, site-specific event, or another form that allows the PQ audience to experience the culmination of the work.
- Each workshop should be created for no less than 7 participants. Around **12 participants** would be considered a good, manageable group. However, we are not limiting creativity, and if there is an interesting and creative setup that is outside of usual workshop outlines that fits the call, applicants shouldn't hesitate to submit it.

This call is open to:

- workshop leaders from the fields of performance, design, and scenography
- practicing designers, architects, and technicians
- theatre makers, directors, and creatives
- educators, academics, and researchers in performing arts and design
- cultural administrators and arts managers
- interdisciplinary practitioners interested in sharing skills and knowledge in a hands-on setting

Please be aware that the workshops are to be **conducted in English**. If a workshop leader is not comfortable presenting in English, they should arrange—at their own expense—for interpretation.

At the same time, we encourage workshop leaders to consider possible workshop participants with limited command of English, as Prague Quadrennial is a worldwide platform.

## Location

**Historical wastewater treatment plant, Prague, Czech Republic**

Available spaces may include:

- industrial spaces, above and underground
- large main hall
- smaller lecture/teaching room
- adjacent outdoor maintained grassland

**Workshops that engage** with advanced **technologies** will be located in **theatre ARCHA+**, which offers both smaller and larger equipped **black-box spaces**.

Learn more about the venue at [www.staracistirna.cz](http://www.staracistirna.cz).

## Conditions of Participation

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

*By selecting workshop leaders well ahead of time, it is our hope that they 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
- **accommodation** for 1 workshop leader per selected workshop
- **stipend** of €160 for the first day and €120 for every additional day of the workshop
- **letters to support funding applications** (letters of support, recommendation, and invitation, tailored to funder requirements)
- workshop space and technical support
- basic workshop materials
- **festival pass** for workshop leader

### PQ cannot provide:

- travel expenses for workshop leaders

### Selected applicant provides:

- The selected applicant is responsible for the **creation of the workshop and its realization** in Prague during the Prague Quadrennial 2027, in accordance with the workshop's concept and parameters as described in their application.
- By submitting to the PQ Studio, the applicant grants **permission** to the Prague Quadrennial and its organizer to capture, reproduce, edit, and display the **recordings of the workshop** process and results 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.
- Should the workshop result in any kind of authorial work, the copyright to this work as such belongs to the author(s) exclusively.

### Please note:

- **After the workshop leaders are selected**, participants of the workshop **will be chosen via an open call** by the leaders in collaboration with the curator and the PQ team.

## Proposal Requirements

- submitter's details
- workshop title
- outline and description of the project (max 250 words), including:
  - basic timeline
  - learning objectives and outcomes
  - explanation of how the project responds to the curatorial concept
- workshop leader bio
- website link or links to previous work (if the proposed workshop framework had been used in some other setting by the applying workshop leader, the photos or any type of documentation of the past workshop results can also be provided)
- technical specifications
- any spatial and material needs
- number of participants you imagine working with
- skills or knowledge you need your participants to enter the workshop with

## Meet the Curator

**Markéta Fantová** is a performance designer, curator, and educator whose work transforms space into multisensory experiences. Her scenographic approach integrates materiality, lighting, costumes, and wearable art to create environments that invite audiences to see, feel, and inhabit the world differently. With over a decade of teaching experience in undergraduate and postgraduate programs, she is also a committed university educator and mentor. A cross-cultural collaborator and advocate for diversity, Markéta connects emerging designers to international networks through her curatorial work and leadership in global performance design initiatives.

From 2016 to 2023, she served as Artistic Director of the Prague Quadrennial. This role brought her into close contact with artists, theorists, and designers from over 100 countries and deepened her expertise in cultural diplomacy and international project development. She is currently developing a global education platform for lighting design as part of the New Robe Generation program. Her design work spans theaters and galleries across the U.S. and Europe, including projects with Prague Shakespeare Company, EgoPo Theatre, and numerous site-specific installations. Markéta has also held key academic positions and leadership roles in USITT and OISTAT, contributing to international education and exchange in the field of performance design.

[ENTER THE SUBMISSION FORM](#)[EXPLORE ALL PQ 2027 OPEN CALLS](#)[LEARN MORE ABOUT PRAGUE QUADRENNIAL](#)[GET IN TOUCH: 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.

info@pq.cz  
www.pq.cz

Czech Cultural Institute  
Celetná 17, 110 00 Prague  
Czech Republic  
Org. ID: 00023205  
VAT ID: CZ00023205  
www.nipk.cz

