



Prague Quadrennial
of Performance Design
and Space

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CALL FOR PAPERS:

Performing Exhibitions, Curating Scenographies

In-Person Symposium

Call Published:

October 1, 2025

Deadline for Application:

December 15, 2025

Notification of Acceptance:

February 5, 2026

Confirmation of Participation:

March 15, 2026

Date of the In-Person Symposium:

April 13–15, 2026

Venue:

ARCHA+ Cultural Space, Na Poříčí 26, 110 00, Prague, Czechia

Prague Quadrennial



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CALL FOR PAPERS

From models, renderings, and photographs to immersive environments, performative installations, and costumed walks, Prague Quadrennial has embodied a wide range of approaches to (re)presenting scenography over the six decades of its existence. After all, contemporary scenography in its diverse forms and genres and the ways it is curated and presented to the public lie at the very heart of what PQ is about.

Scenography, curating, and exhibiting each have their own distinctive features, yet they also share much in common. All three can be seen as performative acts oriented toward the audiences: they do something. They create affective and intellectual impact, they frame the space and time in which a work of art is experienced, they respond to the complex realities that surround us, and they are fundamentally grounded in the material resources and institutional infrastructures.

Recent rapid technological developments, as well as urgent environmental, social, and geopolitical concerns, have brought on new impulses while also posing challenges to how we practice scenography, curating, and exhibiting. These forces are reshaping the ways in which they intersect and evolve.

In preparation for its 60th anniversary edition in 2027, PQ is organizing an **in-person symposium** to explore the rich **interconnections between contemporary scenographic practices, curating, and exhibiting**, extending the conversation toward the year 2027 and beyond. As we gather in Prague to explore the venues of PQ 2027, we invite curators, scenographers, performance, costume, lighting, sound, and exhibition designers, as well as artists, and researchers in all stages of their careers to **reflect on and project the future developments** of these practices.

We are particularly interested in the following questions:

- Which methodologies, technologies, tools, and materials are shaping contemporary scenographic practices, and how can they be conveyed in the context of PQ?
- What new ways of presenting, performing, and exhibiting scenography are emerging in response to the current moment?
- How do contemporary scenographic practices shape exhibition-making, and how does exhibition-making inform scenography?
- How do digitality and AI transform scenographic, curatorial, and exhibition strategies?
- How can we share our worlds of scenography on a global 'stage' of PQ, engaging our audiences in dialogue without erasing differences?
- How can exhibitions become more sustainable—materially, environmentally, and socially, even as if they work across vast distances?
- What forms of care and responsibility should go into curating and exhibiting scenography?
- What models of (re)presentation might enable more democratic, inclusive approaches to scenography?



Formats:

Contributions can take one of the following formats:

- **Individual papers** (15 minutes)
- **Flash Talks** (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.

The symposium 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.

The symposium is conceived as an in-person gathering, enabling curators and artists to convene in Prague and directly engage with the spaces of PQ 2027. Online participation will be supported only in exceptional circumstances, particularly when distance or visa limitations prevent travel, and must be discussed with the PQ team in advance.

How to submit:

Please use the form below to submit a title and a description of your talk (max 250 words), a short bio (max 50 words), and an indication of the chosen format.

SUBMISSION FORM

Please note:

As a part of the symposium, participating curators and artists will be invited to visit and experience the venues of PQ 2027.

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Questions should be directed to: call@pq.cz

Symposium Program Team

Barbora Příhodová, Artistic Director of PQ and Curator of PQ Talks

Rachel Hann, Curator of PQ Talks

Renato Bolelli Rebouças, Curator of PQ Talks

The Symposium is organized by the Czech Cultural Institute, a contributory organization of the Ministry of Culture Czech Republic.