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PQ 2023

PQ STUDIO



VITAL INFORMATION

PQ Studio is an active educational platform consisting of three curated sections that promote the work and development of emerging artists, professional designers, and arts educators. The [UN]Common Design Project is a curated exhibit and discussion forum of international student design proposals resulting from a shared prompt: the RARE. PQ Studio Stage is a multi-day festival of performances by student and emerging artists held at venues throughout central Prague. And PQ Studio Workshops & Masterclasses offer experiential learning opportunities through exploratory and results-driven workshops for artists at all career levels. As an explorative, experimental, and reflective space, PQ Studio offers a wide variety of learning opportunities for students, educators, and anyone interested in gaining new experience, skills, and inspiration in the profession of theatre and performance design.

Curator

Patrick Du Wors

Locations of PQ Studio

DAMU / Prague Theatre Academy;
PQ Studio Stage venues: DISK Theatre and outdoor areas that create paths connecting different venues of the PQ

Curatorial Statement

The Studio is a place where art is born through human connection. The Studio may be a place where artists encounter each other in person to devise, rehearse, build, experiment, install or perform. The Studio may also be a place where an individual artist confronts and wrestles with a provocation from another artist in the form of an authored text, director's prompt, or dramaturg's research. In other words, a performance designer is never alone in their work; instead, human interconnectivity is the commonality in the Studio and is integral to the work of the performance designer.

In keeping with PQ 2023's artistic directive, RARE, PQ Studio will celebrate the magic of human connection, which lies at the heart of performance design. With this in mind, we will dig deep by asking: what is this RARE alchemy? What are these RARE experiences when people come together in space with the shared goal of making something astonishing happen? How do we conjure these experiences? And what strategies can be learned, shared, or debated to spark works of exceptional RARITY?

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PQ STUDIO TIMELINE

1 WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES

Dates

Call Published:

31 October 2021

Deadline for Submission:

31 May 2022

Official Announcement of Accepted Proposals:

31 July 2022

15th Edition of the Prague Quadrennial:

8–18 June 2023

2 THE [UN]COMMON DESIGN PROJECT

Dates

1 September 2022–1 October 2022

Performance design course leaders/instructors/professors submit the simple form below between 1 September 2022 and 1 October 2022 indicating they intend to participate by setting the [UN]Common Design Project as a course assignment or independent study (for advanced students).

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

1 September 2023–30 January 2023

Individual courses run the [UN]Common Design Project as part of their course program. Please note course leaders must select one project per institution to submit for possible inclusion in the exhibition at PQ 2023 by 31 January 2023. **Only one submission is allowed per institution.**

1 October 2022–31 October 2022

PQ will provide two webinars related to the project. PQ will post exclusive access to two webinars related to the Common Design Project. Exact dates and topics may vary from the description below.

1 October 2022 – Introduction to the project, Q&A led by Curator Patrick Du Wors and PQ Artistic Director Markéta Fantová. The exact time will be announced closer to the date. We will offer more than one time slot to cover all participants' time zones.

Date TBC – One additional webinar related to the project.

31 January 2023

Deadline for course leaders to submit ONE selected entry per institution, whether by individual designer or a team.

28 February 2023

Selected Candidates notified. Details of exhibition format announced.

8–18 June 2023

15th Edition of the Prague Quadrennial.

3 PØ STUDIO STAGE

Dates

NOTE: Call will be published:

15 January 2022

Deadline for Submission:

31 May 2022

Official Announcement of Accepted Proposals:

31 July 2022

15th Edition of the Prague Quadrennial:

8–18 June 2023

CONTEXT

About PQ

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 back-grounds; 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

Patrick Du Wors is a Canadian performance designer, working in a wide range of performance styles and production scales. From classical opera and text-based theatre, to contemporary devised work, Patrick's work has been recognized across Canada and internationally.

Patrick designed and curated the Canadian Exhibition Shared [private] Space at PQ2015 and served on the World Stage Design 2017 selection jury for the Emerging Artist category. Patrick curated the Prague Quadrennial's educational platform – PQ Studio's – for PQ 2019 and is delighted to do so again for PQ 2023.

The Canadian National Exhibition at PQ 2015 (Prague), World Stage Design 2017 (Taipei), and Critical Costume 2020 Exhibition (Oslo), all featured Patrick's design work. The Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology (CITT), the Dora Mavor Moore Awards (Toronto), the Critic's Choice Awards (Victoria), the Betty Mitchel Awards (Calgary) and SATAwards (Saskatoon) have recognized Patrick's work with both nominations and awards over the last decade.

Patrick is an Assistant Professor at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. He is a graduate of the University of Alberta's MFA Theatre Design program and apprenticed with the Royal Shakespeare Company in the UK.

patrickduwors.com

CURATORIAL CONCEPT

1 WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES

Active, experiential learning opportunities through exploratory workshops and results-driven workshops for artists at all career levels.

The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space invites proposals for Workshops and Masterclasses as part of PQ Studio that will take place in Prague, 8–18 June 2023. Submissions are welcome from a broad spectrum of applicants, including professionals and emerging designers, design educators and arts administrators.

Who Should Apply?

We are looking for practising designers, technicians, architects and other artists involved in creating performance, as well as educators, academics and arts managers from across the fields of visual and performing arts to lead workshops and masterclasses. Workshops will take place in the heart of Prague at the Theatre Academy of Performing Arts (DAMU).

Workshop Formats

Following the success of this model at PQ 2019, PQ Studio will be programming two distinct workshop types for 2023: A small number of results-driven, multi-day intensive workshops and a larger number of exploratory workshops and masterclasses.

Results-Driven, Multi-Day Intensive Workshops

PQ Studio will program a small number of results-driven, multi-day intensive workshops and a larger number of exploratory workshops. The results-driven workshops have a clearly articulated outcome, which will be performed, exhibited, or otherwise presented to the public at various locations in central Prague. The results-driven workshop proposals must clearly articulate the projected workshop outcome and how that outcome will be performed, exhibited, or otherwise shared with the PQ audience.

Results-driven workshops will take place 8–13 June and may range in length from 2–5 days. The workshop results will be presented to the PQ audience on 13 June 2023.

Exploratory Workshops

The exploratory workshop and masterclass proposals may be based on pure exploration, knowledge transmission, or tangible skill development of the individual participants. PQ will also invite academic, theory, history, criticism, and pedagogical discourse into the Studio, taking an essential pause from our creation cycles to reflect upon and look towards the future of performance design.

Exploratory workshops and masterclasses will take place 14–18 June and may range in length from 90 minutes – 4 days.

Curatorial Framework

In keeping with PQ 2023's artistic directive, RARE, we are looking for workshops that seek to uncover the magic of human connection, which lies at the heart of performance design. With this in mind, we will dig deep by asking: what is this RARE alchemy? What are these RARE experiences when people come together in space with the shared goal of making something astonishing happen? How do we conjure these experiences? And what strategies can be learned, shared, or debated to spark works of exceptional RARITY?

We encourage you to consider the following topics in relation to performance design and through the lens of RARE human connection:

- ◆ Social justice, de-colonization, the global climate emergency, and the impact of social media.
- ◆ Physical, material & ephemeral design techniques, processes and craft.
- ◆ Artistic strategies, including collaborative structures, visual dramaturgy, design-led creation, immersive design, text-based design, etc.

Other Considerations

In your proposals, we ask you to consider one or more of the following audiences:

- ◆ Students and emerging designers
- ◆ Established designers (professional development)
- ◆ Design educators (pedagogical development)
- ◆ Arts managers (professional development)
- ◆ Academics (history, theory and criticism)

Please also consider:

- ◆ The environmental impact of the materials and technologies shared.
- ◆ Materials and processes that are readily available globally.

Workshop Participants

Please note that participation in the results-driven workshops and select exploratory workshops will be by application. Each selected workshop leader is expected to be active in sorting applications for participation by recommending a cohort of participants for their workshop with input from the PQ Studio curator. Applications from potential participants will be distributed by 3 November, and workshop leaders will have two weeks to make their selection recommendation.

Dates

Call Published:
31 October 2021
Deadline for Submission:
31 May 2022
Official Announcement of Accepted Proposals:
31 July 2022
15th Edition of the Prague Quadrennial:
8–18 June 2023

To Submit Workshop Leader Applications

All proposals must be submitted through this application process.

1) Application for Exploratory Workshops & Masterclasses will require:

- ◆ Contact Information for Main Workshop Leader
- ◆ List of additional Collaborators/Presenters
- ◆ Workshop/Masterclass Proposal (3000 characters)
- ◆ List of up to 8 recommended skills for Participants
- ◆ 5 images and/or 1 video (10 mins or less) in support of the proposal
- ◆ Bio of Main Workshop Leader or Collective (1500 characters)

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

2) Application for Results-driven Workshops will require:

- ◆ Contact Information for Main Workshop Leader
- ◆ List of Additional Collaborators/Presenters
- ◆ Workshop Proposal including proposed public outcome/showing (exhibition, performance etc.) (3000 characters)
- ◆ List of up to 8 skills required for Participants
- ◆ 5 images and/or 1 video (10 mins or less) in support of the proposal
- ◆ Bio of Main Workshop Leader or Collective (1500 characters)

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

Please Note

PQ cannot cover participating workshop leaders' expenses; PQ will cover the rental of space, technical support, and workshop materials. Subject to available funding, PQ will offer accommodation for all selected workshop leaders (1 person per workshop). Results-driven, multi-day workshops leaders may also receive an honorarium. You can help ensure that we get as wide a range of participating countries as possible by waving your honorarium or expenses

if you already receive funding from other sources. This will enable us to offer additional support to artists without any support. PQ can provide needed documentation and letters of invitation to support grant applications undertaken by participants and presenters.

– **Patrick Du Wors**, PQ Studio Curator

2 THE [UN]COMMON DESIGN PROJECT

Call to Performance Design Educators and Students PQ STUDIO: [UN]Common Design Project.

A curated exhibit and platform for discussion of international student design proposals resulting from a shared prompt: the RARE.

In keeping with PQ 2023's artistic directive, RARE, PQ Studio will celebrate the magic of human connection, which lies at the heart of performance design. With this in mind, we will dig deep by asking: what is this RARE alchemy? What are these RARE experiences when people come together in space with the shared goal of making something astonishing happen? How do we conjure these experiences? And what strategies can be learned, shared, or debated to spark works of exceptional RARITY? PQ Studio [UN]Common Design Project will explore this process and its resulting products through a curated exhibition of student designs developed through design-coursework/assignment.

In a bid to expand the reach of this project, and in the spirit of openness to diverse forms of artistic practice, PQ Studio launches the 2023 [UN]Common Design Project calling for original performance design proposals that explores the RARE:

- ◆ RARE encounters between people, between cultures, and between worldviews
- ◆ RARE time and occasion for these encounters
- ◆ RARE spaces, environments and settings where these take place

Your work may draw on existing plays or scripts, legends or myths, but can also be devised, nonverbal or experimental. Most importantly, your work should give your PQ audience the RARE opportunity to encounter your culture, your world, and you through your art. The celebration of RARE is also an appreciation of difference and a reminder of the essential element of human connection in performance. Different cultural backgrounds, artistic impulses, and pragmatic circumstances are at the heart of our human relationships. The point of commonality in 2023 will be in the demonstration or facilitation of those RARE experiences where performance design is that catalyst for something truly astonishing.

With these provocations in mind, and in celebration of the practice, craft and artistry of performance design, PQ Studio: [UN]Common Design Project invites the international community of design for performance courses to prompt students and emerging designers to explore the RARE through their lens and to consider approaches meaningful to a contemporary audience. These projects may be conceived for any theatre, whether traditional proscenium, small and immersive spaces, found space projects, etc. Participating design courses will then be able to submit one project for the PQ Studio Team to consider. This project has traditionally been for performance and theatre design educators and their students, but we highly encourage any type of performing arts, science, visual art, new media, and architecture educational institutions and their student teams to join the PQ Studio 2023 [UN]Common Design Project.

As this project moves to a new format, the 2023 [UN]Common Design Project will catalyze a global discussion between students and educators exploring and designing for the provocation, RARE. Design courses (whether undergraduate or graduate) will individually set the project within their existing teaching structures, creating local conversations about this project and the diversity of artistic practices that fall under the umbrella of performance design. From traditional theatre to performative installation and immersive experience to forms we have perhaps not yet contemplated, we look forward to submissions demonstrating the continued evolution of live performance design by the next generation of practitioners.

Project Guidelines

A Total Performance Design on the provocation, RARE

- ◆ From the global health emergency to the climate crisis, to profound issues of social justice, students are encouraged to consider real and existential challenges facing humanity in their submissions.
- ◆ Submissions should be a total performance design (sometimes referred to as production design). At a minimum, this will include set/space design and costume design. Submissions may also include puppet design, projected media design, lighting design, and sound design. While these latter disciplines are more challenging to communicate in a theoretical state, we are excited to see creative solutions that showcase students' ideas in these disciplines.
- ◆ To be as inclusive of diverse collaborative practices and approaches as possible, submissions from individuals (single designer) and teams/groups (multiple designers) will be accepted.
- ◆ We encourage students and performance design educators to mix, fuse, and blur the lines between various disciplines to search for new approaches and new visions.
- ◆ In addition to artistic ideas, submitted projects will also be evaluated on the quality of craft of the visual communication tools for performance design, such as a model, storyboard, and costume drawings. Still, we are open to alternative forms of visual communication, such as 3D modelling, provided it can be exhibited effectively in a physical gallery.
- ◆ Submissions from undergraduate and graduate students will be accepted.
- ◆ Submissions must demonstrate a complete design vision and presented materials should be ready for a professional-level production.
- ◆ A short, project description and design concept that gives context and draws connection to the project prompt: the RARE. However, please keep in mind that we strongly discourage verbose writing as a substitute for visual communication.
- ◆ In keeping with the goal of openness and inclusivity, we have eliminated the registration fee for this iteration of the project.
- ◆ A final note to course instructors: we strongly encourage you to offer as much creative freedom as possible to your students within the structure of this project.

Selected Performance Design Submission Process and Criteria

The submission of your school's chosen project may include:

- ◆ Maximum 20 digital images showing the finished design proposal (each image may contain multiple costume plates or scenes in a storyboard, for example). As a reminder, we are looking to see a complete design for a professional-level production. Your students will have to find a way to condense this information into 20 images.
- ◆ Maximum 5 digital images showing the process.
- ◆ Maximum 5 minutes of projected media design content. Please include information such as a cue list or a description of where and how this clip will be used in your production. If including projected media in the total design, this also should be reflected in the storyboard.
- ◆ Maximum 5 minutes of sound design. Please include information such as a cue list or a description of where and how this clip will be used in your production.
- ◆ Design statement in English, written by the student designers – maximum 4000 characters (including spaces)
- ◆ A brief statement in English written by the course leader/instructor describing why this proposal was selected from those created at your institution – maximum 1000 characters (including spaces)
- ◆ The exact method for sharing your files with PQ will be communicated closer to the submission deadline. The initial selection jury and panel of international artists leading discussion and giving individual project feedback at PQ will be announced as soon as possible.
- ◆ Please note that while we are delighted to offer a platform to present the work of emerging artists, successful candidates will be responsible for transporting themselves and their design artifacts to Prague and be required to set up and take down their exhibit. All selected participants will also be expected to attend all scheduled critique and discussion sessions for the [UN]Common Design Project (tentatively 14–16 June 2023). PQ will provide needed documentation and letters of invitation in support of any grant applications undertaken by participants.
- ◆ Institutions of successful submissions are strongly encouraged to help support students' travel to PQ if their work is selected.
- ◆ If you have any further questions about the application process and registration form, please get in touch with viktorie.schmoranzova@pq.cz; for content questions, please contact the PQ STUDIO curator at patrickduwors@pq.cz.

Project Timeline

1 September 2022–1 October 2022

Performance design course leaders/instructors/professors submit the simple form below between 1 September 2022 and 1 October 2022 indicating they intend to participate by setting the [UN]Common Design Project as a course assignment or independent study (for advanced students).

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

1 September 2023–30 January 2023

Individual courses run the [UN]Common Design Project as part of their course program. Please note course leaders must select one project per institution to submit for possible inclusion in the exhibition at PQ 2023 by 31 January 2023. Only one submission is allowed per institution.

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31 January 2023

Deadline for course leaders to submit ONE selected entry per institution, whether by individual designer or a team

28 February 2023

Selected Candidates notified. Details of exhibition format announced.

8–18 June 2023

15th Edition of the Prague Quadrennial

3 PQ Studio Stage

A multi-day festival of performances by student and emerging artists.

The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space invites applications for PQ Studio Stage that will take place in Prague, 8–18 June 2023. This is an open international call for performances created by current students, as well as emerging artists who have completed a related degree or program within the last five years.

As one of the most energizing parts of PQ Studio, PQ Studio Stage will speak to our contemporary performance design experience through a multi-day festival of performances by students and emerging artists. PQ Studio Stage will present a programme of interdisciplinary work which promotes a sharing of theatrical languages, technologies, and techniques in performance, a learning experience for both audience and artist. Presented at multiple venues in the heart of Prague, PQ Studio Stage is an incredible opportunity for new companies formed by students and emerging artists to showcase their work through this international platform.

Venues

We invite proposals that could be presented at:

- ◆ The DISK theatre at the Theatre Faculty of Performing Arts (DAMU) – a multi-functional indoor black-box performance venue in the heart of Prague;
- ◆ One of several outdoor areas found along pedestrian pathways connecting the different venues of PQ including a public square, a park, and street space;
- ◆ Processional performances that move constantly and therefore do not take place in one specific location are also encouraged.

Curators

Patrick Du Wors
& Michal Lázňovský

Dates

Call Published:

15 January 2022

Deadline for Submission:

31 May 2022

Official Announcement of Accepted Proposals:

31 July 2022

15th Edition of the Prague Quadrennial:

8–18 June 2023

To Submit Applications

All applications must be submitted through this submission process. Application will require:

- ◆ Country or Region
- ◆ Name of College or University
- ◆ Name of Company or Collective
- ◆ Name and Contact Information for Performance Organizer: this individual will be main point of contact with the PQ Team
- ◆ List of additional Collaborators/Presenters
- ◆ Performance Title
- ◆ Preference of Space
- ◆ Description of Performance/Installation (3000 characters)
- ◆ 5 Images and/or 1 Video (10 mins or less) in Support of Application
- ◆ Overview of Company/Collective (1500 characters)
- ◆ Proof of current registration in a program of study or proof of graduation within the last 5 years (this is to ensure all participants are currently students or emerging artists)
- ◆ Technical Requirements for Performance
- ◆ Estimated Length

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

Please Note

Please note that this is a fringe-style festival and all costs, including travel and accommodation in Prague are to be covered by the participants. As presenter, PQ Studio Stage will provide the venue and basic technical support. It is our hope that by announcing the selected performances well in advance, participants will have the opportunity to secure funding from other organizations and/or granting bodies. PQ will provide needed documentation and letters of invitation in support of any grant applications undertaken by participants.

Who Should Apply?

We are looking for students and emerging artists from across the fields of visual and performing arts to bring their work to the heart of Prague, and to become part of the incredibly vibrant international community that comes together every four years for the Prague Quadrennial. PQ Studio: Festival will present a wide range of work including theatre, music-theatre, opera, dance, performance art, puppetry, new circus, and drag. We also welcome installations containing a performative element. With that in mind, we are entirely open to all forms of artistic expression and are looking for work that is both visually innovative and exciting. We are especially interested in submissions where performance

design is a strong and integral element of performance. We are less interested in conceptual, directorial, or dramaturgical approaches where performance design plays a subservient role.

Language

Our aim is for the performances to be cross-culturally accessible. English is the preferred language, but performances in other languages with universally/globally understandable concepts will be considered. Performances for interior venues may be subtitled if subtitles can be provided and operated by the performers/company.

I. DISK Theatre Considerations

- ◆ Successful applicants will be given an afternoon or evening slot. Performances may be a maximum of 1 hour long and should also feature a short post-show discussion with the performer (and mentors if present) about the pedagogy and/or artistic process involved in creating the work.
- ◆ Each performance will have a maximum of 2 hours to install their work (set up), 1 hour to perform, 30 minutes for the talk back, and 30 minutes to return the space to its original, clean state (strike).
- ◆ The DISK Theatre is an indoor performance space with flexible seating arrangement as well as basic lighting and sound capabilities. The technical specifications can be found at the link below.
- ◆ Due to the festival nature of PQ Studio Stage, technical support is limited. However, we encourage applicants whose work is more technically demanding to bring their ideas forward, and to discuss this further with us.
- ◆ DISK Theatre technical information: divadlodisk.cz/en/technical-information

II. Alternative Space Considerations

- ◆ Successful applicants will be offered performance slots in a public space in Prague. For these alternative space performances in particular, consideration must be given to the arrangement, viewpoint, and experience of the audience, which will be made up of students, professionals, and general passers-by.
- ◆ These performances should be entirely self-contained and not require any technical support.
- ◆ There will be no power source available; all equipment must be battery powered.
- ◆ The performances should use easily portable technologies and not require a stage.
- ◆ There will also be no storage, dressing rooms, or toilet on site. Please note that the space in which your piece is performed or exhibited must be returned to the state in which it was found.

- ◆ Applicants should choose one of the following types of spaces that will be located between DAMU in the heart of Prague, and the main exhibition site in Prague 7:
 - ◇ A street or passageway
 - ◇ A park
 - ◇ A public square
 - ◇ Processional (moving) performance

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

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

Phone: +420 224 809 118
E-mail: pq@pq.cz
Web: pq.cz

Follow us on social media:
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