16th Prague Quadrennial

Open Call for Proposals
PQ Performance Space

The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space invites proposals for the upcoming PQ edition's program section PQ Performance Space. 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.

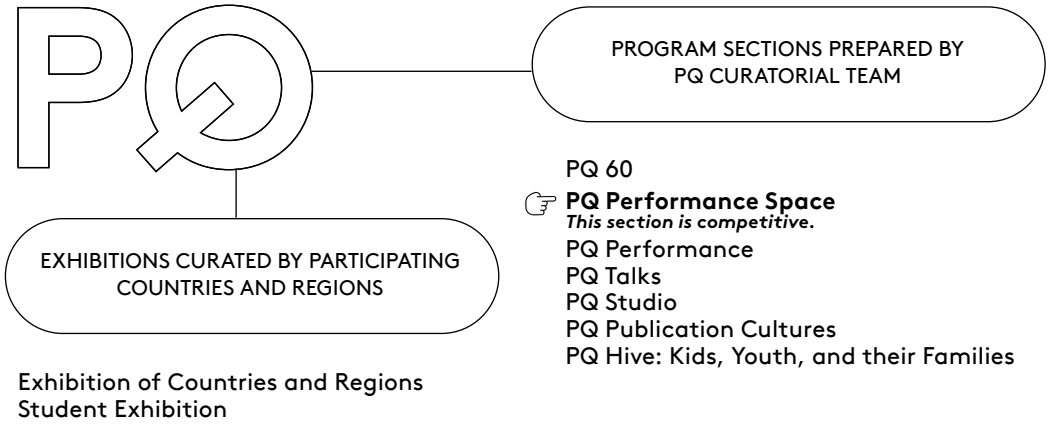
PQ 2027 is conceptually and organizationally managed, on behalf of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, by the Czech Cultural Institute based in Prague.

The 16th 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 16th edition of PQ in general here.

PQ Performance Space in Program of PQ 2027



This section builds on previous editions of Prague Quadrennial that expanded the traditional section of theatre architecture into a more encompassing presentation of performance space. It aims to present ***a range of spaces where performances emerge***. These spaces are not limited to buildings as static containers, but may include places that have been built, repurposed, or transformed into gathering sites for shared performance experiences.

Curator

Sara Franqueira

Open Call Timeline

- Call Published:
  October 1, 2025
- Deadline for Submission:
  January 31, 2026 – EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 28, 2026
- Notification of Accepted Proposals:
  May 1, 2026
- Final Confirmation:
  October 31, 2026
- Preparation Period:
  November 1, 2026 – June 7, 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.

A Room of Our Own
Curatorial Concept

In 1928, Virginia Woolf, in *A Room of One's Own*, argued that to write fiction, a woman needed both financial independence and a room of her own. Financial independence provides agency over time; a room secures physical space. According to Woolf, time and space are the essential conditions for artistic invention.

Naming an absence is the first step to transforming it into potential.

Nearly a century later, this remains pertinent. Space—*a room of our own*—is the prerequisite for us to create, conceive, and explore in the performing arts. Who, these days, remains without rooms, and what are the implications? Who controls space, and for whom is it offered? How do spaces confine or liberate, obstruct or enable?

In other words, to call any place a room of our own is to claim a space for experimentation, emancipated from rigid schedules or suffocating production demands, much as access to a room once enabled women writers in the 1930s to pursue intellectual and creative liberation. This exhibition seeks to display rooms of our own—they may be chambers, gardens, cubicles, benches, or boxes—places where the relationship between space, artistic practice, and free, unrestrained experimentation is not secondary but constitutive.

What do these rooms of our own look like? How do they work? What is the space that allows us to experiment? And what if our needs lie not only in grand theatre buildings or fleeting occupations of existing venues, but somewhere else—in experimental and micro-theatres, in utopian or queer theatres, in rooms whose very imperfections and specificities allow us to claim them as our own?

With the aim of revealing the importance of space in and for performance to a wider audience, we invite practitioners and thinkers to document places that already exist, to present future visions, or to imagine particular alternatives, as long as they manifest a *room of our own*.

Importantly, the rooms we are looking for, hopefully from all over the world, can only be at the PQ by means of representation. They reach us through an exhibition, which is itself a room full of absences. What other absences does this particular exhibition carry?

To begin to answer this question, let us consider: When you think about performance space, what comes to mind? Is it performance spaces (purpose-built, architectural) or performative spaces (those shaped by performance design)? Or is all space a kind of performance? What distinctions arise between formulations such as Space ***for*** Performance, Space ***as*** Performance, Performance ***in*** Space, or Performance ***with*** Space? As you prepare your entries, how might these shifting formulations inspire or challenge your own approach to space and performance?

An exhibition is a space for critical speculation because naming an absence is the first step to transforming it into potential.

We hope that soon, every community, group, or practice will have a room of their own. Until then, this exhibition invites participants and visitors to name the absences.

– Sara Franqueira

What Are We Looking For?

We seek proposals that consist of ***one*** or a ***collection of two*** or ***three objects*** responding to the curatorial concept:

- These may be different ***representations of the same space/room***, or 1–3 distinct spaces/rooms.
- ***Maximum number of submitted objects: 3***
- Submitted work must be ***no older than 10 years.***

The selected objects may take any form that can be transported or transferred digitally, including: images, drawings, texts, physical objects, models, or audio-visual files.

This call is open to:

- architects
- students
- set designers
- emerging artists
- performance designers
- scenographers
- experienced directors
- visionary thinkers

→ Everyone is invited to present a room of their own.

Naming the submission:

- Each submission should include a ***title*** that ***introduces a critical relation***, selecting a ***word or phrase*** between the words "Space" and "Performance".
- In order to do that, you may use the example below and replace the question mark with a word or phrase to critically frame your proposal as a whole:

Project title*: Submitter's Name and Surname: **Space (?) Performance**
e.g., *Jane Doe: Space for Performance* or *John Doe: Space as the essence of Performance*

or

Project title*: Submitter's Name and Surname: **Performance (?) Space**
e.g., *Jane Doe: Performance yet Space* or *John Doe: Performance or my type of Space*

*There can be more words instead of the question mark, up to 10 words.

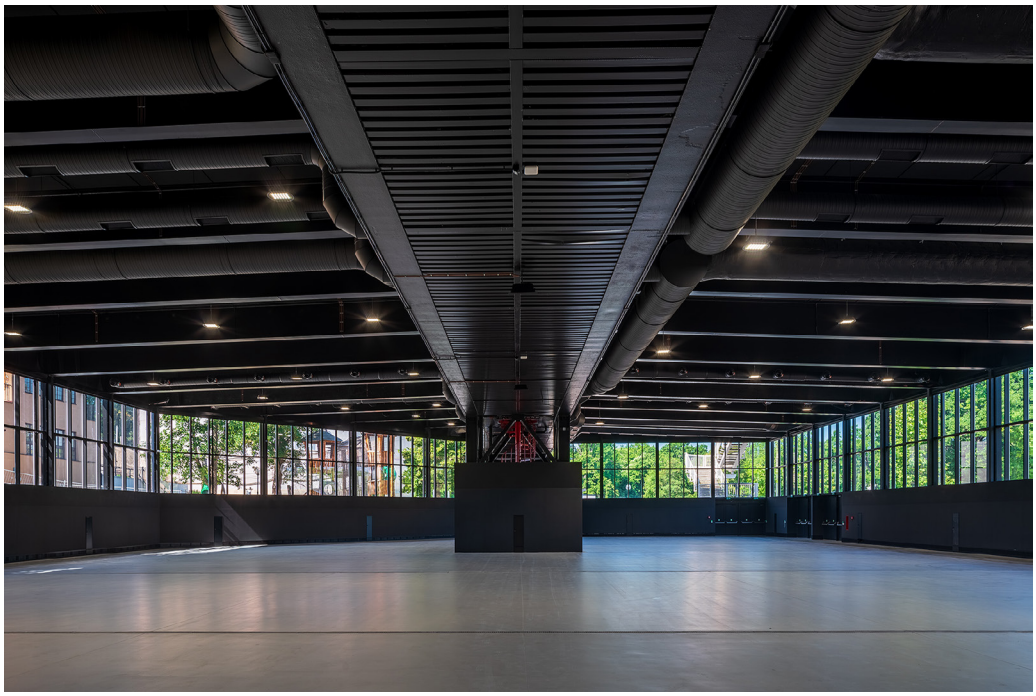
Examples of possible submissions:

- An image of a building, a scale model of it, and a sketch—brought together under the title *Space for Performance*.
- A drawing of a theatre that would be perfect if it existed, but does not exist yet, with the title *Space to simple Performances*.
- An image of a public space, a conceptual drawing, and a performance photograph—titled *Space as my Performance*.
- A choreographic diagram and a textual description of a space with the title *Space in Performance*.

Different approaches are encouraged depending on each participant's profile and form of expression.

Location

Prague Exhibition Grounds, **Křižík Pavilion**, Prague,
Czech Republic



Conditions of Participation

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

By selecting participating artists more than a year before the event, it is our hope that participants will have the opportunity to secure funding from other organizations or grant bodies.

PQ provides:

- **shipping support**: PQ will participate in the shipping costs and will provide insurance for shipped objects
- inclusion in the catalogue of the edition
- acknowledgement within the edition's program
- **festival passes** for the project team
- discounted accommodation at partner hotels
- **letters to support funding applications** (letters of support, recommendation, and invitation, tailored to funder requirements)
- professional handling of objects, including their installation and deinstallation

PQ cannot provide:

- funding for the creation/production of the work or the participants' travel costs

Selected applicant provides:

- The selected applicant is responsible for **executing the project** in accordance with the project's concept and parameters as described in their application, and will co-manage the transportation of the objects.
- The **objects** (up to 3) are **submitted as one whole**. If the project is chosen, all of them will be included in the exhibition.
- By submitting to the PQ Performance Space, the applicant grants **permission** to the Prague Quadrennial and its organizer to capture, reproduce, edit, and display the **recordings and images of the work** 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.

Please note:

- Artists **must consult** with the organizer in advance if submitting ***large/heavy works***.
- PQ can connect PQ Performance Space participants with the curators of the Exhibition of Countries and Regions or the Student Exhibition to collaborate on the shipping process.
- The final **spatial arrangement and exhibition design** are **determined** by the **PQ Performance Space curator**.
- Once selected, the artist shall **provide** the object/s and lend it/them for the **entire duration** of PQ 2027.

Proposal Requirements

- submitters details
- project title
- number of submiter's object(s)
- title of object(s)
- statement of curatorial concept (max. 500 words)
  - explanation of how the title relates to the selected object(s)
  - description of how the proposal responds to the curatorial concept
- indication of material, format, dimensions, and nature of each object

Meet the Curator

Sara Franqueira holds a PhD in Theatre Studies (FLUL) with research on contemporary scenography, a Master's in Artistic Studies (FLUL) focused on the dialogue between scenography and visual arts, and a degree in Architecture (FAUTL). She currently teaches History and Theory of Performance Design, Aesthetics and Contemporary Art, and Performative Devices at ESTC – Lisbon School of Theatre and Cinema, having also taught Performance Space and Contemporary Visual Culture at ESTAL.

Her work spans transdisciplinary and participatory projects as well as authorial projects in cultural mediation.

She designs exhibition spaces and curates artistic content, having co-curated the Portuguese Student Section at the 2023 Prague Quadrennial and coordinated the Portuguese Performance Space section in 2015.

As a performance designer, she is author of more than 60 performance spaces presented in more than 20 different national venues. She is part of an architecture partnership, the "Lado Esquerdo", where she collaborates on renovations and interior projects.

She has worked with multiple art institutions and moderated conversations such as *Architecture and Theatre – Giving Place to the Event or Emerging Conversations*, on performing arts for young people.

She co-founded 3 theatre companies and is an active member of APCEN – Portuguese Association of Scenography, where she served on the board and as president.

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LEARN MORE ABOUT PRAGUE QUADRENNIAL

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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.

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