

Press release
September 15th, 2020

Set out to see Signal Festival now. Three light works are on display also before and after this year's festival days.

Signal Festival has prepared 3 installations that will liven up the public space and Hauch Gallery in Karlín not only during this year's festival days but also before and after. The installation by Czech artist Markéta Jáchimová was lit on September 8th as part of the festival Praha Září in the middle of the Industrial Palace vestibule. The neon installation celebrating the 125th anniversary of Pražská tržnice by Michal Škapa was revealed last weekend. This year's novelty includes a special interactive exhibition for children called Signal Playground: Biosy by the Slovak visual artist Boris Vitázek, which takes place in Hauch Gallery, Karlín. It is going to be launched together with the festival on Thursday, October 15th and will continue up until October 31st.

Signal Festival has joined the event called Praha Září. The vestibule of the Industrial Palace at Výstaviště Praha was livened up on September 8th by an installation created by **Markéta Jáchimová**, a young artist active on the Czech and Swiss artistic scene. Jáchimová studied contemporary sculpture and painting at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague and Fine Art and Media at the University of Zurich. She became well-known in 2010, when she placed her politically and ecologically themed ice sculpture of ex-president Václav Klaus in the gardens of the Czech Government Office, whose ice bust was left to slowly melt in the sun. Her object called *The Machine* materializes the contrast between urban and rural landscape, between a human, a machine which can turn into a tool of bad conduct in human hands and a peaceful tree and between global problems and economic growth. The installation is a critical metaphor and gesture. It points to human greed which causes excessive logging and deforestation. The artist treats the topic of ecology minimalistically while managing to leave a strong impression. The partner of the project is DOOSAN company.

Pražská tržnice celebrates 125 years of existence. **Michal Škapa**, who belongs among the most outstanding authors of Czech graffiti scene, has created a new large neon object on this occasion, called *The Torchbearer*. Škapa was inspired by the statues of a bull and a human at the entrance to the area of Pražská tržnice. The neon painting of a bull and its human guide now becomes changeable. It is animated by gradual switching on and off of its lights. The bull symbolizes strength and unrestrained passion. The human figure represents a torchbearer who you can easily follow to unexplored parts and boldly step out into the unknown future – just like Pražská tržnice, which is embarking on a new journey right. The neon realization for Pražská tržnice represented an immense challenge for the artist. He has been working with the medium of neon for the past five years. In his free art, Škapa often combines neon tubes with his canvasses or uses neon as a solitary element in construction of complex objects. After all, *The Torchbearer* is composed of more than 150 neon tubes. It will be on display if not permanently, then at least for a year.

“Michal Škapa’s work on the premises of Pražská tržnice is an important step for us. It has been our long-term goal to leave a permanent artwork in the public space and extend our activities all year round. Our company Signal Production is not just Signal Festival, albeit it is the most visible. We are happy that we managed to find a place where the installation can stay for at least a year. Moreover, Pražská tržnice is a location with an excellent future ahead and has just undergone a series of conceptual changes. We hope that Michal Škapa’s installation will become a symbol that will stay in Pražská tržnice forever. At the same time, we are delighted that this has happened on the premises within the Praha 7 district where Signal Festival is headed this year for the first time. Thus, a deeper connection between Holešovice and the festival can be established,” says festival director Martin Pošta.

Another novelty is an interactive digital exhibition aimed at child visitors which will begin with the first day of the festival and will continue until October 31st. The installation *BIOSY* by the Slovak new media artist **Boris Vitázek** transforms the space of Hauch Gallery in Karlín into one lively, playful and educational digital ecosystem. The combination of gaming design, data visualisation and the very interaction of visitors creates a dynamic metaphor of a natural ecosystem. The visitors follow the birth and death of life and the way people can influence nature’s health. On workdays, the exhibition will be complemented by creative workshops for schools organized by Signal production in cooperation with the Maker Fair and Máš Umělecké Střevo? Projects.

The eighth year of Signal Festival will offer altogether 15 installations along 3 festival routes through Holešovice, the Old Town and Karlín. The streets of Prague will be lighted up from Thursday, 15th October to Sunday, 17th October 2020 always from 7 p.m. to 12 p.m. Most of the festival programme is free, entry to the 4 paid installations can be easily acquired via a single ticket – Signal Pass. The pass is available for 200 CZK by September 20th, 2020, from September 21st, 2020 up to the festival opening for 250 CZK and on the spot for 300 CZK. The festival map is available for download this year on the festival website free of charge by courtesy of ING company.

About Signal Festival:

Signal is a festival of digital and creative culture. It connects contemporary visual art, the urban space and modern technologies. It has become the most visited cultural event in Czechia. The programme is composed of renowned foreign and Czech artists from the area of light design, visual and digital art, AI and conceptual art. The festival enjoys educating itself as well as its visitors. It links the historical backdrop of beloved Prague with state-of-the-art technologies and contemporary social issues. Signal festival is one of the greatest producers of contemporary art in our country. It supports the youngest generation of local artists and originated the creation of over seventy installations that were created especially for the festival. It organizes side-events for children, professional public and students. It cooperates with numerous foreign festivals and cultural institutions.

The 8th year of Signal Festival will take place from October 15th to 18th, 2020.

Every day from 7 p.m. to 12 p.m.

More information on www.signalfestival.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SignalFestival

Instagram: www.instagram.com/signalfestival/

Acknowledgments:

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Contact for media:

Nikola Lörinczová, nikola.lorinczova@piaristi.cz, +420 605 560 277

Michaela Hečková, michaela.heckova@piaristi.cz, +420 732 972 007