

## **Signal Festival in Holešovice for the first time. Visitors safety is a priority for the organizers.**

**The eighth year of the festival will offer 15 installations and a rich off programme.**

The eighth year of Signal Festival will present 15 artistic installations to its visitors. As a novelty, a new festival route around Holešovice will add the popular routes through Karlín and the historical recesses of The Old Town. The umbrella theme of the festival is the hot issue of Plan B. The organizers, together with the visual artists, want to reflect on what they can do for Planet Earth and how to behave sustainably. Simultaneously, many artworks react to this year's pandemic situation. This year will present some of the most outstanding Czech artists, such as Milena Dopitová, Jiří Černický or the designer duo Vrtiška & Žák, as well as renowned foreign studios. Thorough security and hygienic measures consulted with epidemiologists will be employed at all times. The festival of digital and creative culture will take place from Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

The festival year 2020 represents new challenges. Signal Festival is planning new locations with limited capacity and a number of measures to ensure maximum safety for its visitors. *"The theme of the festival is Plan B. Originally, we had in mind environmental issues, deforestation of the landscape, accumulation of waste or carbon footprint. However, everything took a new course in the spring of 2020. From the very beginning of the crisis it was clear to us that we wanted to continue with festival preparations and that we wanted it to take place. Security measures have been intensively consulted with leading Czech epidemiologists. We have reduced the time that visitors spend in one place and thus also the overall length of the installations, which run in a loop. The installations are planned to last no more than 15 minutes. We are also planning strict hygienic measures for the festival staff as well as frequent disinfection of all festival spaces. Naturally, we must count with all kinds of scenarios",* explains festival director Martin Pošta.

The greatest novelty of this year is the new festival route around Holešovice. Among the keenly awaited artworks belongs the magnificent 3D projection by the Spanish studio **Onionlab**, which will transform the familiar environment of the Industrial Palace at Výstaviště Holešovice into a unique experience.

With respect to the limited travel options caused by the global pandemics, and in line with the effort to avoid contributing significantly to the carbon footprint naturally caused by the presence of foreign authors, this year's festival is substantially focused on the presentation of Czech visual artists. Most notably, the conceptual artist interested in social issues **Milena Dopitová**, will present her kinetic object *Jeff* at the waterworks on Štvanice island, drawing our attention to the consequences of the sick existence of modern society on the nature around us. **Jiří**

**Černický**, the visual artist, creator of experimental and intermedial projects and head of the Painting Studio at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague will prepare a mysterious and compelling projection of water creatures hidden in ocean depths which can, curiously, transform into bearers of a clear ecological message. His installation, *Archaic Topicalities*, will be placed in the wonderful scenery of the gardens of St. Agnes Convent. An interactive, playful and energetically independent kinetic installation *Blooming of Spring* has been created for the festival by the designer duo **Roman Vrtiška** and **Vladimír Žák**. The visitors can come and set in motion their techno-flowers in front of the Main Point Karlín building.

Another popular item on the programme is the video mapping projection onto the church of Ss. Cyril and Methodius on Karlín Square. *"We like to explore other possibilities of the genre. German Studio **Weltraumgrafik** offers an interesting interpretation of the festival theme. Their projection is abstract and hypnotic. They react to the global pandemics which has changed everything, but not only to the worse. Catastrophe can be seen as a new beginning. Such positive, even utopian, visions of the future are precisely what we were looking for. We don't want to be only negative and sad. Together with the artists, we would like to search for unusual solutions and alternative scenarios,"* says the festival programme director, Matěj Vlašánek.

Signal Festival is systematically dedicated to promoting young Czech artists. The winner of Signal Calling open call in cooperation with PrusaLab, **Kateřina Blahutová**, will capture the visitors with her playful crowdfunding interactive installation *Living Forest* which reacts to the topic of deforestation of the natural landscape. The festival has established extensive partner cooperation with **Time-Based Media** studio at the Faculty of Art and Design of the Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem. Its students will present their installations in the Klementinum courtyard.

The festival off programme will take place on multiple locations this year. Michal Škapa has prepared a neon installation commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Prague Market. On October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, Archa Theatre will host an audio-visual performance *Vektroskop*. The full-length programme in Petr Nikl's scenography will be lighted by Patrik Sedlák's design and Davida Vrbík's lasers.

The festival map will be newly available on the festival website. The ticketing system has also been simplified. The four paid installations of the main programme located in the Industrial Palace at Výstaviště, Planetárium Praha, Hauch Gallery and the gardens of St. Agnes Convent can be accessed after the purchase of Signal Pass. The pass is available for 200 CZK by September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, from September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 up to the festival opening for 250 CZK and on the spot for 300 CZK. Several other off programme events are charged. This year we have introduced a family ticket. The festival pass for a family of 2 adults and up to 3 children can now be bought for 600 CZK, after September 21<sup>st</sup> for 750 CZK and on the spot for 900 CZK.

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*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*

*od 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 8<sup>th</sup> year of Signal Festival will take place from October 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

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

*More information on [www.signalfestival.com](http://www.signalfestival.com)*

*Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SignalFestival](https://www.facebook.com/SignalFestival)*

*Instagram: [www.instagram.com/signalfestival/](https://www.instagram.com/signalfestival/)*

*Acknowledgments:*

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