

“The uncertainty on the side of the state is terrifying for culture,” says Martin Pošta. Signal Festival will take place under strict hygienic measures this year

Government measures change every week. Culture events that are to take place this autumn are thus being prepared with feelings of uncertainty and fear. Since the spring, Signal Festival has been preparing a series of its own strict measures in cooperation with safety experts to allow for a smooth course of the festival. The safety of visitors is the top priority for festival organizers.

Signal Festival has launched the campaign **#signalsrouskou**. All of the festival fans are urged for their consideration and preparedness. All visitors are required to wear masks in all festival spaces, both indoor and outdoor. The hygienic safety measures for Signal Festival are prepared according to the effective regulations and government measures in cooperation with experts from the Prague based institution Crowd Safety, which has also participated at the preparations of safety measures for the first wave of the pandemic of covid-19 for the Office of the City of Prague or coordinated the safe course of the 17th November celebrations in 2019.

*“We communicate daily with the Regional Hygiene Station for the city of Prague, which is familiar with the festival format and all of our precautions. We have regularly consulted the situation with leading Czech epidemiologists; particularly the Czech chief hygienist, Jarmila Rážová. Apart from all of our own precautions, we also kindly ask our visitors for their consideration. The 4-fold rule – masks, distance, disinfection and respect – is the least everyone can do. The prospects for culture under the terms of the new government measures are unclear to say the least. Nobody knows the rules that will be valid in October and thus we cannot predict what to do and what to get ready for. The uncertainty on the side of the state is terrifying for all culture organizers. However, this weekend’s declaration of the minister of culture, Lubomír Zaorálek, gives us hope. We firmly believe that the government will implement a similar strategy in order to save Czech economy, with also involves the culture industry. In the meantime, we are planning everything in line with our best conscience and the experience of experts from the security and hygiene companies. The safety of our visitors is a clear priority for us,” say festival director **Martin Pošta**.*

Signal festival has limited the time that visitors spend in one place to a minimum. Likewise, the length of installations that run in a loop has been shortened – no installation thus requires viewers to stay longer than 15 minutes. All festival spaces have newly been modified to allow for keeping a safe distance. The organizers will also prevent crowding or queueing of visitors outside the exhibition areas.

All indoor capacities have been properly limited and adjusted to guarantee safe distancing. All of the indoor spaces are liable to heightened hygienic measures such as regular disinfection, marked spacing, functional ventilation and proper use of air-conditioning. Disinfectants will be

available at all places of physical contact of people with the surrounding environment – such as in the areas of toilettes, entrances, exits, banisters etc. The indoor areas will be overseen by managers responsible for their disinfection. The system of inspection will be set strictly as it is standard for example at the petrol stations toilettes.

We are also planning strict hygienic measures for the festival staff. The workers that get in touch with the visitors, such as the organizers, cashiers or ushers must sign a declaration of health. All of them are bound to wear masks at all times, as well as gloves when in direct physical contact with the visitors.

The eighth year of Signal Festival will offer 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 currently available for 200 CZK and on the spot for 300 CZK. The festival map can be downloaded from the festival website available 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 15th to 18th October, 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/

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