

Signal Festival will light up Petřín. Krištof Kintera will turn the Petřín Lookout Tower into a lighthouse symbolizing hope for Czech culture.

Signal Festival will not take place this autumn after all. The organizers were forced to cancel the event last week in response to the new coronavirus restrictions. Despite that, the eighth year of the festival of digital and creative culture will be launched – at least symbolically. On Thursday, 15th October, at 7 p.m., which was the intended opening time of the festival, the visual artist Krištof Kintera will light up the Petřín Lookout Tower. *The Lighthouse* installation symbolizes hope for Czech culture. In this way, the festival will conclude the week of activities called Lighthouses of Czech Culture

The people of Prague could see *The Lighthouse* installation for the first time in 2013 at the very first year of Signal Festival. It represents a memory of the harsh beginnings as well as the support of Czech culture. *The Lighthouse* is a confident expression, a vision of the future and joy in the hard times experienced by the cultural scene. By lighting up the lookout tower on the Petřín Hill, Signal Festival organizers will join the activities of Lighthouses of Czech Culture and #majakprokulturu which have been lighting up since Monday throughout the whole country in the places where concerts, film screenings, exhibition openings or theatre performances would have taken place were it not for the pandemic. The imaginary launch of Signal Festival on Thursday is also the conclusion of the week-long activity Lighthouses of Czech Culture organized by the Játka 78 theatre.

“The lighthouse symbolizes protection and security. The light that shines out of darkness. The hope that we all need so much right now. Petřín will be lit symbolically on Thursday, 15th October at 7 p.m., when the eighth year of Signal Festival would have been launched under different circumstances. We had long believed that we would be able to realize the festival and bring some optimism into the sad autumn of Czech culture. This did not work out. But we do not give up. We are looking for a way to bring some joy to people’s lives. Right now, the cultural scene has been receiving one blow after another. We must support it; we must keep on creating. The lighthouse is immensely significant for us. It was present at the very beginning of the first Signal Festival in 2013 and it is back again. Something like a Blaník knight, I would say,” says Signal Festival director **Martin Pošta**.

The Lighthouse is a visual installation. The organizers absolutely respect the state of emergency and security measures that must be kept in the current situation. The character of the installation will allow viewers to watch it on their own, on their way back from work, or while they go for a walk. Any gathering of people for the purpose of watching the installation is impossible.

Signal is a festival of digital and creative culture. It connects contemporary visual art, urban spaces and modern technologies. The eighth year of Signal Festival, which was to take place from Thursday, 15th October to Sunday, 18th October, 2020, intended to offer 15 installations on 12 locations along 3 festival routes. The new route through Holešovice was to complement the popular routes in Karlín and the Old Town. This year's theme is Plan B. Together with the visual artists, the festival intended to address environmental issues and provide an artistic take on the effects of the pandemic on human life. Among the best-known Czech artists to exhibit their works was Milena Dopitová, visual experimenter Jiří Černický or the designer duo Vrtiška & Žák. The festival was cancelled after a meeting with Roman Prymula. The new plans for this festival year and the intended exhibits will be announced by the organizers in the following weeks.

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 was to take place from 15th to 18th October, 2020.

More information on www.signalfestival.com

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