

Press release, 1st September 2022

Signal Festival celebrates 10 years. It will present the work of Maxim Velčovský, Refik Anadol and a light production in collaboration with the National Theatre

This year's Signal Festival will present the work of the famous Czech designer Maxim Velčovský, a light production in collaboration with the National Theatre and a unique work of the famous digital artist Refik Anadol created from city data by IPR Prague. The festival will take visitors to Vršovice for the first time ever. It will offer a total of 15 installations on 2 festival routes – The City Centre and Vinohrady/Vršovice and will take place from 13th to 16th October. It will also be complemented by a rich week-long accompanying programme at Kunsthalle Praha, CAMP and the U Betlémské kaple Gallery.

The tenth edition of the festival will be spectacular. The biggest international star is **Refik Anadol**, a new media artist, designer and pioneer in the field of art working with artificial intelligence. His unique work, created from urban data of Prague will be introduced by the Institute of Planning and Development of the Capital City of Prague (CAMP). The artist will create a unique installation for the Signal Festival that has never been seen anywhere else in the world. The work, in which the festival's curators are heavily involved, will be on display until 6th November 2022.

"Refik Anadol is one of the world's most sought-after digital artists today. We are very lucky to have known each other for many years. He has followed Signal Festival from afar, but this year he has created a tailor-made installation for us. The tenth edition is a celebration of creativity and art, so I'm extremely happy that many important Prague institutions such as the National Theatre, Kunsthalle Praha, Vzlet and Czech Technical University have joined us to celebrate the first big anniversary with us. Signal Festival has already been visited by more than 3 million people, which I think is great. Now we have another decade ahead of us, lots of new projects and new challenges. For this year we have also prepared the biggest gallery zone yet and a rich week-long accompanying programme," says Signal Festival director **Martin Pošta**.

One of the best-known Czech designers, **Maxim Velčovský**, will create a spatial light installation on Mariánské Square in response to the war in Ukraine. The installation, titled *The Physical Possibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living*, consists of burnt-out cars imported directly from war-affected areas. They are accompanied by stories of Ukrainian citizens who lost not only their cars, but often all their possessions and loved ones. The project is created in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine in Prague.

Signal Festival and Kunsthalle Praha will present the work of one of the most successful contemporary Czech artists on the NFT scene, **Ondřej Zunka**, who has worked for brands such as Nike, Prada, Adidas, Puma, Apple and MTV, among others. However, his artistic work primarily uses an immersive hyperrealistic aesthetic. His work PHOTOSYSTEM II lets

visitors into the secrets of photosynthesis, without which we could not exist on our planet. The work will be on display at Kunsthalle Praha until 21st November 2022.

In collaboration with the multimedia and multi-genre ensemble of the National Theatre Laterna magika, Signal Festival will present a production combining video mapping and dance. LUNAtic is directed by choreographer, performer, writer and one of the most prominent figures of experimental dance and physical theatre **Miřenka Āechov**, who was inspired by the work of French surrealist poet Joyce Mansour and Czech surrealist poet Jana (Honza) Krejcarov. The production will take place in the premises of the Kateřinsk Garden, which is part of the General University Hospital.

Visitors will also go to Vrřovice for the first time this year. For example, they can look forward to the captivating projection *Creaturae* by the Hungarian video mapping artist **Lszl Bordo**s. The work will be projected onto St. Wenceslas Church on Svatopluk Āech Square. The Vrřovice Chateau, on the other hand, will welcome the legendary **CLOUD** installation consisting of thousands of light bulbs, which appeared at the first edition of the festival in 2013. The international programme of the Signal Festival will be made possible thanks to the support of the PPF Foundation.

The accompanying programme of the tenth edition will shed light on current trends in visual art, but it will also look back at the past. The panel discussion Signal Talks at CAMP will introduce the most prominent Czech artists who have exhibited their works at the festival in the past, such as Federico Daz, Milena Dopitov, Kriřtof Kintera or Michal řkapa. A debate will take place at Kunsthalle Praha, which will give visitors a detailed insight into the current trend of NFT art. The accompanying programme also includes a series of multimedia performances V E K T R O S C O P at the Planetarium Prague or a joint exhibition by Michal řkapa and Michal Cimala at the Bethlehem Chapel Gallery.

This year, visitors can enjoy the Signal Festival in peace, safety and comfort. Kooperativa has prepared recommendations on how to enjoy the festival under the name *For Signal as it is*. Some of the useful tips, which will also be available on the festival website, include a free festival app, a tip for a quiet Sunday visit, child-friendly venues and the quickest way to find helpful festival volunteers.

Most of the programme is free. This year, however, Signal Festival is planning a unique and largest ever gallery zone in its history. This includes an impressive large-format projection by Refik Anadol (CAMP), a hyper-realistic work by Ondřej Zunka (Kunsthalle Praha), and a dynamic play of laser beams by Japanese artist Shohei Fujimoto (St. Salvator Church), a theatre performance by Laterna magika (Kateřinsk Garden), an installation by the young Prague collective Tabula Rasa (Vzlet cultural crossroads in Vrřovice) and a moving light installation by the French studio Collectif Scale (Herold Gardens). For these installations you need to buy a Signal Plus ticket, which allows you to visit the works repeatedly. The Signal Plus ticket is now available for 240 CZK and from 21st September for 290 CZK. It will be available at the venue for 340 CZK. A ticket for the whole family, which includes 2 adults and up to 3 children, can now be bought for 650 CZK, from 21st September for 800 CZK and on site for 950 CZK. For the first time ever, it is also possible to purchase a Signal VIP ticket, which allows visitors to enter the gallery zone just one hour before the official opening of the

programme (6 p.m. – 7 p.m.). They will also avoid any queues, as with the Signal VIP ticket they can immediately join the beginning of the programme. Signal VIP can be purchased until 12th October for 1,690 CZK, and on site for 1,990 CZK.

About Signal Festival:

Signal is a festival of digital and creative culture. Signal brings together contemporary visual art, urban space and modern technology. It has become the most visited cultural event in the Czech Republic. The programme consists of renowned international and Czech artists from the fields of light design, visual and digital art, artificial intelligence and conceptual art. Signal Festival is one of the largest producers of contemporary art in the Czech Republic. It supports the youngest Czech artists and organises accompanying programmes for children, professionals and students. It cooperates with a number of international festivals and cultural institutions. The 10th edition of the festival will take place in 2022.

The festival is supported: by the City of Prague – Signal Festival is supported by a grant from the City of Prague in the amount of 4 000 000 CZK, Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, State Culture Fund of the Czech Republic

Main partners: Mercedes-Benz, Kooperativa, ČEZ Group

The international programme of Signal Festival 2022 is supported by the PPF Foundation.

Official partners: Pražská plynárenská, PlayStation

General media partner: Czech Television

Main media partners: Czech Radio, JCDecaux, Reflex

Festival journal: Deník N

VIP Partner: Forbes

Media partners: Art&Antiques, CZECHDESIGN, Prague Morning, Hey FOMO

Partners: Technology of the capital city Prague, Prague 1, Prague 2, Prague 10, PrusaLab, Centre for Architecture and Urban Planning, Kunsthalle Praha

Official carrier: Official Transport Authority of the City of Prague

Hotel partner: MeetMe23

More information at: www.signalfestival.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SignalFestival

Instagram: www.instagram.com/signalfestival/

Media Contact:

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

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