

Press release, 3rd October 2023

The 11th Signal Festival will be open to all. It will offer an audiovisual, theatrical and performance programme for the whole family, including a unique exhibition for children. For the first time ever, it will extend to the outskirts of Prague

The 11th Signal Festival is confidently entering its second decade. For the first time ever, with a three-year curatorial concept, the first chapter of which will kick off the week-long festival programme on Monday 9th October. It will present a series of discussion panels, exhibitions and 20 multimedia installations, 13 of which will be freely accessible on two festival routes – The Centre and Karlín / Holešovice. A third satellite route this year will lead to the outskirts of Prague, where Signal will bring to life a trio of existing art sculptures by Federico Díaz and Jiří Příhoda with audiovisual projections. The festival is also thinking of its youngest visitors and their families. For the first time ever, it will present a special installation designed specifically for children, which will be open every day from 2:00 p.m. Signal Festival has long been trying to make festival venues accessible to all its visitors without distinction, which is why this year most of the installations will be wheelchair accessible.

A multimedia programme that will appeal to everyone

The eleventh edition of the Signal Festival will launch the first chapter of a new curatorial concept called **Ecosystems**. This will focus on the exploration of new frontiers and possibilities in our world, constantly changing due to the influence of modern technologies or artificial intelligence. This theme will be intersected by a total of **20 multimedia installations on two festival routes – The Centre and Karlín / Holešovice**. *"The 11th edition removes barriers and tries to show that Signal Festival is open and for everyone. Therefore, it will offer a total of 13 free installations for all its visitors. Families with children, fans of light, sound, theatre, as well as performative and participatory projects will find something to enjoy. It will offer works that have a social impact, but also themes related to the support of young artists or to development, environmental issues and the sustainability of digital art. We are preparing accompanying exhibitions and panel discussions, and for the first time we will also light up the outskirts of Prague, so that visitors no longer have to come to the centre of Prague to see us,"* says Jakub Zeman, the festival's operations director.

The festival programme this year will feature **light, sound and immersive** installations, but will also offer a **theatre or performance programme**. Visitors can look forward to, for example, the large-scale interactive work ***Thermal Drift*** by renowned Mexican-Canadian artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, which will create real-time portraits of themselves in Lyčkovo Square through thermal cameras. Hall 13 of the Holešovice Market will then be literally engulfed by ***Horizon***, the largest immersive installation of this year by Spanish audiovisual studio **Playmodes**, which will play with the perception of space. Canadian studio

Iregular will show an endless virtual waterfall created from mobile phone lights and their vibrations through their interactive installation **As Water Falls** at the Fruit Market.

Signal Festival will also present for the first time a two-year **participatory social project** by the famous Czech conceptual artist **Kateřina Šedá**. She will create a Prague version of the phenomenal Pacific Crest Trail especially for the festival, which visitors will be able to take next year. This year, they can at least get involved in its preparation at Lyčkovo Square.

Signal Festival, in cooperation with the **Museum of the City of Prague**, will offer visitors another unique experience - before the official completion of the reconstruction, the second floor of the main building in Florence will be open only during the festival. **Laterna Magika** will present its theatrical-performative project **Emotional Memory**, which will refer to the most important technological and ideological milestones of this multimedia ensemble of the National Theatre. The director of the performance is **Tereza Vejvodová**. **The Church of St. Salvator** will offer a unique sound installation **Immersion: Submerged in Sound** by **Michal Rataj** and **Jan Trojan**, complemented by a scenographic realization by **Dragan Stojčevski** originally created for the production King Oedipus at the National Theatre. The sound installation is created on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Czech Radio.

Signal Festival will light up the outskirts of Prague

The Signal Festival will not only take place in the centre of Prague. For the first time ever, the eleventh edition will extend beyond the main festival routes. At Bořislavka, Letná and Rustonka, the festival will present its satellite installations – a trio of permanent artworks in public space by **Federico Díaz**, **Jiří Přihoda** and **Zdeněk Sýkora**, which will be enlivened by light and sound projections. With the **Satellites** project, Signal Festival wants to draw attention to existing works that it considers to be of high quality and would like to show them to visitors in a new light. Patrons of the installations are KKCG, KKFF, Aricoma, Bořislavka Centrum and White Star Real Estate.

13 installations open to the public for free

Since its beginning, Signal Festival has been trying to bring the best of contemporary art to all its visitors, which is why this year **part of the festival programme is free**. The free installations will feature several prominent Czech artists, led by **Jan Kaláb**, whose sculptural installation **Irideus Bulla** will play a game of perspective and colour, or **Dagmar Šubrtová**, whose installation **Axis Mundi** will literally fill the Old Town Square. This year, Signal Festival will present **two popular video mappings** – Hungarian artist **András László Nagy** will light up the **Municipal Library** building on **Mariánské Square** and the iconic **Church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius** on **Karlínské Square** will be brought to life by the Japanese studio.

A programme for the whole family

The Signal Festival is also thinking of its youngest visitors. This year, it will present the first ever interactive installation designed especially for children by the Czech studio **3dsense** called **Signal Playground: the Rainbow**. The space of the Hybernská Campus will be filled with several different exhibits that directly encourage exploration through their small

interactions. Visitors can freely wander through the installation space, letting themselves be carried away by their own space-time and fantasy world. The installation will be open every day of the festival from 2:00 p.m. Families with children can also explore other festival installations, such as the large-scale projection by Norwegian-Portuguese studio **Entangled Others** called **Sediment Nodes**, which projects colourful microorganisms generated by artificial intelligence, or the monumental installation **Puddles** by designer **Václav Mlynář**, which works with basic elements such as light, water, movement, sound and space.

Long-term support for young art

Signal Festival has long supported young Czech artists and artist collectives. During its existence, it has been responsible for the creation of more than 90 unique installations created especially for the festival. One of the Signal Festival and **Pražská plynárenská** projects is the **Neon Award**, designed for students and graduates of secondary and higher art schools. Its aim is to support innovative artistic projects focused on contemporary digital technologies, animation, motion design or 3D animation. The winner of the third edition of the competition was **Karim Tarakji** with his project **Red Shift**, which presents a modern take on an old cinematographic technology using lasers. The work will be on display in Kaizl Gardens from 12th to 15th October from 7 p.m. to midnight. Another project is the open call **Signal Calling**, organized for the fourth year in collaboration with **PrusaLab**, **Josef Průša's prototype workshop**, which provides artists with the necessary facilities, materials and experience without which the winning installations could not be created. The winners of this year's open call are artists **Lukáš Dřevjaný**, **Luboš Zbranek**, **David Minařík** and **Michal Mitro**. They used modular acrylic building blocks to create an original system called **Nexus**.

Openness and accessibility

Signal Festival has long strived to be accessible to all visitors without distinction, which is why this year most of the installations in the festival programme will be **wheelchair accessible**. An important pillar of the festival is the effort to draw attention to pressing social issues, which is why this year Signal Festival is continuing its cooperation with **ČEZ Group**, which is the general partner of the **Czech Paralympic Team** and will support a project called the **Czech Paralympic Team** as part of the **ČEZ Foundation's Help with Movement** initiative. It is a financial support for promising athletes during their trips to international sports competitions, where they can obtain qualification quotas for the Summer Paralympic Games in Paris in 2024. **Every festival visitor can also join the initiative**. Simply download the **free [EPP Help with Movement](#)** for **iOS** or **Android** and by moving around the festival routes, you will be contributing to the chosen project.

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Main partners: Mercedes-Benz, Kooperativa, ČEZ Group

The international programme of Signal Festival 2023 is supported by the PPF Foundation.

Official partners: Pražská plynárenská, PlayStation

General media partner: the Czech Television

Patrons of the installations: KKCG, Andaz Prague, PALLADIUM Prague

Main media partners: the Czech Radio, JCDecaux, Reflex

Festival daily: Deník N

VIP Partner: Forbes

Media partners: CzechCrunch, Art&Antiques, CZECHDESIGN, designboom, Refresher, Prague Morning

Technology partner: Christie Digital, BARRISOL

Partners: Technology of the capital city Prague, Prague 1, Prague 7, Prague 8, PrusaLab by Prusa Research

Official carrier: Prague Public Transport Authority

Hotel Partner: MeetMe23

More information at signalfestival.com

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