

**The 11<sup>th</sup> Signal Festival will also light up the galleries. Seven venues will present unique installations exploring the boundaries of audiovisual and digital art, including a unique exhibition for children**

25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 - The eleventh edition of Signal Festival will present the largest ever gallery zone at seven Prague venues, prepared by a new curatorial team led by audiovisual artist Pavel Mrkus. The unique installations will focus primarily on exploring the boundaries of audiovisual and digital art using new technologies such as AR, 3D scanning technology or original sound and light systems. During the four days of the festival, it will feature unique works by Mexican-Canadian multimedia artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Polish creative studio Ksawery Komputery and Spanish audiovisual collective Playmodes, among others. This year, Signal will once again build on its successful collaborations with Laterna Magika and Kunsthalle Praha and celebrate its centenary together with Czech Radio. Visitors can explore the full programme of the gallery zone with a Signal Plus ticket, while Signal VIP allows them to visit the gallery privately, without queuing or waiting. The Signal Festival will kick off on 12<sup>th</sup> October and run until Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **The largest gallery zone in the festival's history**

**4 days of the festival, 20 installations, 7 of them in the gallery zone.** This will be the 11<sup>th</sup> Signal Festival, which will present the largest gallery zone in its history. "I am very happy to say that it is not only thanks to the support of our audience that we can present more and more unique works in the gallery zone and host renowned names in contemporary digital art from the Czech Republic and abroad. Parallel to these efforts, we are trying to provide a strong platform for Czech artists and to establish cooperation with established cultural institutions. This results in an extensive multimedia programme that includes many colourful and diverse elements. Signal Festival is thus becoming not only a pioneer of art in public space, but also an active driver of the Czech gallery scene," explains **Martin Pošta**, the festival's director. This year's programme will take place in **20 locations. The seven multimedia installations in the gallery zone**, which open up new dimensions of audiovisual creation with their technical processing and depth of artistic message, thus testifying to the dynamism and progressive tendency of the festival's programming, will be accessible to visitors only with a ticket. There are two types on sale, namely **Signal Plus**, allowing access to the festival's gallery zone throughout the festival, and **Signal VIP** for those who want to experience the festival in a unique intimate atmosphere, without queues, waiting and with guided tours at selected locations. Both ticket options will also give visitors access to the group multimedia exhibition **ELEKTROSALON: From the Rave to the Gallery**, taking place as part of the accompanying programme in Hall 40 of the Holešovice Market Hall. Detailed ticket information can be found at [signalfestival.com/vstupenky.qg+](http://signalfestival.com/vstupenky.qg+) A further **13 free installations** will be on display on **two festival routes** – The Centre and Karlín / Holešovice. For the first time ever, the festival will also extend beyond the main routes, presenting **satellite installations**, i.e., existing artworks in public space that will be brought to life with sound and light projections.

## Body heat and virtual cold

The installation *Thermal Drift* by Mexican-Canadian artist **Rafael Lozano-Hemmer**, which will be on display in the playground at the Lyčkovo Square Primary School and Kindergarten, makes playful use of thermal cameras, enabling a novel technique; visitors use them to create portraits of themselves using their own body heat. The impressive immersive installation *FLUX* by the Polish creative collective **Ksawery Komputery** follows on the Karlin route in Invalidovna. The hyperbolic conception of the object, assembled from 800 metres of double-sided LED strips combined with an eight-channel sound system, depicts the subtle and subconsciously embedded virtual reins of our contemporary society. Visitors find themselves in a completely unique authorial portal between physical and apparent, digital reality. Not only does the project stand out for its impressive design, for which **Ksawery Komputery** has assembled its own hardware and software systems, it also symbolizes the importance of online space in the everyday communication of the contemporary world. The international programme of Signal Festival 2023 is made possible thanks to the support of the PPF Foundation, which strives for greater involvement of Czech culture in the international context and believes that it is important to enrich our art scene with inspiration from the world.

## Exhibitions that absorb

A careful alchemy of sound, light, space and object will be offered by the immersive installation *Horizon* in Hall 13 of the Holešovice Market Hall. The largest installation of the entire festival comes from the Spanish audiovisual studio **Playmodes** and offers a journey beyond the boundaries of physical space, complete with a literally immersive experience. **The Prague City Museum** will host the project *Emotional Memory* by the **Laterna magika** collective, celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The performance will offer an extensive set exploring time and its cyclical nature. It will return to the company's original technologies, such as kinetic scenography, live cinema or motion capture, and set them in motion through live dance and performance. The resulting work will explore how these – in their time groundbreaking scenographic principles – still work today. The director of the performance is **Tereza Vejvodová**, an independent director, scriptwriter, and dramaturge who explores new ways of audiovisual communication, cinema, and visual art through her work. **Signal Festival** in cooperation with the **Museum of the City of Prague** will offer visitors another unusual experience. For the first time since the reconstruction began, the main building in Florenc will be open to the public for a few days. Visitors will thus have a unique opportunity to enter its second floor before the official opening.

## Monuments of human activity and echoes of the natural realm

This year, the Signal Festival continues its successful collaborations. **Kunsthalle Praha** will host an exhibition project called *The Grief of Misfit Cathedrals*, which will capture the transformation of abandoned industrial complexes into concrete monuments of architecture through immersive film and spatial sound. The exhibition will remain at **Kunsthalle Praha** after the festival and will be on display until 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024. At St. Salvator Church, artists **Michal Rataj** and **Jan Trojan** will present a unique sound installation called *Immersion: Sumberged in Sound* which reflects the unique ecosystems around Lipnice Castle and St.

Margaret's Church and reveals their strength under the layers of technological noise. The installation will be 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 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Czech Radio**.

### **Playground for children and adults**

Another gallery zone installation will take place in the Hybernská Campus. The interactive exhibition **Signal Playground: The Rainbow** by the Czech studio **3dsense** is the first installation designed specifically for children visitors of the Signal Festival; however, its sophisticated and intense visuality will also attract adults. The exhibition consists of several different exhibits that invite exploration through 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 accessible every day of the festival from 2:00 p.m..

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*Main partners: Mercedes-Benz, Kooperativa, ČEZ Group*

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

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