Press release

16. 5. 2019

**Prague Quadrennial presents performances disturbing the public space**

**An unconventional symphony created by the movement of pigeons in flight, giant fish wandering the streets of Prague, a geolocational sound walk, a wall made of a thousand bricks, a silent carneval procession, new-circus acrobats, and fake lines of waiting people. These are just a few of the many projects found in the sections *Formations* and *Site-Specific Festival* at this year’s Prague Quadrennial. These performances disturbing the everyday banality of the city’s public space take place primarily in Stromovka Park and the Prague Exhibition Grounds. Interdisciplinarity and breaking down borders are two important elements of the artistic vision of PQ, the largest international festival of theater and performance space. The 2019 Prague Quadrennial will take place from 6 to 16 June at the Prague Exhibition Grounds. For a program and to pre-purchase your festival accreditation, visit** [**www.pq.cz**](http://www.pq.cz)**.**

***The Formations* disturbs the calm of the city and everyday life**

***Formations***, a project put together by curators D. Chase Angier and Serge von Arx, explores the structures and models that influence everyday life. Depending on their field of practice, artists from around the world bring different points of view and enter, with a sense of curiosity, into experimental performative conversations throughout the city. At random moments, the projects interact with the public space, with passers-by, the weather, and other works of art that they happen upon. The program always shows each performance’s starting time, but not its exact contents or duration. Chance encounters on the expansive fairgrounds in front of the Industrial Palace offer a pleasant break from everyday life.

**Robin Meier & Ensemble Cairn** present a symphony for twelve pigeons and three musicians. The composition *Song for Ghost Travellers* explores chance and the fixed patterns of flying birds, which are translated into live music. In the performance *Deform*, Dutch artist **Iris Woutera de Jong** brings to life a sculpture designed as clothing for the human body in order to find new possibilities of movement. The Vietnamese-Chinese artist, researcher, and designer **Moi Tran** presents her improvised performative movement work *The Circuit – A Movement Scenario*, in which she pays homage to Vietnamese women. In *The Red Carpet*, French performer **Jo Blin** creates an improvised flea market where anyone can sell their memories on a piece of red carpet that is a place for commerce and art. In its performance, the collective **Complejo Conejo** works with the premise that if the city is like a sea, then the passers-by must be fish. Their six anthropomorphic fish walk through the city imitating and toying with everyday human behavior. Meanwhile, the Norwegian theater ensemble **IZAM** explores the performative potential of standing in line. By unexpectedly disturbing ordinary lines of visitors at PQ 2019, they question the anticipated structure of standing, waiting, and being served. The Czech collective **tYhle**,in collaboration with **Studio Alta**, has put together the hyper-athletic performance *LEGOrytmus* offering performances that reach for athletic goals using highly unconventional means of movement.

***The Site-Specific Performance Festival* takes over Stromovka**

Curator Sophie Jump has put together the ***Site-Specific Performance Festival*** presenting scenographically oriented performances by emerging and established international artists and ensembles. The diverse program offers everything from intimate performances for a limited number of viewers or public actions that visitors can join, all the way to grand spectacles. The range of options includes drama, dance, performance art, storytelling, costumes, installations, and new technologies from around the world.

*Site-Specific Performance Festival* takes place in the Exhibition Ground’s outdoor areas, in neighboring Stromovka Park, and elsewhere throughout Prague. The performances in the city center take the audience into familiar as well as practically unknown places. “Each performance invites the audience to savor the venue in all its intertwining layers – visible as well as invisible – and to do so through unusual interactions,” adds curator Sophie Jump.

French artists **Carolina E. Santo** and **Emmanuelle Gangloff** explore the fact that France has not participated in PQ since 2003. For *Site-Specific Performance Festival*, they have created an archeological survey titled *Excavating the Remains of French Scenography in Prague*. Swiss artist **Tom Greder** comes to the PQ with his mobile projection booth *Panorama*, with which he alters the definition of interactive theater. Thanks to its ability to rotate 360 degrees, the booth transforms reality into fantasy. As they look out through the window, the viewers inside experience the world from an absolutely new perspective.

For a performance mixing elements of dance and circus, check out the joint project by Hungary’s **SimorÁg DanCircus** and **Firebirds Productions** titled *The Flock Project*. Their aerial vertical dance promises to be a dangerous spectacle. The program also includes a Brazilian carneval procession, but its silent version: the only sounds that **Andaime Cia de Teatro**’s *Silent Carneval* offers passers-by is via radio frequencies. Meanwhile, in *Melting Borders*, **Riccardo Matlakas** dissolves our country’s political symbols: in an installation consisting of ice cream in the colors of the Czech flag, the stains left by the melting ice cream become a “sweet flag” of the Czech Republic. In *Morphomen* by the Hungarian collective **Theater Living Picture**, the performers are wrapped in elastic fabrics to create colorful embodiments of the human soul.

**Pražské Quadriennale scénografie a divadelního prostoru**

**Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space**

**6. – 16. 6. 2019**

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**General partner:** ROBE

**General media partner:** Czech Television

**Main media partner:** Czech Radio

**Media partners:** Radio 1, Respekt, Ego!, A2, Artikl, Flash Art, ArtMap, Theater der Zeit, Nachtkritik, kød, Taneční Zóna, Fullmoon Magazine, Svět a divadlo, Loutkář, Divadelní noviny, protisedi.cz, scena.cz, divadlo.cz

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**Venues:** Prague Exhibition grounds, DAMU, National Museum

**Other venues:** Ostrov Štvanice, Slovanský ostrov, Containall, Holešovická šachta, Nádraží Praha – Bubny, Skautský institut / PKC

**Oficiální merchandise:** Papelote, Bohempia, Botas 66, Sodastream, KeepCup, SELF – Human Soap

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