Press release:

**The Golden Triga of the 15th Prague Quadrennial goes to Cyprus. Best Student Exhibition is based on the recent happenings in Beirut**

*Prague, 13th June 2023 -* ***On Tuesday 13 June, the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space 2023 presented the exhibitions and projects awarded by the PQ Jury at its 15th edition. The prestigious Golden Triga, given at every edition to one selected installation within the Exhibition of Countries and Regions and the Student Exhibition, was awarded to Cyprus and their installation Spectators in a Ghost City. The awards travel to numerous continents of the world, to Europe, Asia and to both North and South Americas. The festival welcomed nearly one hundred creative and curatorial teams from 59 countries and regions within the two main exhibitions; in total PQ 2023 hosted around 2,000 artists.***

**Golden Triga goes to Cyprus**

At this year’s 15th Prague Quadrennial, the esteemed main award **Golden Triga goes to the artists from Cyprus and their installation *Spectators in a Ghost City****.* A minimalistic exhibit aims to mediate conflict and trauma of Famagusta, abandoned and fenced off for forty-six years, as a result of the Turkish military invasion. The team, co-led by the designer Melita Couta and the curator Marina Maleni, introduce the concept of “**reverse scenography**”, where a real place becomes a dramatised scene. The exhibit, using real footage, ruins exhumed from the city’s past, and installed in a cross-discipline manner, merge the real and the imaginary, anxiety and - perhaps - hope.

**Best Student Exhibition: world in constant mutation and disequilibrium**

The author of the **Lebanese installation *Puzzles*, awarded as the Best Student Exhibition**, is Mara Ingea, a graduate of the Department of Alternative and Puppet Theatre at DAMU in Prague. The work reflects the recent and contemporary history of her home city of Beirut. Through material assemblage and clear-cut mechanisms, she expresses the chaos and tragic absurdity of certain affairs in Lebanon over the last four years.

**Performance design ever evolving**

Capturing directions of performance design and space once every four years since 1967, the Prague Quadrennial opened on Wednesday 7 June for the fifteenth time and unveiled nearly one hundred original artworks within the main exhibitions, diverting from or insightfully employing traditional forms of theatre making.

The artistic director **Markéta Fantová** reflects on the ongoing progress of PQ: *“This edition of PQ reflected the search for new directions in performance design, triggered by the pandemics, as well as ecological, environmental and socio-economic urgencies. Performative, active environments welcoming visitors as participants, multi sensorial immersive scenographies that use environment sensitive materials, and conceptual approaches reaching beyond the space and time of the festival were some of the most emerging trends.”*

In this vein, she appreciates them opening and widening the scenographic form and expression: *“These trends emerge naturally, since each participating country or region within the Exhibition of Countries and Regions and the Student Exhibition is fully in control of their own message, concept and work. Thanks to that we can not only enjoy a diverse landscape of ideas and inspiration from many different countries and cultures, but we can also search for common connecting patterns. One of those is a definite shift from design consisting of four dominant professions of lighting, set, costume and sound design to creative work driven by multidisciplinary teams. I consider this an exciting, freeing and refreshing direction.”*

**Czech visual artist David Možný, who represented the Czech Republic** in the Exhibition of Countries and Regions, got two awards, including the one for **Best Concept**.

**Markéta Fantová and the General Manager Michaela Buriánková** will speak at a PQ Talks panel, on **Friday 4:30 pm**, along with their colleagues, **about the festival preparations**, while negotiating the potential future.

The exhibition spaces will be **open until midnight on Friday, 16 June,** both in the Holešovice Market and the National Gallery. **The programme is live** with performances in the places of Prague, talks, live events and music shows until **18 June.**

**Exhibitions and projects awarded at the 15th edition of the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space:**

1. Golden Triga - CYPRUS: Spectators in a Ghost City
2. Best Student Exhibition - LEBANON: Puzzles
3. Best Concept in the Exhibition of Countries and Regions - CZECH REPUBLIC: Limbo Hardware
4. Most Imaginative Concept in the Student Exhibition - SERBIA: Daydreaming
5. Best Design in the Exhibition of Countries and Regions - HUNGARY: winterreise.box
6. Most Imaginative and Inventive Design in the Student Exhibition - FINLAND: Suo, Silent, Disco
7. Best Teamwork in the Exhibition of Countries and Regions - BRAZIL: ENCRUZILHADAS: We believe in crossroads
8. Visionary Teamwork in the Student Exhibition - GEORGIA: The Box
9. PQ Jury Award - FRANCE: GUT CITY PUNCH
10. Best Publication Award - TERESE LONGVA & LAUREL JAY CARPENTER 10 Together: Performances By Longva+Carpenter 2010-2020
11. Best Performance Space Award - JILL PLANCHE & MHLANGULI GEORGE: Theatre in the Backyard: Spaces of Immanence, Places of Potentiality
12. Visionary Scenographic Strategies in the Exhibition of Countries and Regions - THAILAND: Theatre to Go
13. Responsiveness to Urgencies in the Student Exhibition - POLAND: ASYLUM
14. Responsiveness to Urgencies in the Exhibition of Countries and Regions - ARMENIA: I see, I cannot see
15. Intercultural Exchange in the Student Exhibition - PHILIPPINES: Magbigay ayon sa kakayahan, kumuha batay sa pangangailangan. Give what you can, take what you need.
16. Community Activation in the Exhibition of Countries and Regions - SERBIA: Moonshine Piano
17. Best Performance in the Student Exhibition - ESTONIA: Lab of Figurative Thought: You Have Only a Moment
18. Volkswagen Award for the Most Sustainable Exhibition - CZECH REPUBLIC: Limbo Hardware
19. ČT art Award for the Most Socially Sensitive Exhibition - CATALONIA: CROP
20. PQ Kids Award - PORTUGAL: Half the minutes

**PQ International Jury:**

* Asiimwe Deborah Kawe
* D. Chase Angier
* Marianela Boán
* Rosane Muniz
* Serge von Arx
* Sophie Jump
* Sven Jonke

[**Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space**](https://pq.cz/)

Since 1967, once every four years, PQ explores the artistic areas of scenography, performance design and space within all their aspects - from scenic art, costume, lighting and sound design, and performance space architecture to site-adaptive performance, applied scenography, augmented and virtual realities, technologies like Motion Capture and laser, or costume as a performance, within the scope of exhibits, installations, architectural concepts, workshops, performances and other live events. The core of the festival’s idea is to present contemporary performance design as a self-sufficient art form, acting upon the human imagination through all the senses - sight, smell, hearing, touch and taste. PQ 2023 will host artists from around a hundred countries in 300+ programme items, making it the most important event of its kind in the world.

*Performance design/scenography has evolved substantially and expanded far beyond established theatre conventions. Models, sketches of designs, and performance photographs still remain excellent resources that map the minds and open the door to the imagination of their creators. On the other hand, these formats capture only one part of the creative process and tell us little about the environment, circumstances, emotions, and overall atmosphere of the performance. The one way to present scenography in its genuine form, comprising all of its parts and including audience participation, is to experience it live, in performative settings and curatorial environments that create or recreate its operations.*

[*The present-day practice of performance design/scenography is one of the most exciting art forms and creative domains*](https://pq.cz/about-pq/) *– in the innovative, fresh and holistic ways of engaging their audiences, participants, and the public.*

In 2015 Prague Quadrennial received the EFFE award and was named one of the most innovative festivals in Europe.

**Prague Quadrennial is initiated by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic**
**and organized by the Arts and Theatre Institute.**

The 15th edition of the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space is held under the auspices of the president of the Czech Republic, **Petr Pavel**, the mayor of the Capital City of Prague, **Bohuslav Svoboda**, and was assigned the emblem of the **Diversity of Cultural Expression UNESCO** and the **EFFE label of the European Festivals Association**.

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