

Press release, 4. 9. 2024

Signal Festival takes over Prague Castle: video mapping and installations turn Prague Castle District into an art zone

For the first time ever, the Signal Festival will transform Prague Castle into a projection area and gallery zone. One of the two routes in the twelfth edition of the festival, showcasing the best of digital and creative culture from October 10 to 13, will lead through Prague Castle District. The second route will feature works by renowned Czech and international artists in the heart of Prague. This year, Signal Festival will present twenty-two installations, seven of which are exclusive to the Gallery Zone. Tickets are already on sale. Highlights of the program include Filip Hodas's video mapping of the Archbishop's Palace, Jiří Příhoda's monumental sculptures at Sternberg Palace, the London-based studio UVA's kinetic pendulum project at Kunsthalle Praha, and Italian artist Quayola's sound projection at CAMP.

In October, Signal Festival invites visitors to explore two routes that take them through well-known and lesser-known parts of Prague. The first route, a festival premiere, will bring Prague Castle to life for the very first time. *"Signal Festival has long aspired to transform the historically and architecturally unique space of Prague Castle, and after twelve years, this dream has become a reality. This year, we are proud to present installations and projections within the galleries we collaborate with,"* says Martin Pošta, Director of Signal Festival. *"Prague Castle is open to a variety of cultural and artistic events, including the Signal Festival. Through our cooperation, visitors will literally see selected parts of the Castle in a new light,"* adds Veronika Wolf, Programme and Cultural Director of the Office of the President of the Republic.

The Prague Castle District route begins at the Prague Castle Riding Hall and continues through the palaces on Hradčany Square, then through the South Gardens, which will be open exclusively in the evenings for the festival, ending at the Kunsthalle Praha gallery. At Sternberg Palace, visitors will encounter works by one of the most prominent contemporary Czech artists, Jiří Příhoda. His dynamic projection, *Capriccio*, uses artificial intelligence to evoke the painting techniques of Renaissance masters. Additionally, an experimental abode named *Karbola* will give the impression of an alien ship landing in the palace garden. Czech 3D artist and graphic designer Filip Hodas, known for his viral work, has created a layered video mapping installation titled *Eternal Recurrence*, tailored specifically for the Archbishop's Palace. This piece narrates a digital saga of the origin and evolution of life forms. London-based studio United Visual Artists (UVA), a leading force in the digital media world, will present *Strange Attractions* at Signal Festival and Kunsthalle Praha, combining kinetic pendulums with a multimedia installation.

The second route will take visitors through digital and creative culture hotspots in the Old Town and central Prague. Installations in and around Old Town Square are set to captivate audiences. The façade of the Municipal Library on Mariánské náměstí will

transform into an oceanic depth with the video mapping installation *The Rhythm of the Ocean*, accompanied by music from five-time Grammy nominee Suzanne Ciani. This visual spectacle is the creation of the Spanish-Danish duo Desilence. The hidden Baroque refectory of the Dominican Convent will host *Silent Echoes*, a sound installation by sound art pioneer Bill Fontana that promises to be breathtaking. Fontana, who has installed works at iconic sites worldwide, such as the Brooklyn Bridge, the Arc de Triomphe, and Big Ben, brings to this installation the sounds of Notre Dame Cathedral bells and a glacial cave in the Dachstein rock massif. This piece is a collaboration with Ars Electronica. The journey through central Prague ends at CAMP with a series of videos titled *Effets de Soir*. The title refers to a natural phenomenon observed at dusk and dawn when light, shadows, and warm and cool tones blend. Italian artist Quayola captures this captivating transition using new technological tools, drawing inspiration from artists like Monet and Van Gogh.

"This year's program brings together world-renowned digital artists and prominent Czech artists such as Filip Hodas and Jana Bernartová. Moreover, the festival collaborates with leading cultural institutions and associations, including Kunsthalle Praha, the National Gallery in Prague, the National Theatre, CAMP, the Austrian festival Ars Electronica, and the Thanks That We Can association. These partnerships offer audiences unprecedented experiences that blend historical and modern perspectives in a fusion of art and technology," says Pavel Mrkus, Chief Curator of Signal Festival.

Signal Festival values long-term partnerships. Mercedes-Benz, one of the main sponsors supporting the festival for eleven years, will present itself through the *Aura* installation at Klementinum. This installation, featuring animations that illuminate sleek all-electric cars, promises an intense visual experience. It is brought to life by designer Václav Mlynář, Monument Office, Signal Creative studios, and lighting designer Lukáš Dřevjaný. The data totem *Audire Fluctus* was created through the Signal Calling open call, in collaboration with PrusaLab by Prusa Research prototype workshop. Created by interdisciplinary artist Kryštof Brůha, this piece is a hybrid of light sculpture and interactive art. Positioned on the National Theatre's Piazzetta, it will visualize the bustling technological activity of its surroundings as a colorful and dynamic texture.

"One of the festival's visions is to bring cutting-edge art to the widest possible audience. We believe art should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their financial situation. To maintain the festival's largely free offerings, we encourage support by visiting the paid Gallery Zone. By doing so, attendees will not only financially support the festival and its artists but also gain a unique experience," says Martin Pošta. The festival will once again feature an extensive Gallery Zone, a paid segment comprising seven unique locations across Prague. Tickets are now available for presale. Two types of tickets are offered: Signal Plus, for those wanting to explore everything, and Signal VIP, providing a unique, intimate experience without queues, with a Mercedes-Benz VIP shuttle, and a welcome drink at Kunsthalle Praha. For more ticket information, visit the Signal Festival website.

For the first time, Signal Festival will be complemented by a new educational and networking platform, the Signal Forum conference. This new European creative forum, organized in collaboration with the Slovak festival Sensorium, will take place on October 11 and 12 at CAMP in Prague. Attendees interested in 21st-century trends can choose from a range of lectures, workshops, and other activities. Signal Forum will bring together professionals from the fields of art, science, and technology, featuring speakers from organizations like NASA and CERN.

About Signal Festival:

Signal is a festival of digital and creative culture. It 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 field of visual art and light design, Signal Festival is one of the largest producers of contemporary art in the country. It supports the youngest Czech artists and organises accompanying programmes for the professional public, students and children. Signal Festival 2024 will take place from 10 to 13 October 2024.

The festival is organized with support of: The Capital City of Prague -The Signal Festival is supported by the City of Prague with a grant in the amount of 6 000 000 CZK, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the State Culture Fund of the Czech Republic.

Main partners: Mercedes-Benz, Kooperativa, ČEZ Group

Signal Festival 2024's international programme is supported by the PPF Foundation

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More information at signalfestival.com

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