

PRAGUE ART WEEK 22
International Festival of Visual Art
Festival Center: The New Stage of the National Theatre

Prague will come alive with art for one week in September during the first edition of PRAGUE ART WEEK

From September 9 to 15, the international art festival PRAGUE ART WEEK 22 will be taking place in Prague for the first time ever. Following in the example of other large cities around the world, the festival aims to connect the Prague art scene and, through a joint initiative, make the Czech capital stand out on the world art map on the occasion of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The festival of visual art invites visitors from the Czech Republic and abroad to more than fifty galleries, museums, art collections, and other art institutions all over Prague, which will present a diverse program focused on the visual art of Central and Eastern Europe.

The opening of the festival will take place on Friday, September 9, at 5 p.m. in the piazzetta of the New Stage of the National Theatre, where the festival center, the so-called Superstudio, will be located for the entire week. The opening will be followed by the festival weekend, during which major art institutions have prepared either free or discounted admission for festival visitors. From Monday, September 12, to Thursday, September 15, the organizers encourage guests to visit the smaller, private galleries that are densely represented in selected city districts during the individual days of the festival. Visitors can end their day's itinerary in the early evening in the city center at the Superstudio, where there will be an accompanying program of lectures and debates with domestic and international guests from the art world. Invited guests include photographer Marie Tomanová, Ukrainian gallerist Maryna Shcherbenko, and renowned Czech artist Kryštof Kintera. "Prague is home to many great artists. There are artist studios everywhere, a network of small galleries and off-spaces crisscrosses the city, and in the very center we have several large institutions representing the best from the history and the present of Czech and international art. Prague has many excellent art festivals with various curatorial focuses, but until now there hasn't been one joint event that would resonate internationally," says festival director Lenka Bakešová, explaining why the organizers decided to make full use of the potential offered by the art week format, which has grown popular all over the world.

Opening

The opening ceremony will take place on **Friday, September 9, at 5 p.m. in the piazzetta of the New Stage of the National Theatre**. The organizers will welcome foreign and Czech guests of the festival, including photographer **Marie Tomanová** and curator and art historian **Thomas Beachdel**, both from New York, gallerist **Maryna Shcherbenko**, who founded the MUH Young Artist Award at the Shcherbenko Art Center in Kyiv, theorist and scholar **Céline Sabari Poizat** from Paris, who researches the most current tendencies in contemporary art in her platform *Nonfiction*, multimedia artist **Bora Akıncıtürk**, who is originally from Turkey but is now based in London and whose exhibition will on display in Prague during the festival, and independent and internationally active cultural manager **Albertine Kopp** from Switzerland, who founded the non-profit program Caribbean Art Initiative, as well as many others.

The opening ceremony will also include the announcement and awarding of ten artists from the Artefin Gallery's open call for the best digital artwork (NFT), which aims to support the work of progressive artists and the creation of original digital artworks. The winners in the Audience Award and Professional Jury Award categories will receive monetary rewards ranging from 25,000 to 150,000 CZK, and the winning works from the professional category will be auctioned off during the week of the festival, with the proceeds going to charity.

Program highlights

One of the most notable events of the festival will be the very first opportunity to see the **Havrlant Art Collection**, a private Czech collection owned by Kateřina and Jakub Havrlant. The works will be displayed in a group exhibition entitled **HAC #1**, which, like the collection itself, focuses on young artists and progressive contemporary art from Central and Eastern Europe. Another work from the Havrlant Art Collection, the video **Lost Case** by laureate of the Jindřich Chalupecký Award **Roman Štětina**, will be screened on Saturday at the **Ponrepo** cinema with the artist in attendance. Visitors to Prague will also have the opportunity to leave a message through **Federico Díaz's** experimental installation **Aerial** or to meet one of the most famous contemporary Czech photographers, **Marie Tomanová**, who will be giving a lecture together with other guests from abroad on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 13, at the **Superstudio in the New Stage of the National Theatre**.

Large institutions will be worth a visit during the festival weekend

One big attraction of the festival weekend is the opportunity to visit Prague's newest institution dedicated to the visual arts, **Kunsthalle Praha**, which on the weekend of September 10–11 will be offering visitors of PAW free admission to the exhibition *Midnight of Art*, which presents the private collection and extensive cultural activities of Karel Babíček. During the week of September 9–15, Kunsthalle Praha will also host an accompanying program, including an online talk with Nancy Davidson and Marisa Ravalli-Příhodová on September 14. Similarly, the **Prague City Museum**, which is currently renovating its main building, will offer a free program at its Norbertov Study and Documentation Centre and will also invite visitors on a walk to see Prague's architecture. On Saturday at 3 p.m. the New Stage will host a free workshop with photographer David Gaberle, which will consist of a one-hour lecture followed by a photo session with Fujifilm cameras on the streets of Prague.

On Saturday, September 10, all the buildings of the **Prague City Gallery** (GHMP) will be open for the symbolic price of one crown. **The Biennale Matter of Art**, which is organized by GHMP and tranzit.cz, will be taking place during the entire week of the festival. The biennale's free exhibitions and accompanying program address the relationships between gender, race, class, sexuality, and geopolitics in an almost therapeutic way. **National Gallery Prague** is offering a 50 % discount on admission to all of its venues on Sunday, September 11, and it also invites visitors to several events that accompany the exhibitions *MOVE: Intimacy as Resistance*, *Coming Soon*, and *ZENGA*.

Galerie Rudolfinum is organizing a free workshop for children on September 11 to accompany the exhibition *Fragilités*. **The DOX Centre for Contemporary Art** is holding a family workshop on September 10 and a guided tour of the exhibition *Power(less)* on September 11, both with free admission for visitors of PAW 22. **The Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague** will make its accompanying programs available free of charge, including tickets to exhibitions where the programs are held, and it also invites those interested to take a walk through Josef Sudek's Prague. Friday to Sunday will also be the last chance to visit **MeetFactory** for the exhibition *Let Me Hear Your Footprints* and draw inspiration from the experiential symposium **Discovering Other Knowledge**, both of which focus on new tendencies in art and society. International guests of the symposium and PRAGUE ART WEEK 22 will include Nadim Samman, curator at the KW Institute in Berlin, and Charlotte Jarvis, an artist and lecturer who focuses on the connection between art and science.

On Sunday, festivalgoers can visit a quiet courtyard in the city center at Campus Hybernská, where Barbora Valášková's exhibition *Blau* will open at **HYB4 Gallery D** and where there will be a music lounge, street food, and an afterparty with DJs from the group Sady Kolektiv.

Most of the festival's exhibitions are free of charge, but in some locations, you will need to show your festival pass or make a reservation. The organizers recommend checking the website pragueartweek.cz, the printed PAW catalogue (available at partner galleries and the Superstudio), or the September supplement of the magazine *Art Antiques*.

The festival week from Monday to Thursday, September 12–15

The center of the festival and the meeting point for guests and participants will be the so-called Superstudio in the New Stage of the National Theatre, which is located in the very heart of Prague. From there, it will be possible to embark on various festival routes into the individual districts of the city. Right in Prague 1, visitors will find 22 festival venues. They can begin, for example, at one of the oldest and most prestigious auction houses in Prague, **the Kodl Gallery**, which is presenting an exhibition for the online auction Artslimit, featuring a balanced selection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century art with overlaps into contemporary works by artists such as František Drtikol, Emil Filla, Václav Špála, Karel Malich, Georges Kars, Jiří Georg Dokoupil, and Toyen. A stone's throw from the Kodl Gallery, festivalgoers can visit the Topič Salon for exhibitions at the galleries **Cermak-Eisenkraft** and **1. Art Consulting CZ**. A new exhibition by **Marian Palla** will open the season for **ETCETERA ART** in their gallery on Hradební Street, and the exhibition **Monochrome** by the Japanese duo RYUHA can be found in the gallery **Kvalitář**.

The second most represented district is Prague 7, which will come alive with openings and guided tours on Wednesday, September 14. Several galleries in the area are hosting **SUMO Prague**, an art show focused on collaboration with foreign institutions. Visitors will thus be able to see exhibitions prepared in Prague in collaboration with gallerists and artists from Germany, Denmark, Greenland, Japan, France, or Turkey in the case of **Holešovická Šachta**, which is also preparing an opening and an afterparty. Czech artists will also be exhibited in the neighborhood, including Jiří Pitrmuc at **Stone Projects**, Tono Stano at **Trafo Gallery**, and Tomáš Němec at **The Chemistry Gallery**.

The festival will also take place in the municipal districts Prague 3, 5, 6, and 8, where the organizers recommend visiting several locations at once, based on the daily itineraries and individual routes marked on the festival map (at pragueartweek.cz and in the program catalogue). The festival will also lead visitors to locations outside of the city center in Prague 10 or 12, where there is, for example, a unique opportunity to visit the still-under-construction **PSN Vanguard** building to see the pop-up exhibition on the thirteenth floor. **Lukáš Raise's** outdoor exhibition at the **Bastion** in Prague 2 will offer another unique experience. It is easy to move between the individual city districts using public transport or commuter trains, and **Festival m3 / Art in Space** will also be taking place at a number of train stations in and around Prague during PRAGUE ART WEEK 22. On Sunday, September 11, in the town of Měšice u Prahy one will be able to visit an exhibition organized by **Artefin** and explore the open house of the **ARTEX Campus**.

In addition to museums, galleries, and auction houses, the festival also includes two selected art studios – **Loft BubNY** and **Studio Prám** – as well as the new residential gallery **Untitled-Art**, where visitors will be able to meet directly with artists on a designated day and time or by appointment.

The accompanying program of PRAGUE ART WEEK 22, which aims to expand the perspective of visitors, artists, and collectors, will take place at **the Superstudio in the New Stage of the National Theatre**. The building stands out with its unique 1970s brutalist architecture, and the adjacent piazzetta of the National Theatre lends itself to meeting and networking. The overarching theme of the lectures, masterclasses, and discussions is "NET" – a theme articulating the network of relationships and collaboration that connects the entire art sector. From Monday to Thursday there will be a program of lectures, debates, and masterclasses that will focus on art careers, the support and promotion of contemporary art, critical reflection on the visual arts, art investment, art collecting, art preservation, and know-how and networking in the culture sector. In addition to

international guests, local experts such as William Rudolf Lobkowicz will speak about the care and preservation of art collections in the session on art collecting, in which the Art+ platform will also present the first Czech survey of art collectors, created in cooperation with J&T Banka Art.

The program at the PAW Superstudio will be free of charge but with a limited capacity. Participants can register at [GoOut.cz](https://goout.cz).

PRAGUE ART WEEK is an open platform for cooperation between the most important institutions in the Prague art scene and an annual art festival with the aim of connecting galleries, museums, and exhibition halls as well as art collections and other art-oriented organizations. PRAGUE ART WEEK's vision is to make Prague stand out on the world art map, to contribute to the internationalization of the Czech art scene, and to become an important platform for navigating the intricate networks of the Prague art scene. PRAGUE ART WEEK engages in year-round activities, a major part of which comprises the website pragueartweek.cz, where the events of partner art institutions are promoted throughout the year. The selection of partners is curated in order to maintain quality. The podcast series NET – In the Network of Art also plays an integral role, introducing important personalities in the field of contemporary art and unraveling the intricate networks of the art world.

For more information, visit our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#). [#pragueartweek22](#)

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Visitors will also find new forms of contemporary art and the work of foreign artists in the programs of the art shows SUMO Prague and Biennale Matter of Art 2022, which are a part of Prague Art Week.