

## How do we see performance design/scenography?

Performance design/scenography today is often presented through live and immersive experiences, where all senses can be involved, and the audience members take on an active role.

We see performance design/scenography as an art form that goes beyond the visual, into experiential and sensorial realm with a focus on interdisciplinary collaboration, giving creative expression to new ideas and experiments.

Contemporary performance design/scenography is an art form within parameters of multi-sensory environments – creating worlds of sensations appealing to the imagination, the mind, as well as the sensory organs: the eye, the ear, the nose, the skin.

Scenographic environments take on a life that by default eludes the designer's grasp: no matter how carefully it is planned and executed, it is truly completed by the participants engaging with the designed space. Every creation, then, is impermanent and changeable; it is also visionary and volatile in that it works with, and rests on, many unknowns.

Performance design/scenography can occur in an unbounded range of environments: from the traditional theatre stages, through experimental performance venues, to any type of found sites and spaces – from urban to rural, industrial to landscape, interior or exterior, physical, virtual, or mixed.

A growing amount of creative work comprises a variety of new media and involves various other professions and disciplines – in applied settings, as well as in innovative experimental formats. Performance design/scenography is more and more leaving behind thinking in creative compartments and the times when scenography fell into (often gender-specific) departments of set design and construction, costume design and wardrobe, lighting and sound designs, and prop making. While the industry sometimes still operates in these creative bubbles (and sometimes even vehemently protects them), the novel developments in performance design/scenography embrace a mind-boggling variety and diversity – interlinked, multidisciplinary collaborative practices that defy our conventional descriptions, terminologies, or even understanding.

Present day practice of performance design/scenography is one of the most exciting art forms and creative domains – in the innovative, fresh and holistic ways of engaging their audiences, participants, and the public.

Performance design/scenography has evolved substantially and expanded far beyond established theatre conventions towards a wide variety of venues, sites, and spaces. Traditional theatre architecture – while firmly rooted at the heart of performance design/scenography – has, however, become a confining name for the riches of spatial practice. In response to these developments, PQ's traditional program, Theatre Architecture Exhibition, has transformed into Performance Space Exhibition to include any type of space created or adapted as a performance venue. This space can be outside or inside, new architectural structure, or an adapted space that was created by a community. This is a step towards the inclusion of diverse creative practices in a variety of settings, environments, and cultures.

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