

DENISA SVACHOVA

selected works

Artist Statement

I am interested in a person's first reaction to a given command; by observing how people behave, and how they move, noticing their facial expressions and initial impulses, I try to understand them and their situation better.

My artistic practice explores the relationship between natural movement and choreography, with the framework of this movement defined by specific spatial installations. I play out various situations and actively involve the viewer. For my performances, I mostly employ voice-over in headphones as a driving force for movement or specific interaction with objects. I use the term "self-service performance" for my interactive projects in which I apply devices that allow the audience to shape the performance without my presence.

I also work as a scenographer in collaboration with dancers and physical actors.

BACK INTO THE DESERT (2023)

360-degree video | EN | 8'01"

Back into The Desert allows viewers to join a situation with two people in the middle of nowhere in an endless desert, but very unfree to follow orders. It is not possible to see both of them at the same time. viewers always have to decide who to watch. While they can also just follow the voice-over.

I have invited an external individual Anna Hovorkova to record commands for movements in the desert environment. Together with Jan Pancocha, we took this voice-over to the Moroccan Sahara, where we listened to it for the very first time.

<https://youtu.be/ALCvpMT-YyM>

direction, camera, postproduction: **Denisa Svachova**

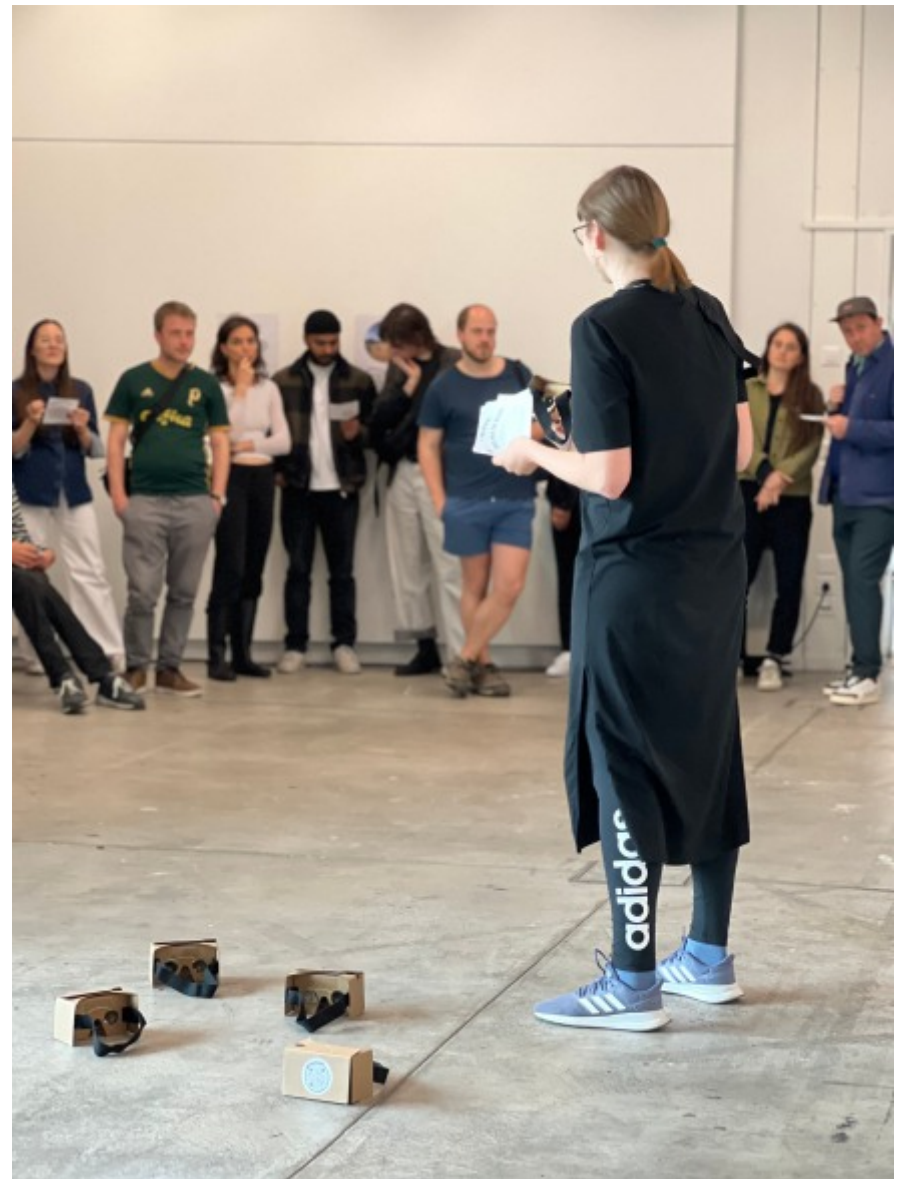
voice-over: **Anna Hovorkova**

performing: **Jan Pancocha, Denisa Svachova**





ACT Performance Festival Zurich 2023
Toni Areal, Zurich



DO YOU MIND IF I JOIN YOU? interview (2022)

4k video | EN | 18'54"

Under the project called "Do You Mind IF Join You?" Denisa Svachova is creating performances and interviews in collaboration with expats - people who live outside their native country for a long or temporary period of time. She combines the interview format with moving improvisation. She is exploring the boundaries of the interview and ways in which she can learn a little more about a person than just what they say. Through body language, she is trying to understand who they really are. She carefully combines movement with spoken responses and tries to convey appropriate expressions. (from the exhibition text Shifting Coordinates)

<https://youtu.be/uwQ23QVrAHQ>

direction, camera, postproduction: **Denisa Svachova**

interviewees: **Richard Blaško, Markéta Pšcolková, Alica Minárová, Joel Isaac Chmela, Karolina Jansová, Nora Brown**



Kino Toni, Zurich (2023)



Shifting Coordinates exhibition (2023)
Offspace Flüelastrasse, Zurich



screenshot from the video

ON TO THE NEXT ONE (2022)

digital print 1,185x1,75 m

For The Next Stop? exhibition organized by ARTakeaway I invited Lucie Doležalová to create a photo of dancer Markéta Pščolková in my costume.

"On To The Next One", or OTTNO for short, expresses a sense of resilience or a desire for another, different success.

costume: **Denisa Svachova**

photography: **Lucie Doležalová**

model: **Markéta Pščolková**



The Next Stop? exhibition (2022)
Můstek metro station, Prague



The Next Stop? exhibition, Můstek metro station, Prague, 2022

UP AND DOWN (2022)

interactive installation with voice-over | EN | 10'22"

Up and Down creating communication interior for two persons, looking for balance, equilibrium, and understanding. This interactive object consists of a costume for the seesaw and two people, headphones, and a bag with small objects. Two participants can listen to a voice-over that guides them through a simple exercise involving interaction with objects. The commentary and audio allow them to experience the whole process of getting to know a new person.

https://youtu.be/wMPc_VgyBec

concept and creation: **Denisa Svachova, Helena Tapajnova**

voice: **Yumna Al-Arashi**

music: **Francesco Panettone**



ACT Performance Festival Biel (2022)



ACT Performance Festival Biel (2022)



near Hardturmsteg, Zurich (2022)

BUFFET (2022)

interactive costume

Buffet is part of a larger project called "Do You Mind If I Join You?" dealing with the life of expats, people who live outside their native country for a long or temporary period of time. Under this concept I create a series of interviews and performances.

Dancer Markéta Pščolková, dressed in a costume in the shape of a round table, hands out sweet candy kisses and in return asks for pictures of hometown.

concept and creation: **Denisa Svachova**

performing: **Markéta Pščolková**



ACT Performance Festival Biel (2022)



ACT Performance Festival Biel (2022)



TREATMENT OF REMEMBERING (2020)

scenography of dance performance

Imagine you are breathing.

Nature is dead and there is no going back. Do you remember how it felt when we could breathe together? When we could bury our feet in the grass? When raindrops fell on us? Three performers lead the audience in a ritual of remembrance at a time when the natural world, exhausted by humanity, no longer exists.

Set in an artificial imitation of the universe, they reflect on the ever increasing replacement of nature with the built environment. Treatment of Remembering encourages us to look inside and awaken long forgotten memories; it draws attention to the uniqueness of physical and emotional experiences connected with nature. Minimalist choreography and scenography create a sense of timelessness, complemented by a complex and sensitive musical composition and intense lighting states, which offer a dense statement on origin and extinction. A delicate and expressive apocalyptic vision, the work is both a meditative social critique and a guide to shaping a new world. (text published on Aerowaves.org)

<https://vimeo.com/679050785>

scenography: **Denisa Svachova**

performing: **Sabina Bočková, Johana Pocková, Inga Zotova – Mikshina**

music: **Lukáš Palán**

sound design: **Jakub Štourač**

light design: **Michal Horáček**

dramaturgical consulting: **Petra Hauerová**



premiere in Ponec theater, Prague (2020)



Prague City Gallery - Troja Chateau, Prague (2021)

SPIRIT LEVEL (2018)

interactive installation with voice-over | EN | 8'

Spirit Level is a self-service performance for all visitors. You can examine it as an participant and as an observer as well. If you decide to engage actively, you would listen to the voice in the earphones, that will guide you through the simple balance exercise that involves interaction with objects. If you decide to take the observer role, it would offer you a completely different kind of experience. (from the exhibition text *Another Place*)

I map the boundaries of how far the viewer is willing to be drawn into the manipulative play of normative instructions conflicting with meditative moments and how his or her tolerance is bent with the knowledge of the other participants' compliance.

<https://vimeo.com/337624781>

concept and creation: **Denisa Svachova**

voice: **Jess Semler**

sound: **Roman Štětina**



Another Place exhibition (2018), Academy of Fine Arts in Prague



Another Place exhibition (2018), Academy of Fine Arts in Prague



Prag_Kassel: Hybrid Inconvenience exhibition (2018), NoD Gallery, Prague

CV

Denisa Svachova

Based in Zurich, Switzerland

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denisasvach@gmail.com

Education

2021 - 2023

Zürcher Hochschule der Künste
Master of Fine Arts
Zurich, Switzerland

2012 - 2018

Academy of Fine Arts in Prague
Intermedia Studio
Prague, Czech Republic

2015 - 2016

Institut Seni Indonesia
student exchange in Sculpture
Studio
Yogyakarta, Indonesia

2014 - 2015

Academy of Arts, Architecture and
Design
student exchange in Jewellery
Studio
Prague, Czech Republic

Solo Shows

2017

In the Heat of 7'
Mladí a Neklidní Gallery
Prague, Czech Republic

2014

Denisa in Garage
Garáž Gallery
Zlín, Czech Republic

Group Exhibitions

2023

Best Of
Offspace Flüelastrasse
Zurich, Switzerland

2023

Shifting Coordinates
Offspace Flüelastrasse
Zurich, Switzerland

2022

The Next Stop?
ARTakeaway
Prague, Czech Republic

2021

Mimosphere
Zlín Design Week
Zlín, Czech Republic

2018

Hybrid Inconvenience

NoD Gallery
Prague, Czech Republic

2018

Future Ready
Campus Hybernská
Prague, Czech Republic

2018

Sculptures in Garden
GET ART
Kromeriz, Czech Republic

2018

Have You Seen These People?
Cluster Gallery
Prague, Czech Republic

2018

Another Place
Academy of Fine Arts in Prague
Prague, Czech Republic

2017

Observer's Anamnesis
Prague City Gallery - Colloredo-
Mansfeld Palace
Prague, Czech Republic

2017

This Very Minute, Right Now, Today
AMU Gallery
Prague, Czech Republic

2017

Group Picture
Polagraph Gallery

Prague, Czech Republic

2016

Monument of Perla
Divus Perla
Vrane nad Vltavou, Czech Republic

2016

360°
Prague Quadrennial
Prague, Czech Republic

2015

SCHMUCK and K.O.V.
ZIBA
Prague, Czech Republic

2015

Oh-oh-oh-ohh, oh-oh-oh-ohh,
Just for One Day
Greenhouse
Berlin, Germany

2015

MONUMENT 1
NoD Gallery
Prague, Czech Republic

2015

AVU vs VSUP
OstravaPhoto, 13 Gallery
Ostrava, Czech Republic

2014

Thirteenth Dialogue
AVU Gallery
Prague, Czech Republic

Performances

2023
Back Into the Desert
ACT Performance Festival
Zurich, Switzerland

2022
Buffet
ACT Performance Festival
Biel, Switzerland

2022
Up and Down
ACT Performance Festival
Biel, Switzerland

2021
Do You Mind If I Join You?
Prádelna Community Centre
Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic

2019
True Is Too Random Two
Festival of Performance Art -
Amforman
Kromeriz, Czech Republic

2018
Close Your Eyes
Festival of Performance Art -
Amforman
Kromeriz, Czech Republic

2018
Call me Vozniak
Museum Kampa

Prague, Czech Republic

2018
Performance Crossings
Cross Attic
Prague, Czech Republic

2017
Dynamische Schablone
Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst
Leipzig, Germany

2016
Festival of Performance Art -
Amforman
Kromeriz, Czech Republic

2015
Festival of Performance Art -
Hunger
Ferdinand Baumann Gallery
Prague, Czech Republic

Residencies

2022
Rathaus für Kultur:
Analog + Virtual Bodies
Dance Workshop
Lichtensteig, Switzerland

2021
Egon Schiele Art Centre
Artist Residency
Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic

2020

Continuo theatre
Artist Residency
Malovice, Czech Republic

2020
Moving Station
Artist Residency
Pilsen, Czech Republic

2020
Prostor39: Bazaar Festival
Artist Residency
Prague, Czech Republic

2019
Studio The Hive
Erasmus + Traineeship
London, UK

2018
Torhaus Gallery
Artist Residency
Stadt Wehlen, Germany

2018
SE:S:TA - Centre for
choreographic development
Interdisciplinary Creative Incubator
Zdar nad Sazavou, Czech Republic

2017
SE:S:TA - Centre for
choreographic development
Dance Workshop led by Yoshiko
Chuma
National gallery
Prague, Czech Republic

2017
Learning Center of
Communication and Visualization
AFAD
Digital Technology Applications
Workshop
Kremnica, Slovakia

2016
Prague Quadriennial
360° - Workshop of Light Design
and Scenography
Prague, Czech Republic

Scenography

2022
Costume for
Sehnsuchtskollektionen
performance
for contemporary dance group
Lamilasi Collective
Zurich, Switzerland

2020
Scenography of Treatment of
Remembering performance
for contemporary dance group
Pocket Art
Prague, Czech Republic

2019
Scenography of Saudade
performance
for contemporary dance group
Alica Minar & col.
Prague, Czech Republic