

*Prague, October 16, 2024*

## **Statement from the Vice-Rectors of AVU Regarding Our Resignation**

On Monday, October 14, 2024, we informed AVU Rector Maria Topolčanská of our collective decision to resign from our positions in the Academy's management. This decision was made with a heavy heart, as we believe in the overall excellence of AVU and are proud of the many accomplishments achieved during our tenure, including the drafting and approval of new accreditations, the establishment of new research departments, the creation of the new GAVU, the AVU Veletržní space, the introduction of new internal salary regulations, and the launch of new international collaborations.

However, our views on management and communication differ significantly from those of the Rector, to the point that it would be impossible to effectively manage the Academy moving forward. Despite our best efforts, we were unable to reconcile these differences. This decision was made after careful consideration and with the future direction of the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague in mind.

Subsequently, at an extraordinary meeting of the Academic Senate of the Academy of Fine Arts on the morning of October 16, 2024, the Rector also announced her resignation.

We understand that our decision may be linked to the months-old petition criticizing the current state of AVU. However, we want to state unequivocally that our resignation is unrelated to the petition. We are proud of the quality and achievements of our school, and our decision is solely the result of differing approaches to management and communication between us and the Rector.

All regular activities of the Academy remain fully operational and continue without interruption. Students and staff will continue to receive the support they need to carry out their work and studies effectively.

All members of the management team, including those who have tendered their resignations, will continue to fulfill their duties until the end of their notice period on December 31, 2024, or longer if necessary. PhDr. Evžen Mrázek will continue in his role as Bursar of the Academy of Fine Arts. The Academic Senate of AVU has responded promptly to the situation and is preparing further steps in accordance with the Law on Higher Education and AVU's internal regulations.

We are available to answer any further questions or provide additional information.

Jana Bernartová, Vít Havránek, Anetta Mona Chişa, and Šárka Krtková

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