

AVU Doctoral Symposium seeks to Capture the Ineffable and Explore Meanings In-Between Spaces

4 December 2025 from 16:00
AVU Veletržní, Veletržní 61, Prague 7

Prague's Academy of Fine Arts opens its doors to a six-hour programme of performances, lectures, and films featuring Czech and international artists. Among the invited guests are British artist and textile theorist Catherine Dormor, Mexican intermedia artist Cristina Maldonado, and Czech sound artist and music journalist Marie Čtveráčková.

AVU is one of the few institutions in the Czech Republic where artistic research can be developed in its full scope. A key event in this area is this year's tandem of the AVU Doctoral Symposium and the 12-hour (Performative) Reflection on Artistic Research. Both editions share a focus on capturing meanings beyond familiar disciplinary or linguistic frames. The symposium with a sub-title Capturing the Ineffable – We know more than we can tell will take place on 4 December 2025 from 16:00 at AVU Veletržní. The following day, on 5 December 2025, it will be followed by A Space in a Place It Is Not—the 12-hour performative conference exploring zones of absence that emerge when moving between different fields.

The Doctoral Symposium offers a varied line-up of performances, lectures, and films that each—in their own way—investigate how “ineffable” might be sensed, grasped, and shared. “We are interested in meanings that reside in the interstices of seemingly disparate linguistic forms and modes – such as artistic and scientific, verbal and embodied, visual and multisensory, human and more-than-human” says one of the symposium curators and head of AVU's Doctoral Research Department, Markéta Dolejšová.

The programme opens with Berta Doubková's performance I'll Make a Hole so I can Stick Out of It, a work that weaves together objects, material imagination, and the body in space. Drawing from her scenographic background, Doubková creates sensitive, often playful performative situations. Musician and co-founder of Synth Library Prague, Marie Čtveráčková, follows with a sound-based walk Depths of Listening and the Waves Between Notions, accompanied by a conversation on sound and the role of listening in artistic practice, activism, and everyday relationship-building.

The evening continues with a performative lecture Stitching Text, Writing Textiles – a Methodology of Making and Thinking by Catherine Dormor—an influential theorist and member of the international 62' Textile Artist Group, who has supported the status of textile artists since the 1960s. Dormor approaches textiles as a set of gestures and relations—as a language with its own grammar, rhythm, and meaning. Her work, intertwining philosophy, embodiment, and material practice, represents one of today's essential voices in textile discourse.

avu press release

Animator and visual artist Julie Černá presents *The Stone of Destiny*—a poetic animated musical about longing for transformation and searching for new places of existence. Černá's practice

blends illustration, sound, and film as modes of shared experience. Artist duo Hana Chmelíková & Lucie Nováčková offer a lecture-performance reflecting on their recent art-research project *Objects of Language*. Working with textile and textual structures, graphic and three-dimensional characters, families of signs, games, and poetic classification systems, they approach language as an abstract terrain.

The evening concludes with Cristina Maldonado, a Mexican artist long based in Prague, who presents her participatory project *The Stranger Gets a Gift*, accompanied by an online lecture on practices of reconfiguring relations—to oneself, others, objects, media, places, and the unknown. Maldonado treats mediation as a universal language, framing each encounter as a space for understanding and contact.

The AVU Doctoral Symposium is organised by the Doctoral Research Department together with Ph.D. students. Curators of this edition—Markéta Dolejšová, Hana Chmelíková, Lucie Nováčková, and Johana Novotná—note that they are interested in exploring “what meanings dwell in the in-between? How can the ineffable be grasped, engaged with, and communicated? How do we make sense of our realities and share meanings with others?” They add that they also want to experiment with “weaving different strands of meaning as a creative research process through which reality may be grasped—at least for a moment—and shared.”

Programme

16:00 Welcome and Opening

16:15 Berta Doubková – I'll Make a Hole so I can Stick Out of It (performance)

17:00 Marie Čtveráčková – Depths of Listening and the Waves Between Notions (sound walk and discussion)

18:30 Catherine Dormor – Stitching Text, Writing Textiles – a Methodology of Making and Thinking (performative lecture)

19:45 Julie Černá – *The Stone of Destiny* (short film)

20:15 Hana Chmelíková & Lucie Nováčková – *Objects of Language* (lecture and performative entry)

21:00 Cristina Maldonado: *The Stranger Gets a Gift* (performative online lecture)

Curators: Markéta Dolejšová, Hana Chmelíková, Lucie Nováčková, Johana Novotná
Catering: Marika Krčmářová (AVU – Painting Studio III)

Full details available [here](#).

avu press release

The symposium takes place in tandem with the 12-hour conference A Space in a Place It Is Not, organised by AVU's artistic research department Laboratory for Art, Research and Graduate Education (LARGE) on 5 December 2025 from noon to midnight, also at AVU Veletržní.

Media Contact:

Michaela Vrchotová

Tel. +420 771 524 192

E-mail: michaela.vrchotova@avu.cz

Kateřina Dolejšová

katerina.dolejsova@avu.cz