

Sommerschule Mayres /Letní škola Maříž

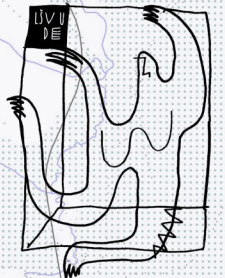
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Introduction

The larger community around Letní škola Maříž has been growing for a generation, and we plan to continue building upon this heritage whilst incorporating our experiences from the past four summer programmes.

Community lies at the core of Maříž and Letní škola, but this community doesn't exist within a vacuum. Rather, there is a structure of relationships, memories, and traditions that supports this expanding community. For this reason, we decided to focus this year's programme on the theme of 'social architecture', to facilitate a collaborative exploration of the structures of social cohesion.

We will invite 20 participants to form a temporary community to investigate "Social Architecture" as an approach towards design that facilitates the imagination and creation of structures of social relations. This should bring into consideration the people, spaces, activities, and narrative structures involved in those relations.

Over the intensive 10-day programme, participants will engage in three workshops: exploring building as a social process; music and sound as a collective and bonding experience; and storytelling as a uniting thread, whilst also being offered a series of lectures, artist talks, excursions, evening programs, and communal meals.

Through the workshops, the programme seeks to encourage participants from any field to connect to the backdrop of Maříž, while reflecting on the impact of social ideologies and historical layers imbued in physical structures. The programme aims to foster resilience and hope by realising that impactful actions are possible when we come together as a group.



Welcome to Maříž and Letní škola

Maříž, a small village on the Austrian border in southern Bohemia, was once a place where Czechs and Germans lived side by side. After the Velvet Revolution, a group of artists from Prague settled in nearby Slavonice and founded the creative centre “Besídka” and the former Summer School. The larger community around the Maříž Summer School has already been growing for a generation, giving us a wealth of knowledge, skills and stories to draw from.

As the next generation, we as an interdisciplinary collective based on the experiences of the older generation want to continue the tradition and community of the formerly popular “Summer School” in Slavonice and Maříž. Since the first edition of 2019, we have been realising Letní škola Maříž every two years. Through this, we aim to maintain the tradition through our initiative and eventually pass it on to the next generation in the long term.

‘Leštnice z.s.’ is the not-for-profit organisation behind Letní škola Maříž. All the money we receive goes directly back into facilitating our annual programme. For more information on the origins of Letní škola and previous editions, please visit our [website](#).



Programme

The main part of the programme will revolve around three workshops, running dynamically alongside one another for the duration of the residency. Participants can move between them freely depending on where their inspiration lies. Within all workshops, input and inspiration of a theoretical nature will be combined with creative practice. This will be built upon through a series of lectures by German-Czech artists, professors and specialists. Towards the end of the 10 days, we will pull elements of each workshop together for the final event.

Excursions include guided tours at Museum Maříž, Museum Humanum Fratres, Slavonice, Ceplecha's sculpture garden and Peppino's flower garden. The programme is further complemented by smaller exercises, a daily offer of yoga, meditation, and an evening programme.



Workshop 1: *Building as a Social Process* – by MAK! Studio (Katerina Videnova & Adam Wlazel)

MAK! is an architectural initiative by architects Adam Wlazel and Katerina Videnova, operating out of their caravan converted into a mobile architectural studio. Since 2013, the MAK! Caravan has been touring villages, small towns and suburbs of the big cities, running building workshops alongside local communities. On their trips, they also organise accompanying cultural programmes, such as lectures, discussions, exhibitions, film screenings, dinners or events for kids.

For Letní škola 2023, MAK! will lead a communal building process to construct basic structures such as chairs, tables or a mobile kitchen with the participants, as well as planning small interventions in the surroundings of the village. Through the active inhabitation of the environment, participants will design constructions to facilitate the community.



Workshop 2: *Sound & Music* – by Marius Houschyar Friedrich with Karel Babuljak

Marius Houschyar Friedrich is an artist, producer, filmmaker and graphic designer who explores the role of identity and truth through his various mediums. Last year, we were lucky enough to have Marius in Maříž, where he experimented with the creation of a communal space dedicated to the act of making music as a collective practice. This experiment developed into an album “Habitat Ensemble”, which will be published in the near future.

Karel Babuljak is an enigmatic member of the Czech underground scene, and was part of the former Summer School. Founder of the band ‘Mama Bubo’ and ‘Babalet’, and the label ‘Bubosound’, he is a musician, multi-instrumentalist, band leader, composer, lyricist and producer.

During their workshop, participants will follow up on last year’s collaborative experiment, specifically exploring music as a form of non-verbal exchange. The barn will be transformed into an inviting space, filled with a range of instruments and sound recording equipment for the participants to experiment with. The workshop will also experiment with the creation of musical instruments.



Workshop 3: *Storytelling* – by members of the Leštnice team

Maříž is an important place for us as the organising team of Letní škola. Over the years, we have witnessed many stories unfold, all adding towards the illusive spirit of this small village. What this spirit is exactly, is hard to say. We search, we get lost. When we are lost, we feel the spirit tickle our senses. We tell ourselves stories, and pass on the tales we hear from the people who came before us. We are rooted in the places that bring us meaning through stories. They unite us as individuals, with the communities we live in and the environment that supports us.

For Letní škola 2023, we decided to focus specifically on the collective memory of Maříž and its surroundings through a storytelling workshop. We will explore the verbal and non-verbal; material and immaterial; and our role as participants in narrative creation. Through this interdisciplinary approach, we wish to explore the myth surrounding the local ruin of a castle to encourage processes of collective reimagination of our own stories through different mediums and exercises.



Outcome

We will host two final events: the first at the end of the 10 days in Maříž; and the second will be over a weekend in September with our partner, 'Floating University Berlin'. A publication of the entire project will also be designed by our team and released early next year.

There is the potential for ongoing collaboration through the publishing of articles and works on our online 'research archive'. We hope that this will provide further space for exchange as well as motivation to continue projects started during Letní škola that have a wider community value.



Additional info

All participants will be offered accommodation across several camping grounds around Maříž, and access to shared bathrooms. You should bring your own tent and sleeping bag.

We offer meditation and yoga daily, but if you need further energising, we will also have a performative exercise pick-you-up every morning. You will also be granted access to our inflatable fleet for aquatic dining potential.

Three daily meals will be provided by our very talented catering team, with vegan, vegetarian, or any option which pleases your delicate little tummy.

The price is €300 which covers everything mentioned above. If you require financial assistance, we encourage you to apply for one of our four 'scholarships' which will reduce the price to €200.



