



Maroš Elperyn

Mgr. et M.A,

I create transformative experiences at the crossroads of art, community, and ritual. Whether in sacred spaces or communal settings, I facilitate processes where contemporary artistic practices meet the spiritual and collective needs of people today. As a mystagogue, I design rituals and performative frameworks that empower participants to become co-creators of meaningful shared experiences.



Integration of Ruda Prekop's photograms reimagining the traditional Advent wreath for Christmas Midnight Mass at the Church of St. Martin in the Wall, Prague Old Town. The asymmetric arrangement arose from borrowed stands that had other ideas, and two photograms ended up upside down through my inattention - apologies were duly made to the artist.

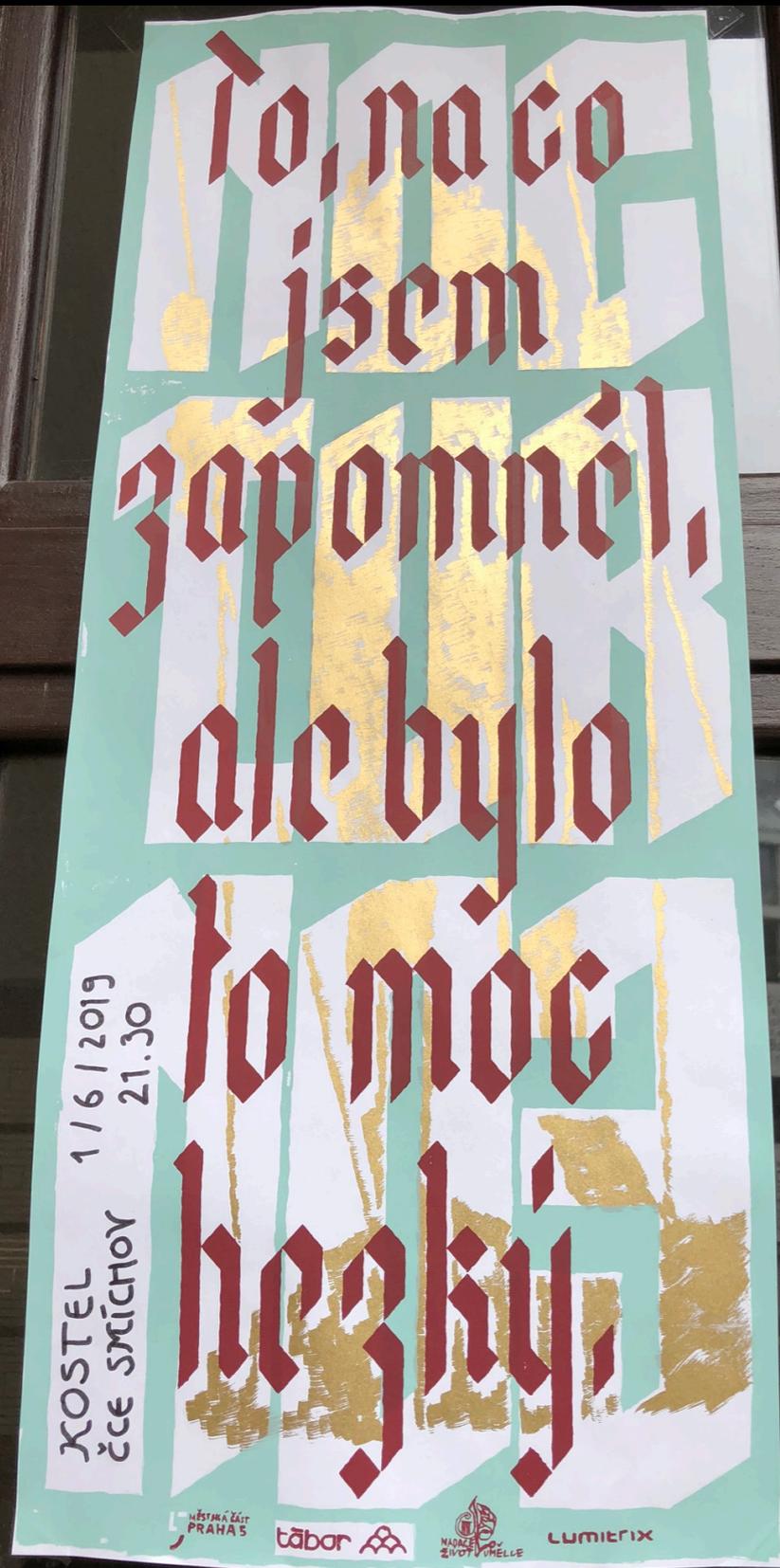
The installation was accompanied by original music and vocals by the band Picha, with myself as guide through the





Video excerpt from Deep Listening

Deep Listening - a three-hour immersive format opening and closing in silence. As audience members moved freely through the space, they could record and contribute sounds from their immediate environment - the creak of a pew, the rustle of clothing, their own breath - which were sampled live and integrated into an evolving musical composition accompanying improvised performance.



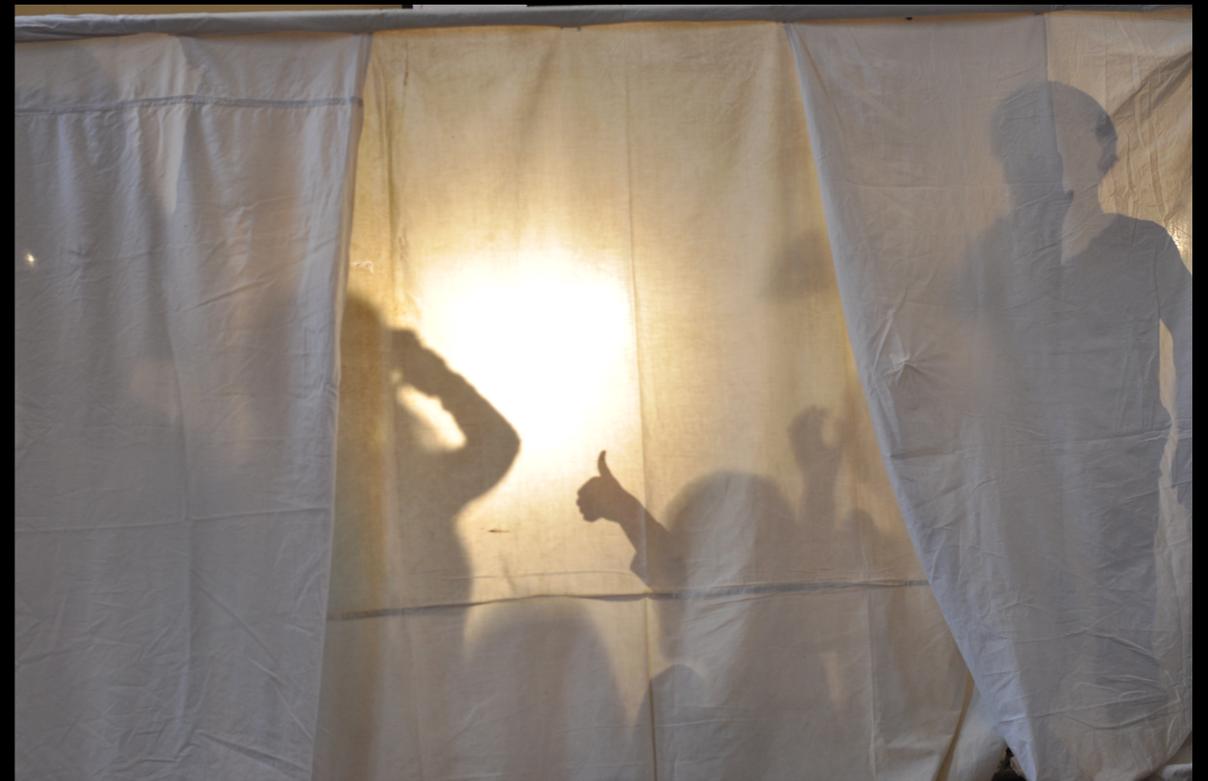
Ten-minute excerpt from rehearsal  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lk\\_CFzaHtlg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lk_CFzaHtlg)

Nocturno is a 45-minute site-specific project combining audiovisual installation tailored to each church space with live original music, dance performance, video projection, and real-time video mapping. Created by a collective of young artists, the project has been presented in a Roman Catholic church in Tábor, a Czech Brethren Evangelical church in Prague-Smíchov, and an Anglican church in Cambridge, UK.

For the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, we were invited by Czech Television to create a short segment for live-broadcast Ecumenical services. During the dress rehearsal, our video mapping projector failed and was hastily replaced with lighting choreography, which altered the overall impact. Documentation available here: <https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/12744056923-modlitba-za-domov-2019/>



Life's threshold moments -  
weddings, funerals,  
divorces, celebrations - are  
inherently ritual  
performances. Pictured: a  
wedding ceremony for  
highliners.



## Christmas Performances

A format in which I typically adapt classical texts. The scenography is often created from discarded materials or miscellaneous objects found in the church space itself.

**Absurd Christmas** - inspired by Samuel Beckett's *Come and Go*

**The Giant and the Garden** - inspired by Oscar Wilde's *The Selfish Giant*

**The Sailor and the Boat** - inspired by a fairy tale by Daniel Pastirčák

**Christmas in Motion** - an exploration of physical theatre



Land Art on Mount Měděnec (777m), Jizera Mountains"

A 2012 project involving the construction of three land art sculptures (*The Emptiness of Man, Hope, Death and Rebirth*) and the deliberate spreading of an unsubstantiated rumor about some eccentric priest supposedly building strange sculptures in the surrounding forests. Perhaps someone had even seen them, but didn't know exactly where. Who knows if it was even true.

The aim was to create a legend and, ultimately, something like an alternative to the Stations of the Cross.

The sculptures were built legally with permission from the Czech Forest Administration (Lesy ČR).

Current state: the sculpture *Death and Rebirth* has completely disappeared under vegetation; *Hope* was dismantled by passersby and used to build fire pits. Only *The Emptiness of Man* remains intact.



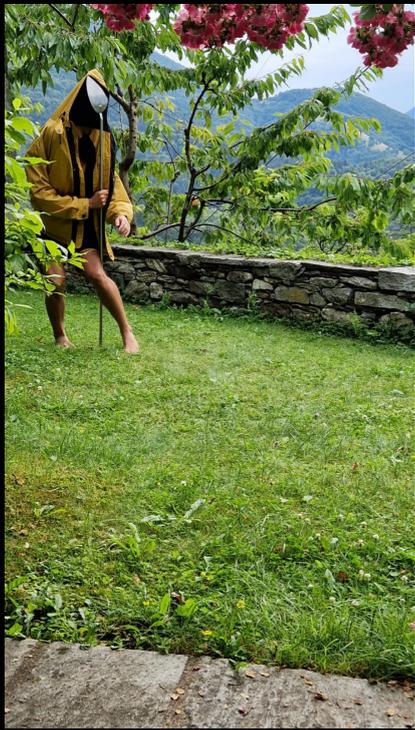
Community development work in marginalized environments



Creator of social theatre with Roma children, organizer of multi-day, multi-genre festivals, environmental activist with the 'Cleaning the Sky' initiative, and performer working as choreographer, director, actor, and dancer.

In 2008, I received the Mayor's Award from the City of Neratovice for these projects.



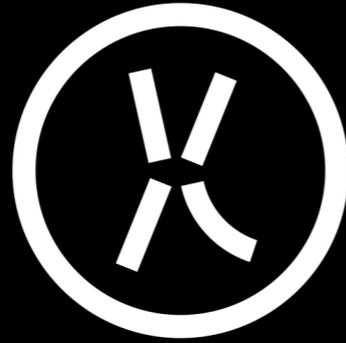


### Terra Vecchia – Applied Theatre Project 2023

An intercultural applied theatre project in Terra Vecchia, a remote mountain village in Ticino. Working with literature students from HKB Bern, Afghan-origin refugee storytellers, and local community members, I developed methods for gathering and transforming biographical narratives into artistic formats – performances, songs, and written works. The project combined intensive creative workshops with communal living, resulting in collaborative publications and intercultural dialogue.

video:

[https://youtube.com/shorts/BBH\\_3SaZYLc](https://youtube.com/shorts/BBH_3SaZYLc)



**komunitní  
prostor  
smíchov**

LINK:

<https://kpsmichov.cz/>

Founder and Director (2014-2022) of Community Space Smíchov, a multifunctional cultural and community center housed in an Evangelical church in Prague's Smíchov district. Led a team of 17 employees and dozens of volunteers in transforming a deteriorating church building into a vibrant community hub featuring a gallery (Na Věky), community café, theatre venue, and community garden.

The project revitalized the church's historical mission of serving the local community across social, generational, and ethnic boundaries. Programming was organized around three pillars - Breath, Story, Act (based on Comenius' theology) - encompassing cultural events, social services, educational activities, and support for marginalized communities including families in difficult situations, elderly residents, ethnic minorities, immigrants, and asylum seekers.

Responsibilities included: Director, Project and Financial Manager, Program/Festival Dramaturg, and securing EU funding (15.8 million CZK) through Prague's Operational Programme for Growth.

# Un/fold·ings

video:

<https://youtu.be/1refiU5wjHg>

Master's project (2024-2025) exploring the intersection of liturgy, movement, and performance through applied theatre methodology. Developed in collaboration with the Czech Brethren Evangelical Church community in Brno, the project addresses the marginalization of the body in traditional expressions of faith by reanimating the connection between intellectual and physical dimensions of spirituality.

The project unfolded in two phases: intensive community workshops in Brno developing participatory movement rituals rooted in classical liturgy, followed by adaptation into a performative presentation in Verscio, Switzerland. Drawing on movement therapy, contact improvisation, narrative psychology, and vocal polyphonies, the work transformed traditional worship into embodied contemporary experience.

The final presentation combined a 20-minute methodology showcase with a 40-minute performative piece inspired by the prophetic figure of Jeremiah, demonstrating how sacred spaces can become dynamic arenas for interdisciplinary collaboration and spiritual renewal.



# Sublimation – Ethiopia Project

Performative research project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Fall 2024) transforming 30 days of lived experience in a city slum into applied theatre performance, short documentary, and theoretical study.

Through interviews and collaboration with local residents, the work abstracts daily practices—eating, fasting, praying, celebrating, struggling—into sensory-immersive landscape using collected sounds, smells, visuals, and stories. The performance centers on an ancient Ethiopian carpet motif, upon which unfolds a scene addressing war, trauma, and resilience.

Created with both professional and non-professional artists, engaging audiences through multiple senses to explore themes of memory, survival, and transcendence.

**Outcomes:** Performance, video documentation, and theoretical study exploring the challenges and opportunities within applied theatre when two of its core elements—community and space—are absent.

Collaborators on performance

Rebekka Pichler, Eliška Švecová, Jana Štofániková, Klára Aubrechtová,  
Tewolde Brhan (design), Biruh Alemu Alazie (music)

Short video - portrait of a performer :

<https://youtu.be/EV6RwLb02-A>



Others:



Les PasSages (Passages, or Steps of Wisdom) - 2014

Week-long workshop for non-dancers addressing immigrant integration themes. Participants developed choreography from childhood movement memories, working through their uncertainty toward a final public performance. The process transformed personal vulnerability and cultural heritage into collective embodied expression.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5oiSAtMUBCuI0cWzWe7l0xdMTIXcocwJ>

SKINDOM, OSLO - 2024

A performance investigating the aesthetic potential of the skin and the sense of touch.

Video:

<https://replay.dropbox.com/share/e4Y1uKBw6aYO3z2d>

Interview for ČRo - Vltava

Interview as part of my research project in Palestine and Israel exploring institutions of justice.

<https://vltava.rozhlas.cz/duchovni-evropa-samaritani-v-bibli-a-v-dnesnim-izraeli-7892127>

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