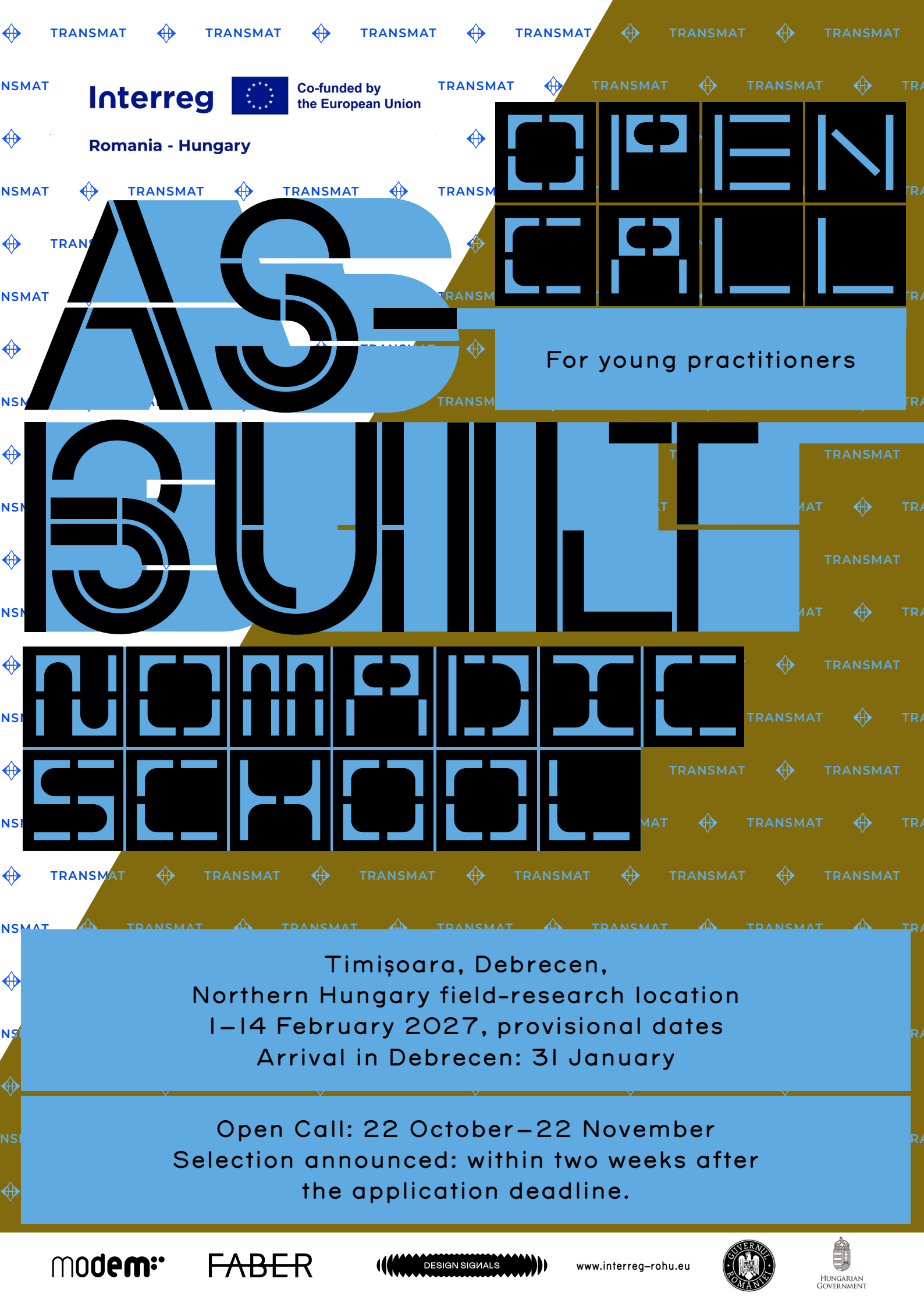




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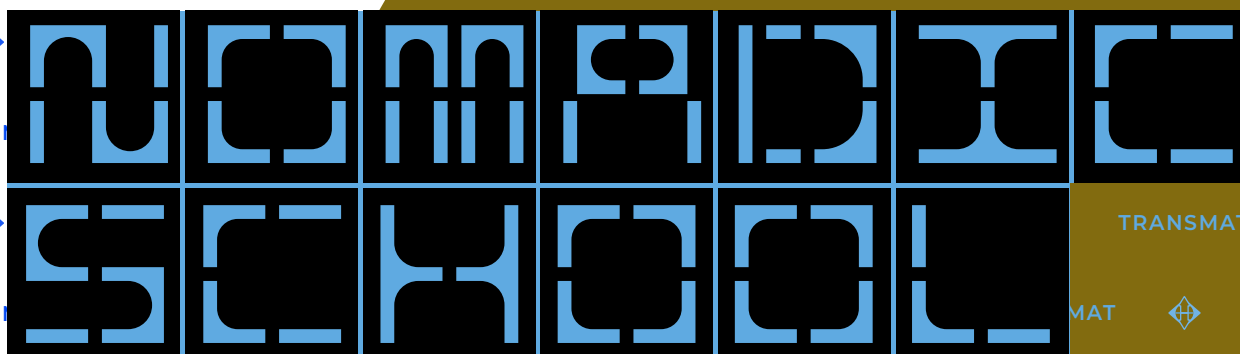
Co-funded by
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Romania - Hungary

AS-

For young practitioners

SUBMIT



Timișoara, Debrecen,
Northern Hungary field-research location
1–14 February 2027, provisional dates
Arrival in Debrecen: 31 January

Open Call: 22 October–22 November
Selection announced: within two weeks after
the application deadline.

AS-BUILT:

An open call on the construction and building materials industry

MODEM and FABER, through Interreg VI-A Romania–Hungary (www.interreg-rohu.eu), invite students and recent graduates in art, design, architecture and related fields to take part in the As–Built Winter School, a two-week programme of research, fieldwork, material experimentation and project development taking place between Timișoara, an external Northern Hungary field-research location and Debrecen.

The Winter School is part of As–Built, the new edition of Design Signals, a collaborative programme focused on the construction and building materials industry in Romania and Hungary.

Sixteen participants will work with tutors, curators, invited experts and people working within and around the construction industry. Through site visits, conversations, documentation, material experimentation and making, they will develop individual or collaborative responses to the questions opened by As–Built.

The As–Built Winter School represents an occasion to participate in a nomadic educational experience between two cities and work in direct contact with the context outside the traditional classroom. The participants will explore the context of the Timișoara and Debrecen construction ecosystem and have the chance to develop project proposals and prototype outcomes.

As–Built: Where plans meet reality

Construction is often presented as the execution of a plan. In practice, what gets built emerges through negotiation between design, regulation, finance, procurement, labour and material supply.

Specifications change, budgets tighten, deadlines move and decisions accumulate. These are not incidental disruptions; they are part of how the industry operates. The passage from rendering, plan, investment or public announcement to building,

road or neighbourhood materialises a layered set of political, economic and social values within the built environment. An “as–built” drawing records the result of this process. Produced after construction, it documents what was completed, including changes made along the way. The difference between the original plan and the as–built record reveals where intentions were altered, which priorities prevailed and how responsibility was distributed. As–Built takes this gap as its central field of investigation. The regions around Timișoara and Debrecen belong to an industrial landscape that has been repeatedly reorganised. Factories and infrastructures created for one economic system now operate within another. Ownership has changed, production has been retooled or reduced, and industrial sites have been repurposed as markets, regulations and technologies have shifted. At the same time, European policies are introducing new expectations for affordable, sustainable and inclusive living conditions. These ambitions encounter changing industrial networks, uneven labour markets, imported materials, rising land values and limited systems of maintenance.

Rather than treating these conditions as background, As–Built asks how they determine what gets built, where and by whom—and what happens after construction is complete. Through research in Timișoara and Debrecen, participants will engage with factories, construction sites, research centres and built environments. Projects will examine how decisions move through the construction process, whose knowledge is included or excluded, and where artistic, design and architectural practices might intervene—not only in new construction, but in what has already been built, left unfinished, adapted, repaired, standardised, maintained or abandoned.

Creative research: Tracing relations, opening

possibilities Art, design and architecture are understood as forms of research and practice: ways of tracing and redesigning how production, infrastructure and regulation shape a place. Rather than approaching the construction and building materials industry with a predefined problem or solution, As-Built invites participants to engage with the materials, processes, decisions and forms of expertise through which it operates, asking how construction can take agency into making, restoring or generating collective space. In the format of a two-week Winter School, research is not an end in itself. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the contexts from close and engage with each other and with experts for the formulation of a project proposal.

The skills, media and methods of the participants will merge with the once proposed by the winter School program. The outcome of the two-week period may take material, visual, spatial, textual or other forms. This approach creates room to notice the needs and values that industrial production—shaped by capital and function—does not always accommodate. As-Built starts from the gap between what an industry is

set up to do and what a place, a worker, or an ecology actually needs. Creative research can bring the priorities embedded in these systems into view and explore where they might be questioned or redesigned. During the Winter School, participants will work with the FABER and MODEM teams in Timișoara, Debrecen and an additional field-research location in Hungary. Through site visits, conversations, documentation, material experimentation and collaboration, participants will investigate the realities of the construction and building materials industry, bring overlooked knowledge into view, and build connections between people and institutions that do not usually work together. Timișoara, Debrecen and their surrounding regions. Through site visits, conversations, documentation, material experimentation and collaboration, participants will investigate the realities of the construction and building materials industry, bring overlooked knowledge into view, and build connections between people and institutions that do not usually work together.

Open Call

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

The Winter School invites students and recent graduates who want to investigate how the built environment is produced: how materials are extracted, transformed and transported; how labour, technologies, regulations and finance organise construction; and how these systems become visible in buildings, infrastructures and landscapes. The Winter School is programmed to provide to the participants a contextual introduction to the locations of study. Applicants are invited to explore questions and curiosities close to their practices and in relation to the construction industry. Applicants are encouraged to allow their initial questions and methods to develop through the people, places and processes they encounter during the programme. Prior knowledge of Timișoara, Debrecen or the field-research locations is not required.

WHO CAN APPLY

The Winter School is open to international applicants who are: BA students, MA students, or graduates who completed their studies within the past five years, working in art, design, architecture or related fields. Applicants should be available for the full duration of the programme, including travel between Timișoara, the intermediate field-research location and Debrecen.

THE WINTER SCHOOL

Sixteen participants will be selected for the programme. They will work with tutors selected from the fields of art, design and architecture. Together with the curators and teams of MODEM and FABER, invited specialists, researchers and people working within and around the construction and building materials industry.

THREE PROGRAMME CONTEXTS

DEBRECEN

Field research, site visits, encounters with local expertise and the development of initial research directions.

NORTHERN HUNGARY FIELD-RESEARCH

LOCATION—YET TO BE SPECIFIED

An intensive field-research period focused on a specific material, production process, infrastructure or industrial condition.

TIMIȘOARA

Further research followed by making, experimentation and the development of proposals. The programme combines site visits, expert meetings, conversations, documentation, material experimentation, tutoring, individual and collective working sessions, and presentations.

PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME AND OUTCOMES

The Winter School develops through a sequence of field research, experimentation, making and proposal development.

Participants are not expected to produce finished

artworks during the programme. The Winter School ends with a final presentation in Debrecen. Each participant will present the proposal they have developed through the programme in material, spatial, visual, textual or other forms appropriate to their practice. Following the Winter School, **four participants will be selected to continue developing their proposals into new works for the As-Built exhibitions at FABER in Timișoara and MODEM in Debrecen.** The four selected participants will receive further curatorial support and a production budget for the development of their work.

WHAT IS COVERED

Participation in the Winter School is fully supported. For all 16 selected participants, the programme covers:

- travel connected to participation up to 500 euros
- accommodation;
- meals;
- transfers during the programme;
- programme and workshop costs.

Participants will also receive a **stipend**.

Provisional Programme

Date	Location	Programme
31 January	Debrecen	Arrival day—arrival and check-in
1–4 February	Debrecen	Introduction to As-Built, site visits, meetings with local experts, field research and working sessions
5–6 February	Northern Hungary / field-research location	Field research focused on a specific material, production process, infrastructure or industrial condition, alongside tutoring and intermediate presentations
7 February	Northern Hungary / field-research location	Rest day
8 February	Transfer to Timișoara	Transfer day—travel and arrival
9–12 February	Timișoara	Site visits and further research, followed by material experimentation, making and proposal development
13 February	Timișoara	Final presentations
14 February	Timișoara	Departure day

Dates and specific sites are provisional and may be adjusted.

Application Guidelines

Complete the online application form and submit:

PROFILE

- Applicant name
- Current location
- University / programme and level of study, or year of graduation
- Contact details
- Website or online portfolio, if applicable

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Maximum 200 words.

PORTFOLIO

The portfolio does not need to present professionally realised projects. It should help us understand how you observe, research, experiment and make. Maximum 10 pages.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Why would you like to take part in the As-Built Winter School?

Maximum 150 words.

2. What part of the construction and building materials world are you curious about?

This could be a material, site, process, technology, form of labour, infrastructure, regulation, environmental condition or something else you have noticed. Maximum 200 words.

3. What would you like to observe, test or make during the Winter School?

You do not need to propose a finished project. Tell us how you might begin exploring your interest through your own practice. Maximum 200 words.

4. Are there particular materials, tools, techniques or ways of working that you would like to experiment with or learn more about?

Maximum 150 words.

5. Share one project, object, building, material, place, text or practice that connects to your interest. Why is it useful to you as a reference?

Maximum 150 words.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be considered in relation to the following:

Specific

The application begins from a concrete material, site, process, technology, form of labour, infrastructure, regulation or other real condition. This follows the existing As-Built criterion that proposals should be grounded in a real construction material, site, process, technology, labour condition, market logic or social urgency.

Experimental

The applicant demonstrates curiosity and openness to testing methods, materials and approaches across art, design, architecture, industry and research.

Systemically informed

The applicant shows an interest in understanding the actors, infrastructures and systems surrounding their chosen starting point. The professional As-Built call similarly asks proposals to be attentive to the actors, infrastructures and markets that shape the construction and building materials industry.

Open to development

The applicant does not need to arrive with a resolved project. We are interested in the potential for an initial question or interest to change through encounters, research, experimentation and collaboration during the Winter School.

Shared learning environment

The final selection will also consider the composition of the group. We aim to bring together participants with different practices, disciplines, perspectives and ways of working who can contribute to a productive and collaborative learning environment.

Selection Timeline

Open call Launch:	22 October 2026
Application deadline:	22 November 2026
Selection results:	Within two weeks after the application deadline

The 16 participants will be selected by the curator of FABER, the curator of MODEM and the Winter School tutors.

About the Programme

DESIGN SIGNALS/AS-BUILT

Design Signals is a long-term programme initiated by FABER and curated by Martina Muzi. Working from Timișoara's industrial landscape, it brings designers, researchers, institutions and companies together to investigate relationships between contemporary design, industry and technology. Each edition focuses on a strategic sector: automotive in 2023, textiles in 2024, chemicals in 2025, agriculture in 2026 and construction in 2027.

Research is developed through exhibitions, workshops and long-term partnerships.

As-Built is the construction-focused edition of Design Signals, developed by FABER and MODEM within TRANSMAT – Translocal Matters: Socially Engaged Arts and Design on the Borderlands.

Host Institutions

FABER

FABER is an independent cultural centre established in 2017 by Timișoara-based entrepreneurs working across architecture, IT and the sociocultural sector. Design Signals is based at FABER and develops long-term research, exhibitions, workshops and partnerships around contemporary design, industry and technology.

MODEM

MODEM Centre for Modern and Contemporary Art is a museum in Debrecen with 2,000 square metres of exhibition space. Its exhibitions, projects, conferences and educational programmes examine art in relation to the culture and society of Central and Eastern Europe. MODEM also supports emerging artists and curators through grants, residencies and the Debrecen Artist in Residence programme. As a cohost of As-Built, MODEM brings the perspective of Debrecen – a city where infrastructure, land, labour and regional development are part of everyday urban change.

Curators

MARTINA MUZI

Martina Muzi is a designer, curator and educator whose work examines design through material logistics, geopolitical cultures and social structures. She has curated Design Signals at FABER since 2022 and leads the BA programme Studio Technogeographies at Design Academy Eindhoven. In 2026, she is co-curator of the Rotterdam Architecture Biennale, Systems of Support, and curator of BIO 29: Soft Fields, the 29th Biennial of Design organised by the Museum of Architecture and Design (MAO). Since 2024, she has also curated ENTRATE, a multi-year programme at MAXXI in Rome. Her work has been presented at the Venice Architecture Biennale, Vitra Design Museum, Istanbul Biennial, MAAT Museum and M+ Museum of Visual Culture.

KRISZTIÁN GÁBOR TÖRÖK

Krisztián Gábor Török is a Budapest-based curator and art writer whose practice explores ecological imaginaries, situated knowledge, and the politics of memory and place through socially engaged and experimental exhibition formats. He has been a curator at MODEM Centre for Modern and Contemporary Art since 2022, where he developed Learning from Nature? Botany, an exhibition and residency project featuring ten new commissions. Since 2025, he has also curated the MODEM AIR programme. His international projects include Breaking the Course of the European Boomerang at Pragovka Gallery in Prague and Index in Stockholm. He has participated in programmes at Ujazdowski Castle CCA, UNIDEE Biella and the Curators Workshop of the 12th Berlin Biennale.

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