**PRESS RELEASE**

**Exhibition title:**  The red thread

**Exhibiting artists:**  Daniel Balabán

**Venue:** GJK, Kopell’s villa, Zelený kríček 3, Trnava  
**Curator:**  Jiří Jůza  
**Exhibition opening:** December 05th 2024, 6pm

The exhibition thematically focuses on one of the central motifs of Balabán's work, which spans his entire artistic life. The family autobiography, framed within such a remarkable constellation of exceptional personalities, offers endless possibilities for inspiration. Life itself, once again, bends many parables and completes circles. The radicalism of youth, the rebellion directly addressing relationships and situations, transforms into new epic syntheses. What connects it all, however, remains in varying degrees of relativization, marked by a wry smile that does not challenge the overarching meaning.

Radek Wolhmuth writes about Balabán’s "personal topography" in the exhibition catalog for the Václav Špála Gallery in 2020. His father, Daniel Balabán Sr., was a prominent internist and nephrologist in Ostrava who contributed to the establishment of the dialysis center at the University Hospital Ostrava. His brother, Jan Balabán, was a respected and award-winning writer, translator, curator, and critic. His uncle, Professor Milan Balabán, was a Protestant theologian, religious scholar, and educator. His grandfather, Antonín Balabán, a Protestant deacon and religion teacher, worked among the Volhynian Czechs in the area of present-day Ukraine. His aunt, Milada Schmidtová, was a painter who supported young Daniel in his journey toward becoming an artist. We must not overlook Balabán's contributions as an educator in higher education in Ostrava. The rst precursor to today’s Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Ostrava was the Faculty of Education, where Daniel Balabán established and led the rst Studio of painting starting in 1993. Under his guidance, many young artists who later achieved success were led toward openness and individual expression. Among the rst graduates were Katarína Szanyi, Aleš Hudeček, and David Jedlička.