



Daniel Balabán: The red thread

Daniel Balabán could be called "the painter of the cross". However, Let's not perceive him as a sacred artist, but rather as a painter whose work intersects the horizontal and vertical planes. The plane of existence, love, birth, and death, of passionate life and life filled with joy or hardship, intersects with philosophy and faith, with the realm of hope and salvation. Daniel Balabán is a painter who is not only richly endowed with the ability to paint in all possible nuances but, above all, he is an artist who approaches a painting as a synthetic tool of communication, as well as a platform and medium that is not straightforward but encompasses multiple layers of meaning. The depth or intensity of perception is revealed according to the level of sensitivity and openness of the viewer's eye.

Daniel Balabán has probably used all the colors of life, absorbing the stimuli he has encountered throughout his life - stimuli that have been transformed or are being transformed through a deeply rooted multitude of perspectives, unified by a common thread of humanity and its expressions. These include impulses from religion, science, and simple life moments, as well as literary, linguistic, social, and influences from the various settings in which he moves.

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

Zriaďovateľ:

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 first 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 first 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 first graduates were Katarína Szanyi, Aleš Hudeček, and David Jedlička.

Prof. Daniel Balabán

*1957 (Šumperk), lives and works in Vřesina near Ostrava

Studies

1979-1984 He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in the Studio of painting of František Jiroudek.

Profession

Since 1993, he has been the head of the Studio of painting at the current Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Ostrava. In 2014, he was appointed as a professor.

Solo Exhibitions/Selection

- 2022 – *The Essence of Personal Identity*, Trafo Gallery, Prague
- 2020 – *Personal Topography*, Václav Špála Gallery, Prague
- 2018 – *Paleorest*, Gallery 1. floor, Prague
- 2016 – *Unclear Messages*, Gallery of Fine Arts in Ostrava
- 2014 – *Live*, Sokolská 26 Exhibition Hall, Ostrava
- 2013 – *Report 2013*, Moravian Gallery, Brno

- 2006 – *Mind the Gap*, Brno House of Arts
- 2000 – *Quanta and Void*, Gallery of Fine Arts in Ostrava
- 1997 – *Everyday Immortality*, Felix Jenewein Gallery, Kutná Hora
- 1996 – *Night, You Shall Not Fear*, Lang's House Gallery, Frýdek-Místek
- 1993 – Václav Špála Gallery, Prague
- 1993 – Caesar Gallery, Olomouc

Group exhibitions/Selection

Daniel Balabán has been represented in more than 150 group exhibitions.

Represented in Galleries and Collections

National Gallery in Prague, Gallery of the Capital City of Prague, Moravian Gallery in Brno, Museum of Art in Olomouc, Gallery of Fine Arts in Ostrava, Gallery of Fine Arts in Cheb and many private collections both in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Curator: Jiří Júza

Venue: GJK, Kopell's villa, Zelený kríček 3, Trnava

Duration of the exhibition: December 5th - January 26th 2024

Visual communication: CUBE studio Ltd.