

TELEGRAPH

PRESS RELEASE

Prague/Olomouc, 12/06/2024

The Eighties at Olomouc's Telegraph Gallery: Signál IV Exhibition Unveils the Unofficial Czechoslovak Art Scene of the 1980s

The Telegraph Gallery presents its fourth exhibition showcasing the collection of Robert Runták, the founder of the Telegraph platform for art and creativity. The representative selection, *Signál IV: The Eighties*, explores the unofficial art scene of the 1980s, juxtaposing a generation of emerging artists with their mentors. Opened by a vernissage on 5 December, the exhibition features works by Milan Knížák, Adriena Šimotová, Jiří David, Tomáš Císařovský, Michael Rittstein, and others, and will remain on view until 20 March 2025.

Signál IV is the fourth exhibition to reveal another segment of Robert Runták's extensive collection, this time focusing on works from **1979–1991 in Czechoslovakia**. For over a decade, Runták has been curating this collection to represent the **unofficial art scene** of that era. All exhibited pieces entered the collection at least two decades after their creation. “From today's perspective, it's remarkable that this exhibition, composed entirely of works from a single private collection, offers not just the collector's subjective viewpoint but also a broader insight into the Czech art scene of the 1980s,” notes **curator Pavla Kosař**, who curated the exhibition alongside **Miroslav Jířele**. Jířele adds: “On the surface, the 1980s may seem invisible, with little happening in the official sphere. Yet beneath the surface, much was unfolding in private settings or within the handcrafted subcultures of the time. To me, the Eighties are 'visible/invisible' because of these contrasting perspectives.”

The most dynamic elements of the contemporary art scene thus took place outside the official oversight of state-sanctioned evaluation committees, which were tasked with guaranteeing ideological and artistic conformity. The multifaceted, unofficial gallery network operated on the fringes: in private or alternative spaces and even in nature. The younger generation of artists developed their practices through short-term public exhibitions such as *Chmelnice* or *Konfrontace I–IV*, often under the watchful eye of the police. **The exhibition contrasts the generation of 1980s artists with their mentors, who operated outside institutional frameworks.** Behind the closed doors of their studios, these mentors filled the gap left by the lack of critical dialogue in art schools. “What emerged was a distinctly unique, visually rich decade—a time when artistic languages, approaches, concepts, and personalities collided, carrying ideas and visual culture from a distant past into the present,” highlights **Jan Kudrna**, curator of Robert Runták's collection.

Signál IV: The Eighties showcases artists active during the 1980s across two main generational lines. The older generation of mentors, who had already been active in previous decades, is represented in Runták's collection—and therefore the exhibition—by figures such as **Milan Knížák**,

Adriena Šimotová, Aleš Veselý, Alena Kučerová, and Jiří Načeradský. The younger generation of emerging artists is presented through works associated with the *Tvrdohlaví* group, including **Jiří David** and **Jaroslav Róna**, as well as other kindred spirits and individualists such as **Václav Stratil, Vladimír Kokolia, Jiří Kovanda, Tomáš Císařovský, and Marian Palla.**

Works by 38 artists are on display at the Olomouc Telegraph Gallery until 20 March 2025.

Useful information

The Telegraph Gallery is open Tuesday to Thursday from 9 am to 7 pm, Friday from 9 am to 9 pm, and Saturday to Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm. Entrance to the exhibition is 50 CZK. Members of the TLG CLUB loyalty programme can visit the exhibition for free and enjoy other benefits.

Contact

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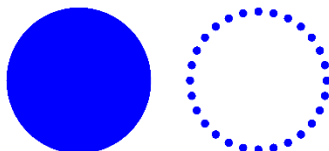
SIGNÁL IV: THE EIGHTIES

12/05/2024 – 03/20/2025 (opening 12/05/2024 at 6 pm)

Exhibiting artists:

Daniel Balabán, Tomáš Císařovský, Jiří David, Stanislav Diviš, Bedřich Dlouhý, Michal Gabriel, Dalibor Chatrný, Věra Janoušková, Magdalena Jetelová, Josef Jíra, Milan Knížák, Vladimír Kokolia, Richard Konvička, Jiří Kovanda, Marius Kotrba, Alena Kučerová, Martin Mainer, Jiří Načeradský, Petr Nikl, Ivan Ouhel, Marian Palla, Viktor Pivovarov, Michael Rittstein, Jaroslav Róna, Tomáš Ruller, Zbyšek Sion, Vladimír Skrepl, Otakar Slavík, Jiří Sopko, Václav Stratil, Antonín Střížek, Čestmír Suška, Adriena Šimotová, Margita Titlová Ylovsky, Květa Válová, Aleš Veselý, Petr Veselý, Josef Žáček

Curators: Pavla Kosař, Miroslav Jiřele



TELEGRAPH GALLERY

Jungmannova 4, Olomouc
www.telegraph.cz/en

Opening hours Tuesday–Thursday 9 am – 7 pm, Friday 9 am – 9 pm
Saturday–Sunday 10 am – 6 pm

Entrance 50 CZK, free for TLG CLUB members.

Telegraph Gallery regularly presents exhibitions of contemporary art from the Czech Republic and abroad. On 350 m² displays the work of well-known and also overlooked artists of all ages. It also hosts workshops; art courses and offers residencies to Czech and international artists. For more information, visit <https://telegraph.cz/en/gallery>.

TLG CLUB

The Telegraph Gallery offers membership in the TLG CLUB loyalty programme. Members receive free entry to exhibitions, discounts on publications, and a range of other benefits. Memberships can be purchased at the Telegraph's reception desk or online. For details on the loyalty program, visit <https://telegraph.cz/en/tlgrphclub>.

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