

PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition: MINYAN**Artist: Dan Zollmann****Curators: Andrea Hoffman Nečasová, Vanda Skálová****Exhibition dates: 8th May – 28th August 2022****Opening reception: 8th May 2022 at 4pm, GASK****15th May 2022 at 4pm, arto.to gallery at Uhelný mlýn**

GASK, the Gallery of the Central Bohemian Region, and the arto.to gallery at Uhelný mlýn have joined to present MINYAN, a dual exhibition by the Flemish photographer Dan Zollmann that gives visitors a glimpse into the unique world of Europe's largest Orthodox Jewish community, located in the Belgian town of Antwerp. It is a kind of 'world within a world', a place where much of the population continues to observe ancient rules and commandments and lives apart from mainstream Western society. MINYAN is the first foreign exhibition for Antwerp native Dan Zollmann, who hails from the city's Jewish community and whose familiarity with the local environment and its people and customs enables him to provide an incredibly personal witness to the everyday life of this community. The aim of the exhibition is to emphasise the theme of respect within today's global society – a theme that is particularly important in view of current events. MINYAN opens on 8th May at the Gallery of the Central Bohemian Region in Kutná Hora and on 15th May at Uhelný mlýn in Libčice nad Vltavou.

The word 'minyán' comes from Hebrew and describes a community of ten adult men – the smallest number needed to gather together for public prayer. *Minyan* is also the title of a dual exhibition by the Belgian photographer Dan Zollmann, who is a silent chronicler of the Orthodox Jewish community in Antwerp. And finally, *Minyan* is the title of a new book by journalist and author Margot Vanderstraeten, whose best-selling *Mazel Tov* was published in the Czech Republic in 2020. One of the protagonists of her new book, which is being published in Czech in late May by Garamond, is the photographer Dan Zollmann.

The exhibition, a collaborative effort between GASK and the arto.to gallery at Uhelný mlýn, is divided into two thematic wholes. The exhibition at Uhelný mlýn explores the subject of contrasts, which often happen as an afterthought, by placing a visibly different tradition into the setting of a pulsating Western metropolis. The images at GASK, meanwhile, take a close-up look at the intimacy of family, spiritual community, school and the life of the individual. Both sets of photographs engage in a conversation on visual differences and encounters, on interconnections and mutual influences. They also familiarise viewers on a factual level with basic information on the past and, above all, present of a community whose members came to Antwerp after the Second World War, predominantly from central and eastern Europe: Poland, Ukraine, Hungary and then-Czechoslovakia.

Draughtsman and graphic artist Jaromír Hárovník has created a worksheet to go along with the exhibition that introduces visitors to important aspects of Jewish culture in a playful manner with a view to the exhibited photographs. Both galleries offer accompanying programmes featuring guided tours with photographer Dan Zollmann, author Margot Vanderstraeten and translator Radka Smejkalová. Guided tours are held at the arto.to gallery at Uhelný mlýn at 5pm on Saturday, 11th June and at GASK in Kutná Hora at 4pm on Sunday, 12th June. Additionally, author Margot Vanderstraeten, translator Radka Smejkalová and publisher Petr Himmel (Garamond) will present the book *Minyan* at the Svět knihy book fair at 1pm on Saturday, 11th June.

GASK

GALERIE STŘEDOČESKÉHO KRAJE

Let yourself be guided (and beguiled) by art!

GASK – Gallery of the Central Bohemian Region is located in the former Jesuit College in Kutná Hora. It is an art institution focused on the collecting and exhibiting of art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Uhelný mlýn is an industrial jewel near Prague that has been home to the art.to gallery of contemporary art since 2016.

This exhibition was made possible with financial support from the Czech State Culture Fund, the Czech Ministry of Culture, the Representation of Flanders in the Czech Republic and the Central Bohemian Region.

arto.to gallery at Uhelný mlýn

Areál Šroubáren 860

252 66 Libčice nad Vltavou

www.arto.to a www.uhelnymlyn.cz

Open Wednesday to Sunday from 2 to 7pm

Prior reservations via GoOut required.

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