**P R E S S  R E L E A S E**

**Exhibition name: Our silence will not protect us**

**Exhibiting author:** Jaroslav Varga

**Curator:** Vladimír Beskid

**Opening of the exhibition:** 13 March 2023 at 18:00

**Duration of the exhibition:** 14 March - 12 May 2023

**Venue:**  Jan Koniarek Gallery in Trnava, Synagogue - Centre of Contemporary Art, Halenárska 2, Trnava

Jan Koniarek Gallery opens the exhibition programme of Synagogue - Centre for Contemporary Art in 2024 with a solo exhibition of the prominent Slovak artist with an international reputation, Jaroslav VARGA (1982). It is a distinctive site-specific installation with the main motif of a "manifestation" performance of book titles (both scientific and fiction) in an intense dialogue and confrontation. It is a large-scale occupation of historical space by book titles, which are in the form of roadblocks and challenges - hung, raised, leaned against the wall, placed on the floor, etc. Underlying this demonstrative deployment of visual text is the Foucault´s observation that we still cannot "break free from the oppression of power, knowledge and sexuality." What emerged was a complex 'saturated' installation with strong book titles with rebellious, protest or defiant gestures that respond to the current convoluted media and mental situation and social environment. It is about the constant, shifting state of individuality in a complex socio-cultural environment, the fractured relationship between the individual and the system in turbulent times and in multiple languages.

The exhibition will run until 10 May 2024. The artist has been supported by the Slovak Arts Council from public funds. doc. Mgr. Jaroslav Varga ArtD. (born 1982 in Trebišov), is Slovak intermedia artist who lives and works in Prague. After graduating from the University of Prešov (2005), he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bratislava (2010), where he continued his doctoral studies (2014). He has held scholarships at: Academy of Arts and Design Wrocław (2007), Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (2009), and the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna (2011). Two-time finalist of the Oskar Čepan Award; 2017 - 1st prize of the Novum Foundation; 2015 - Young Artist of the Year, Tatrabanka Foundation Award. Actual exhibitions: 2023 - Haifa Museum of Art, Israel; Ivan Gallery, Bucharest; 2022 - Angkor and Rome, Sa Sa Art, Phnom Penh, Cambodia; 2021 - Chiquita Room, Tàpies Foundation, Barcelona; more info at: https://www.jarovarga.net/bio