**P R E S S  R E L E A S E**

**Exhibition title: Justice Will Triumph**

**Exhibiting artists:** Vlad Yurashko

**Venue:** Jan Koniarek Gallery in Trnava, Koppel's Villa , Zelenýkríček3, Trnava

**Curator:** Vladimír Beskid

**Opening of the exhibition:** 20 March (Wed) 2023 at 18:00

The solo exhibition of Ukrainian painter living in Slovakia Vlad YURASHKO (1970) under the urgent title Justice Will Triumph is marked by juicy topical painting, strong visuality and moral appeal. The exhibition is divided into several series of works that replicate Yurashko's thinking in painting over the last 15 years.

The opening paintings are influenced by documentary photography and personal recollections of the ignominious days of military service in the Soviet Army in the late 1980s. The author presents unflattering scenes of military drills, barracks backgrounds, marches, even emptied spaces, violence, and mutual bullying of soldiers (Parade of Machines, 2010; In the Barracks, 2011" In the Washroom, 2011). These are followed by large-scale paintings of the strange "little green men"-Russian soldiers in the woods-who appeared in the separatist territories of Ukraine after 2014 (5 Figures, 2014; In the Forest, 2015). A key series of works that "occupied" an entire wall of the space is a series of smaller works of nearly 30 works (both framed and left as loosely hanging canvases) titled "Attraction 2" from 2010 to 2018. It is a saturated compilation of works with a mix of global and personal themes: war scenes, Ukrainian tankers, burning people, a neo-Nazi march, mass media footage, erotic scenes, blurry images of marching soldiers, etc. This wall is complemented by a single object with plastic soldiers climbing a Tatra cliff (The Conquest of the High Tatras Model, 2022). The second intense series of works is the "Asylum Book" in 2017-22: Originally created as a book, it depicts various scenes of refugee, emigration and the suffering of these people in the contemporary world of wars and violence. The exhibition concludes with a new series of intimate A4 full-colour watercolours, with bright, signal colours appearing disorderly on poppingly bright colour surfaces (Watercolour Honey, 2023-24). The graphic design of the invitation and poster was created by the artist's daughter Valeria Yurashko.

The exhibition runs until 1 May 2024. Vlad Yurashko was born in 1970 in Poltava, Ukraine. From 1996 to 2002 he studied at the Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Fine Arts. After 2010, he has been a prominent figure on the international visual art scene (Atelier Karas, Kiev; Pop/off/art, Moscow; Galery Kuckei + Kuckei, Berlin, etc.), and is gradually gaining a foothold of himself in the Slovak environment, where he currently lives and works in Banská Bystrica and Galanta. His wife and daughter are also visual artists. Since 2018 he has had his first solo exhibitions (FX Gallery, Banská Bystrica; GJK, Trnava; White and Weiss Bratislava), and has been invited to several collective exhibitions in Slovakia (GUS, Spišská Nová Ves; MVL, Košice; SSG Banská Bystrica, etc.).