

Dear Ernst,

I have thought about this exhibition as a letter to you—a continuation of the conversations, exchanges, and ideas we shared as friends.

I remember the first time you encountered the work of Tina Dobrajc and Miha Štrukelj, and the enthusiasm and curiosity with which you responded to their work. You had a rare ability to connect people, artists, and ideas, and to see collecting as a way of creating relationships. It is in this spirit that I introduce Helena Tahir to you here. Although I am sorry to do so after you have left us, I feel that her work belongs naturally within this conversation.

Together, Dobrajc, Štrukelj, and Tahir form a constellation of distinct artistic and personal positions. Their works differ in artistic language, form, and approach, yet meet around questions of identity, memory, belonging, and the ways personal experience can open onto broader social and cultural realities. Perhaps this is also why I feel these artists belong here, in the gallery you created: they continue a way of thinking about exhibitions that I associate with you—as places where works can meet, unexpected relationships can emerge, and looking can become a conversation.

So, dear Ernst, this exhibition is my way of continuing that conversation—with you, with the artists, with the works, and with the memories that remain. I hope that, somewhere in this constellation, you would recognize something of the curiosity, openness, and joy that you brought to art—and to all of us who had the privilege of sharing it with you.