

CASE STUDY / PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Threads of Connection

Group exhibition on relationships, gestures and emotions

MICHAŁ SZYMANIAK

Photographer / Project Contributor

Białystok · 2026

VANTAVEIL

Connection before words appear.

Threads of Connection is a group photography exhibition devoted to relationships, emotions and gestures - to what connects people, but also to the fragile, subtle and often invisible elements of human contact. The project asks to what extent we consciously experience emotions, and to what extent they influence our gestures, reactions and decisions.

The exhibition was built around three sections. Bonds and the Red Thread explores connection through the motif of the red thread. Emotion Tide moves from heavy, tense states toward lightness and joy. Unspoken Dialogues focuses on hands and body language - gestures that can communicate emotion before words.

COLLABORATION

The Emotion Tide and Unspoken Dialogues sections were created in collaboration with students of the Aleksander Zelwerowicz National Academy of Dramatic Art in Warsaw - Białystok Branch. Working together with the models allowed expression, movement and gesture to become fully fledged tools for building the image.

MY ROLE

Photographer / project contributor. Working with portraiture, models, light, gesture and visual storytelling.



Emotion Tide

From heaviness and tension to lightness, joy and elation.



TENSION



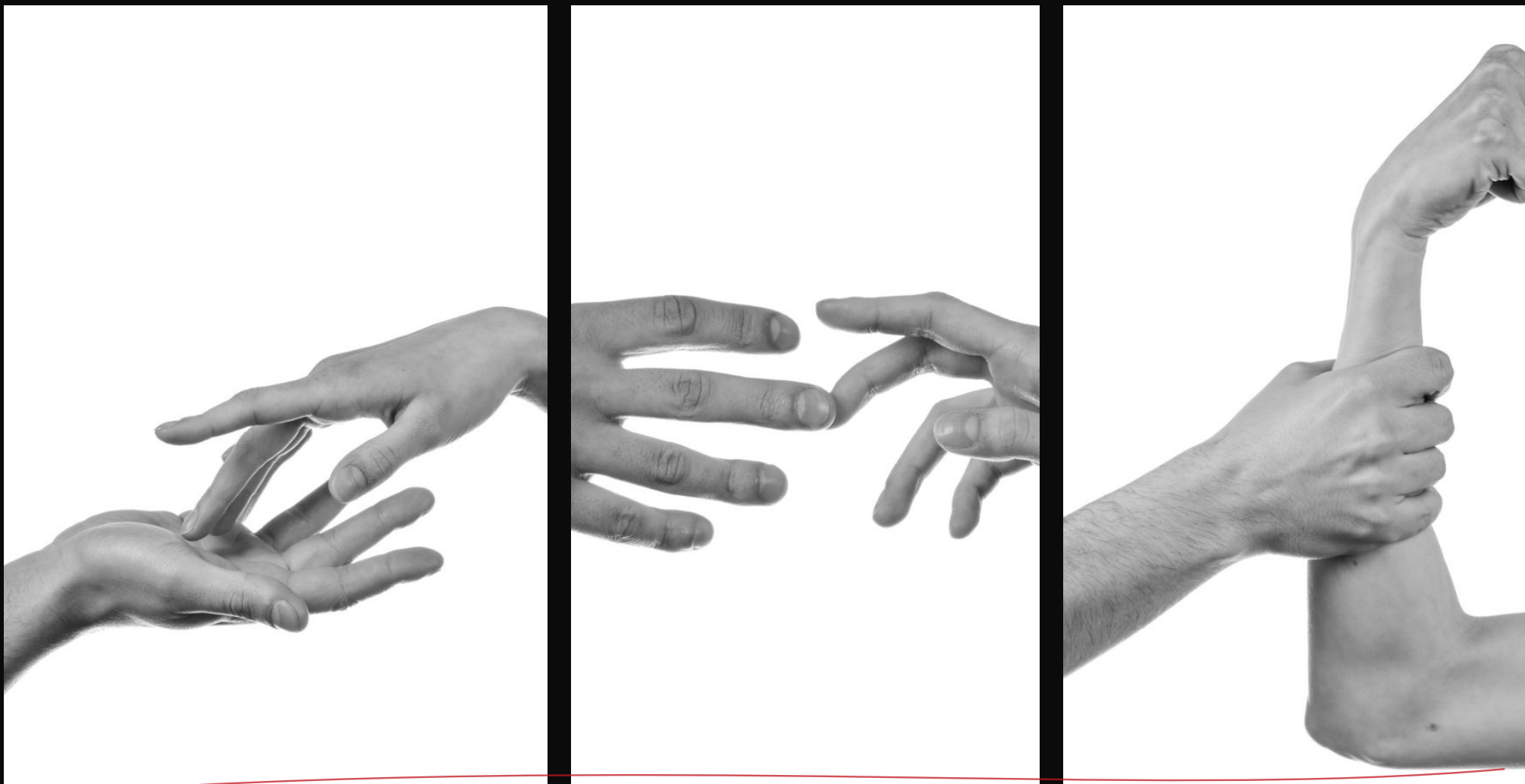
CLIMAX



RELEASE

Gesture comes before words.

Support · tenderness · plea · tension · impulse



Closeness and tension.

The body becomes a message when words are not enough.



From plan to image.

Expression, light and the model's reaction shaped the image before the final frame.



The red thread becomes space.

The photographs were UV-printed on PVC panels. The system of red threads served both a structural and symbolic function - referencing the idea of the Red Thread of Fate, materializing invisible bonds between people and transforming the exhibition space into a network of relationships.



The works enter into a relationship with the viewer.

Documentation of the space shows the scale of the exhibition and how the audience experienced it.



The exhibition as a meeting.

The opening became the final stage of the project - a moment when the works, creators and audience came together. Gesture, facial expression and physical presence, previously contained within the photographs, became a starting point for direct dialogue with the audience.



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CONCEPT & CURATORIAL SUPERVISION

Magdalena and Paweł Ławreszuk

PROJECT

TEB Edukacja Białystok

EXHIBITION PARTNER

Białostocki Ośrodek Kultury

COLLABORATION ON EMOTION TIDE / UNSPOKEN DIALOGUES

Aleksander Zelwerowicz National Academy of Dramatic Art in Warsaw - Białystok Branch

PRINTING

Globart Print sp. z o.o. · UV on PVC

ROLE IN THE PROJECT

Michał Szymaniak · Photographer / Project Contributor

This case study presents selected project materials: exhibition photographs, process documentation and documentation of the exhibition space. Authorship of individual photographs remains as credited in the original exhibition.

FULL EXHIBITION DOCUMENTATION

Open the full project presentation >

The full original documentation opens as a separate document.

@szymaniak._

VANTAVEIL · The Art of Silence and Form