



Dear Mr. Samuel Bak,

Please accept my sincere congratulations to you on the occasion of your 90th birthday. It is symbolic and significant that your anniversary coincides with the 700th anniversary of Vilnius, where you were born and with which you have a special bond.

Your life and outstanding personality are an inseparable part of the history and culture of not only the capital of Lithuania and of this country, but also of the entire world. Your art is a testimony to the importance of a values-based connection to one's roots, being open to them, and promoting the memory of them. Through a personal prism, in a subtle artistic language, you reveal the experiences of the Holocaust and the painful past of humanity, but at the same time you also speak the light of humanism.

Today's world desperately needs your wisdom, through which the fundamental truths are embodied in your paintings, and which offers an endless hope that we will manage to keep this world on the right side of history.

On this special occasion, I would like to thank you for your close ties with Lithuania and for the fact that Vilnius continues to inspire you to create. I am grateful for the works you have given to the people of Lithuania, which enrich the treasures of this country's culture and art, and which constitute an invaluable bond between us. The museum named after you has become a prominent part of the cultural landscape of Lithuania and has turned into a vibrant space for exploring the Lithuanian Jewish world—an immanent element of the heritage of this country and of the world culture—and for learning about the universal human values.

I wish you good health, strength, and many more meaningful works.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of fluid, overlapping strokes that form the name Gitanas Nausėda.

Gitanas Nausėda

President of the Republic of Lithuania

Vilnius, 12 August 2023