



Асоціація Курортів
України

**People's diplomacy project «Support Ukraine!»
On the initiative of the chairman of Lviv Regional Military Administration
Maksym Kozytskyi
Military Chaplaincy Center**

THE HORROR OF WAR. VERSION OF THE XXI CENTURY



**Krakov - Rome - Madrid - Dusseldorf - Murcia - Brussels
Project curator - Yuriy Kotyk**

May 2022



For too long, many decisions on the world stage were made without taking into account Ukraine's position. It also affected the fact that for four months now we have been fighting for our peace and peaceful life in an independent and sovereign state. For four months now, Ukraine has been loudly declaring to the world that Russia is committing genocide of the Ukrainian people in the center of Europe. Our President is talking about it, our politicians are talking about it. There are many countries that heard us and extended a helping hand, because they understand that we stand not only for ourselves, we stand for the peace and tranquility of the whole of Europe. However, there are still many who still cannot decide whose side they are on in this confrontation. But history is not written by politicians. People write history. That is why the Lviv Regional Military Administration initiated a project of people's diplomacy from Ukraine. The language of art is a universal language. Our artists speak to colleagues abroad and visitors to exhibitions with the help of their works. In order to reach the citizens of foreign countries and explain what Ukrainians are experiencing due to the invasion of Russia, our people's diplomats draw people parallels with the events that took place in their native countries. I thank the public figure Yuriy Kotyk, who took responsibility for coordinating this project, and all the people's diplomats for the efforts they have already made and will have to make to make the trips effective.

«We cannot and should not lose hope for better times. Instead of despairing, get to work.»

- Cardinal Lubomyr Huzar, the luminary of Ukraine, emphasized. To work. On all fronts.

Maksym Kozytskyi, head of the Lviv regional military-civilian administration



**Most Reverend Bishop Stepan Sus
Curial bishop of Kyiv-Halytskyi
Supreme Archbishop,
Head of the Pastoral and Migration Department of the Patriarchal Curia
of the UGCC**

Art allows a person already here on earth, from our realities, difficulties and experiences, to touch eternity. It unites us, makes us stronger, allows us to become participants in the victory of human values and eternal ideas, even when there is still war around! Art preaches, it shares experiences, it teaches life. That is why the task of the public diplomacy project «Support Ukraine» is, through art and the eternal, to convey the truth about the war to everyone who has forgotten, who simply “closed the door” or lives in a world of misinformation. I believe that the mission of the authors of the project and artists will touch many to be together and be strong for victory!



Priest Taras Mykhalchuk

**The abbot of the Garrison Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul
Head of the Military Chaplaincy Center of LA UGCC**

War in the 21st century is a reality in which Ukrainians have been living for 9 years. Thousands of dead and wounded, including many children. The war brought many tears to the Ukrainian land. Looking at the history of the liberation wars of Ukrainians for their independence, we see that the cultural front and cultural world itself have always been strongly developed in Ukraine, where even without guns you can defeat the enemy with the cultural heritage of your people. Ukrainians rallied as a single monolith in the fight against the immoral enemy - the Russian occupiers. Ukrainians are a highly spiritual nation with an ancient cultural heritage and high moral values. Today, thanks to Ukrainian art, we want to convey to the whole world the truth about Ukraine and the greatness of the Ukrainian people, who, contrary to the plans of Putin's occupiers, are courageously fighting for the truth. At the same time, we would like to thank all countries for their support and assistance in our struggle for liberation



Yuriy Kotyk is a public figure, curator of the project

«In the same way, the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.»

(Matthew 20:28)

Today, Ukraine, following the example of Christ, gives the lives of its best sons as a ransom for the peoples of Europe. Do not look for pathos or excessive exaggeration of the sacrifice of my Motherland in this phrase.

Remembering Nazism, did Europe forget about the «achievements» of the victorious Red Army: robbed and destroyed civilians on the way to Berlin, tortured men and raped women, children killed due to disregard for human life? Winners are not judged? In vain, because there would be no winners if it were not for the allies and the huge help of the USA under the Lend-Lease program.

The countries of Europe and the USA allowed Kremlin ideologues to privatize the victory over the Third Reich, and today neo-Moscow chauvinism, as the ideological twin brother of fascism, is already crushing people in Ukraine with tanks under the slogans of fighting mythical Nazism. Dignity as it was done in Europe by the «liberators» in 1945, and on the streets of Budapest in 1956.

The Russian Federation is not only the formal successor of the USSR, it is the spiritual (if this word can be applied to Satanism) successor of the Horde rage, which the peoples of Europe for some reason prefer to forget!

Take a look at the blooming country looking at you from the canvases of Volodymyr Kozyuk, and then at the war-burnt paintings of Ostap Kovalchuk. If the peoples of Europe do not unite around helping Ukraine, their countries will face the same transformation!

In conclusion, I would like to quote here the words of our brilliant poetess Lina Kostenko:

*Despair and blood and death and terror,
And vulture horde's aggressive screech,
This little wretched evil bearer
Committed horrible besiege.
Disgusting breed of evil creatures,
It grabs much more than it can chew.
Do nations wait for fierced preacher?
It's us today, tomorrow - you...*

Art project «Stand with Ukraine»

The art project «Stand with Ukraine» depicts a war-torn Ukraine, a war that humanity has not yet seen in the 21st century.

In the projects of Ukrainian artists Ostap Kovalchuk «Images scorched by war», Volodymyr Stasenko «Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us!» and Volodymyr Kozyuk's «Support Ukraine!» an artistic interpretation of the current war in Ukraine is shown. Their projects differ in form and means of artistic language, raise a wide range of issues, which shows the full breadth of the tragedy in Ukraine. In fact, this is documentary evidence of a world-scale catastrophe brought to Ukraine by Russian aggression. The artists' own experiences are combined with universal and deep historical metaphors that speak about the horrors of war. They include appeals to the great tradition of Christian art of icon painting and artistic interpretation of modern photos that record the war in Ukraine, combining the traditions and technologies of traditional and modern art.

The idea and purpose of these projects are the same. They express the aspirations of the entire people of Ukraine for peace in our country and throughout the world. Our task is to remind Europeans that in Ukraine, in the geographical center of the European continent, a war is going on, from which ordinary people and children die every day, that we are defending the values of European civilization common to all of us and we need their constant and active support.

We want the whole world to see our plight and support us.

Support Ukraine today to prevent World War III!

Exhibitions of the art project were organized with the support of the Lviv Military Regional Administration, the Military Chaplaincy Center, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, the Embassy of Ukraine in the Vatican, the Embassy of Ukraine in Italy, the Embassy of Ukraine in Spain, the Association «Con Ukraina» (Madrid, Spain), the Association of Ukrainians of the Region Murcia (Spain), Public organization «Best artist».

People's Artist of Ukraine Volodymyr Kozyuk, author of the «Support Ukraine!» project.

Artist Ostap Kovalchuk, author of the project «Images, scorched by war».

Artist Volodymyr Stasenko, author of the project «Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us!».

Art connoisseur Olekiy Zhadeyko.

The initiator and curator of the project is Yuriy Kotyk.

Volodymyr Koziuk – ukrainian artist

The national artist of Ukraine (since January 23rd 2016). Distinguished artist of Ukraine (since August 20th 2007). An honored professor of David Agmashenebeli's academy (Georgia 2022). Patron, Photographer, public figure. The President of international social organization «The best artist». Author of the project «Spiritual preservation and revival of Ukraine»

Member of the Charitable Council of the International Foundation "UKRAINE NEEDS OUR HELP."

«Ukraine» 70x90. Canvas, oil. 2022. The work was performed together with refugee children from all regions of Ukraine. Ukraine above all! You seem to be a well-known artist and a successful person, you are imitated, you are followed.

Exhibitions in Paris, Beijing, New York, Washington, Dubai and other cities. Artists from all over the world take part in your projects, world-class experts are on the jury: Rothschild, Schlemer, and Ivona Malevich (granddaughter of Kazimir Malevich, the



most famous artist in the world) presents your work at the most prestigious auctions... And then suddenly you wake up from the explosions, the air alarm sounds, you run with your wife and children to the old factory in the bomb shelter. Life flies before your eyes like a moment. Your daughter clung to you with tears in her eyes, encouraging herself, and says that she's not afraid to die. But why? Why? .. Because there, in Russia, where he once had friends and relatives, an old man decided to destroy everything, everything called Ukraine. For what? For the word, for democracy, for the song, for the nightingale language. And those who were relatives and friends supported this absurd plan... Hundreds of calls, dozens of invitations abroad, but the family decided to stay in Ukraine. As a man I must be useful here in my homeland. They didn't take me to the territorial defence forces, I can't see with one eye, my left arm almost doesn't work after the injury, I stood in line for many hours, but they refused, I didn't fit the criteria... Refugees... all the acquaintances to me people, endless waves of them. I didn't respond to the air alarm anymore - there was not enough time. Everyone needs to be fed somewhere, to spend the night - at least for one night, then they will go further, somewhere further. And this night they will spend on the floor, in the studio, with friends, relatives, in the office, just with those people who left their phone at the checkpoint on the entrance to the city...

And then I cried... like never before. To be more precise, I almost never cried, even when I lost hope in life, when I died, when I survived. I didn't cry then. But now I cried with all my heart, incessantly, hysterically... The Russian missile hit Okhmatdyt, I saw the story of how children were taken to the basement, cancer patients, bald after chemotherapy. I know every wall there, maybe that's why there was such a reaction. I know the problems from the inside, tried to save more than once, not many children survived, even without bombs and missiles... I cried when I found out about the atrocities and massacre in Bucha. Long before it was freed by Ukrainian Army. The woman, who miraculously escaped, told things she did not want to believe in: robbery, rape, torture and fierce hatred, everything that is ours, everything Ukrainian... A friend asked to meet his mother and sister and children from Mariupol, from the

hell of war. The beam that came off the ceiling broke her legs. Fortunately, wrapped in blankets from the cold, the bones weren't shattered. Children ... They stood and just watched. Gray, exhausted, with big devastated eyes, with adult eyes that have no childish joy left. I cried... Somehow obsessed, I could not stop. Understood that these are here, and how many such children are still there?! Without water, heat and food... A few weeks after February 24, I went to my workshop, where I paint for the first time. The landscape lay on the floor, it only had to be covered with varnish and the work was completed. But instead of varnish, I took yellow and blue paint and painted a flag on top - ours, Ukrainian, native. I painted in our field, in our sky, because "Ukraine above all!" Ten days later, I obtained an opportunity to present Ukrainian Art in Milan, at the fair of contemporary art "(Un) fair" in Italy. I presented this work and two others. The raised funds were used to buy medicines and bring them to Lviv - for my native Ukraine. The International Foundation "UKRAINE NEEDS OUR HELP" has invited us to work together, because the only task is to win! I turned several more landscapes into flags. Later, several more flags were drawn with refugee children from all regions of Ukraine, who were visited lots of times. During the next event, they left their palms on the written works, as if defending the earth and the sky of Ukraine.

Of course, all our efforts will never be equal to the one's of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. We just do what we can: help as much as we can. And these flags will go all over the civilized world, even to the Vatican, along with other works, along with other artists, along with children's works in order not only to raise funds for the Armed Forces, wounded refugees, orphans, orphans, reconstruction of Ukraine, but also in order to show the world our flag - with the palms of children who ask for protection, who became adults in and childhood, who received physical and psychological trauma, but who still remain hopeful and believe in Victory! I am finishing writing and cry. Two cruise missiles shot down over my city, carrying death... I will probably cry every time I remember the hundreds of children in Ukraine who will never be able to dip their palms in paint and put them to the flag... Ukraine above all! People Artist of Ukraine Volodymyr Kozyuk, May 3, 2022

"In my house - my truth, my strength, and will" Times, economic and political systems are changing, but through the millennia the basis remains - the genetic code of Ukrainians. The Ukrainian house under the hay roof has its roots in ancient times. On the territory of Ukraine from the times of Trypillia culture to the present day, it has hardly changed its appearance, construction or spiritual aspect. Perhaps this picturesque, warm and hospitable house with home icons, the spirit of prayer, symbolic ornaments of vyshyvanka and towels - this is what determined the formation of the mentality of the nation that will live forever. If not on earth, then in the subconscious of every Ukrainian, to remind us - who we are, where we are from, why are we like that? And it seemed to me that this was exactly the Stus family house, where the mother over the cradle read to Shevchenko's poetry to her little son, sprinkled his soul with the living water of folk songs. Were it not for the warmth of that house, the fire of Taras's word, the life-giving potion of folk song, we would not have the depth of Stus's poetry, disobedience to his spirit, the phenomenon of personality... «The house is under a roof, and flowers grow in the shadows» 120x120. Canvas, oil. 2022. 14 Recently, politicians, public figures in the pages of newspapers, on television and on the radio discussed, argued, what is the Ukrainian national idea. Today came the war and the truth is simple: it is encoded in the aphoristic line of Taras Shevchenko: "In my house - my truth, and strength, and will." My house is an independent Ukrainian state that has suffered for many centuries. A state with a high culture, national customs and traditions, high humanistic ideals, where the greatest treasure is a person, his health. And Ukrainians, who used to pay before, and are paying an exorbitant price today for the independence of their state, should not feel like a national minority here, live "on our land, not ours." The Ukrainian language in the Ukrainian state should not decline, but should be passed from mouth to mouth, from generation to generation as the most precious treasure, as a shrine. "In my house - my truth..." - is the truth about our history, about



«The house is under a roof» 70x90. Canvas, oil. 2022.

the many liberation struggles - not about fake, but real heroes. Without knowledge of true history, as without high quality cement, not possible to build the foundation of the state. Next in Shevchenko's code aphorism are the words "both strength and will." This is not only about the power of weapons, but also about the power of the spirit, without which we can not restore order in our own homes, not strengthen the state, not protect its borders from the evil empire, encroachments of "Russian world" that we have today. And "will" in Shevchenko's interpretation is not only freedom of speech, choice, spirit, but also efforts to be free from the shackles of slavery, to be able to provide peace, warmth, light, comfort and prosperity in your home, to be kind, and on his own, and throughout the country. My white, kind, warm mother's house! No wonder you are synonymous with a deep, meaningful, prayerful word - Lord. It means that, you are the abode of the Lord! It is from here, from your lovage comfort, bread spirit, chamomile dress, mint coolness, from apples and pears in your bosom, from delicious pies in your ovens, from fairy tales and legends on your lips and begins the path of life, self-awareness and the people. Parents' house... Immediately a wave of warmth envelops the heart, and the following close and native pictures of childhood come to mind: the yard is lined with soft spores, apple branches look out the windows, and in the evenings the elegant mother's flower garden intoxicates with aroma. And only the path outside the gardens escapes to distant fields and beckons, entices in search of new discoveries. All our lives we carry in our hearts the image of our father's house, where the memory of our first steps, first words and childhood dreams still lives, where the road to a difficult adult life originates. And that is where we return with our thoughts in times of joy and adversity, where we draw strength and inspiration, find peace, healing and consolation. This is not only our history, folk symbols, culture, which is passing into the past every year, remaining only in museums, paintings by artists and photographs of enthusiasts. It is also the cradle of our Ukrainianness, because, as the author himself very successfully said about his project: "You came out of that house, Ukraine was born in it...". Ukraine is an image of the sacredness, brightness and deep authenticity that the Ukrainian house carries. (The words of Nina Hnatyuk, Oleksandr Dombrovsky and Valery Koroviy are used in the texts



Meeting of the delegation with the management of the Academy of Fine Arts named after Jan Matejka (Krakow, Poland), that strongly supports our campaign.

Volodymyr Stasenko

Honored Artist of Ukraine, Candidate of Art History, Professor Candidate of Art History (2001). Diploma in Art Exhibitions. Laureate of the All-Ukrainian contest «Book Art» (2003, Kyiv); Laureate of the International Watercolor Biennale (Prague, Czech Republic, 2018); Winner of the Regional Award in the field of culture (2015). Awarded the Certificate of Honor of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Ukraine (2005, 2008); Certificate of Honor of Kyrgyzstan (2014). Excellence in Education (2015). Author of monographs: «The beginnings of Ukrainian printing» (2000, co-authored); «Christ and the Mother of God in the woodcuts of the Cyrillic books of Galicia of the 17th century: peculiarities of the development and interpretation of the image» (2003); «Heirs of the first printer. Dictionary of artists, graduates and teachers of the Department of Graphics of the Ukrainian Academy of Printing» (2010). Co-author of industrial design patents. Engaged in the development of didactic materials for inclusive education - for children with impaired vision, works in the field of visual arts, visual communication tools.

AGNUS DEI, QUI TOLLIS PECCATA MUNDI: MISERERE NOBIS! LAMB OF GOD, WHO TAKES ON YOU THE SINS OF THE WORLD, FORGIVE US! Lviv, 2022

War takes the most precious things: life, faith, hope and love!

War destroys basic human humanistic values.

All Ukrainians suffer under the brutal blows of the Russian occupiers. Some lose their lives, most lose their property, and even more suffer unbearable insults. The occupiers are plundering the dignity of the individual and the people.

Loss of housing, the usual previous life, which was preserved in ordinary household trifles, in the usual environment, in family and social ties, surrounded by the native landscape, nature.

We lose everything! Parents, children, relatives and loved ones. The wounds inflicted on the people are unbearable!

An art project is a reflection. The works were conceived as a kind of documents and were created on the basis of real photographs taken by military correspondents, as well as by random witnesses on mobile phones. These photos are terrible documents, evidence of the horrors of war, which infinitely hurt the heart. The facts recorded by cameras and described by living witnesses of these events should be seen, understood and understood by all of humanity.

Graphic works were created in hot pursuit, during the pre-Easter fast, when Ukraine was especially deeply rethinking the passions of Christ.

Materially, the project is implemented on fabric. From time immemorial, linen cloth has accompanied the life of a Ukrainian through the sacralized sacraments of birth, growth, marriage, and death. A canvas of simple white fabric can become inconspicuous, but not endless. A simple linen fabric became the basis for the oldest documentary evidence of the life of Christ, which has reached our days in the form of a shroud.

The motto of the project was the well-known Latin hymn "Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis" (Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us), which is performed during the mass. Agnus Dei is one of the main sections of the Mass — its text is performed every day. It is important that this prayer is also included in the text of the requiem (funeral mass). Agnus Dei was introduced into the Roman rite at the end of the 7th century. like the song that accompanies the breaking of bread.

The visual part of the project is complemented by fragments of graphic works from Ukrainian liturgical books of the 17th century, which is associated with the time of the first stages of Ukraine's liberation struggle from Russian influence.

A simple linen fabric becomes a material for preserving the documentation of modern dramatic events. The canvas in the Ukrainian language has another name - "matter". Therefore, the transfer of images captured in one moment to another matter of existence is a kind of imprint of the pain of an entire people on the shroud of the tortured innocents. These are the stains of pain that cannot be erased from the memory of the Ukrainian people.

Graphically solved canvases reveal images of destroyed cities, villages and human destinies. On the graphic canvases, we see images of murdered, tortured civilians on the streets of peaceful Ukrainian cities, where the merciless occupier broke through: Irpin, Bucha, Borodyanka, Mariupol, as well as those where the occupier reaches with rocket attacks and aviation: Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Lviv... There are no safe places left in Ukraine now!!! Millions of refugees who lost everything in Ukraine. Children in temporary, unreliable shelters - in cold basements of their own houses, hiding from rocket attacks and bombings. A wounded woman who covered her child from shrapnel with her own body in Kyiv; a woman breastfeeding a baby in the Kyiv metro. Soldiers helping civilians evacuate across a destroyed bridge in Irpin.

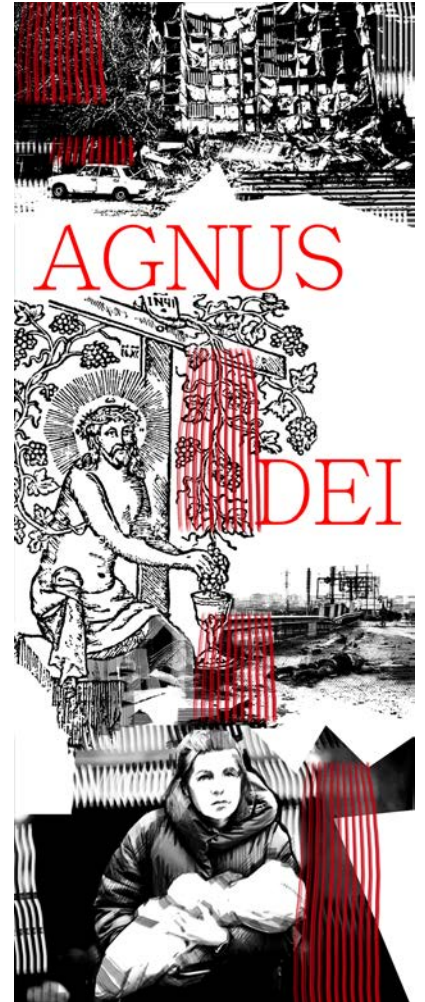
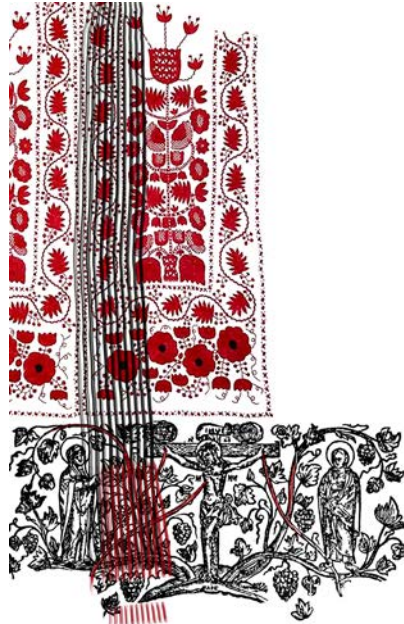
Exhumation of the bodies of the tortured in the towns of Bucha and Borodyanka liberated from the occupiers. Destroyed tanks, bombed churches and homes, icons and sculptures saved from churches and homes.

The color palette of the works is limited to white, black and red colors, which are also deeply symbolic for Ukraine. These three colors are one of the most popular colors of Ukrainian embroidered towels and are also associated with fate. In a popular song about an embroidered shirt, the color red is associated with a symbol of love, and black is associated with a symbol of grief and despair. Folk craftsmen, who produce embroidered towels, laid the most secret and best meanings in their ornaments - love for the native land, family, wishes for peace, health, happiness and longevity. Now Ukrainian towels are covered in blood, they become a new document, they grow into a new life paradigm of the people.

"Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis" "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us." In this difficult and fateful time, Ukrainians ask for God's intercession. In order not to lose yourself, to preserve humanity, faith, hope and love!

During the work on the project, photos from official mass media, news channels, photos taken by professional photojournalists and random witnesses were used: Carol Gusy, Julia Kochetova, Timothy Fadek, Alex Kent, Andreas Foldes, Anastasiia Lapatina, Aris Messinis, Marian Kushnir, Slava Ratynski, Lynsey Carol Gusy, Julia Kochetova, Timothy Fadek, Alex Kent, Andreas Foldes, Anastasiia Lapatina, Aris Messinis, Marian Kushnir, Slava Ratynski, Lynsey Addario, David Guttenfelder, Véronique de Viguerie, Derajinski Daniel, Daniel Berehulak, Erin Schaff, Thomson, Daniel Leal.

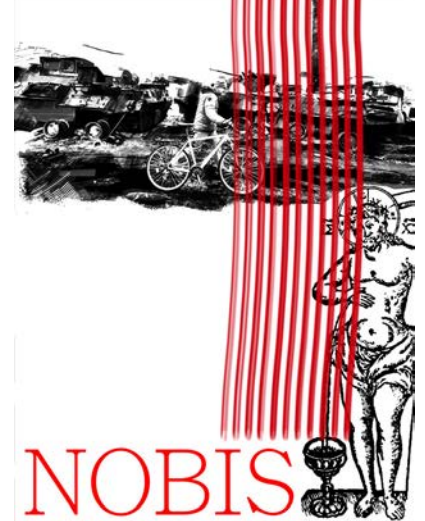
The official website of the President of Ukraine, Radio Liberty, BBC, UNIAN, TSN, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Reuters, Deutsche Welle and other open resources.



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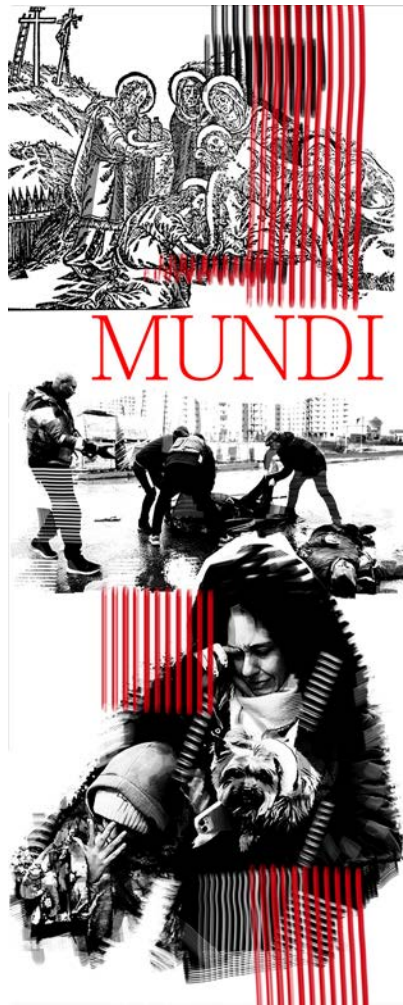
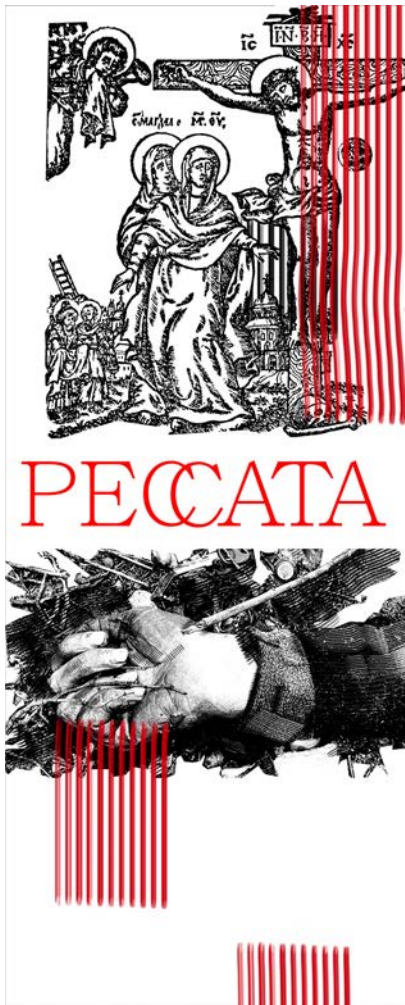


MISE
RERE



NOBIS





Kovalchuk Ostap (Ukraine)

Acting rector of National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture, Ukraine.

Vice-rector of the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture, responsible for scientific research and international relations.

Associate professor of the department of painting and composition.

Member of National Union of Artists of Ukraine, expert member of

the competition funding program of the Ukrainian Cultural

Foundation, member of Commission on Artistic Education and

Public Culture at the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, member of the

International Union Artists for Peace, Chairman of the Committee on

Fine Arts Taras Shevchenko Museum in Beijing, Honorary VicePresident of the Academy of Painting and Calligraphy of China

«Images, SCORCHED BY WAR»

Київщина – Львів, 2022

When the war started, I was in Kyiv region, and all the expressions I experienced, fear, and despair prompted me to create this series of paintings. At that time, we were all cut off from information, because the Kyiv TV tower was attacked with rocket strikes. At that time, we did not yet understand what would happen to Kyiv Region. Even then, the whole world shuddered at this tragedy that happened here. My native land, surrounded and occupied, became known to the world precisely as the place of a terrible tragedy, a terrible victim of this war.

Boards from an old destroyed house became the basis on which the pictures were drawn. They laid the foundation of my images, traces of fire and soot are part of their history. Their past flew off the mutilated boards along with the paint. They had been part of the house for decades, but now they were just pieces of old wood; a painful association with our present condition. A tree can stand in a house for hundreds of years, but it can burn down in a matter of minutes. This is the whole horror of war, which destroys what has been close to man and people themselves for years. Soot and gilding - everything left a mark on these boards. These are metaphors of emotions, my experiences.

Our ancestors made cradles and houses from wood. The tree of life is an eternal image. Icons and traditional Ukrainian folk painting have been painted on the tree for centuries.

The first works of the series show the immediate impressions of the beginning of the war during his stay in the Kyiv region. It is an alarming glow on the horizon, it is an oppressive silence of isolation, and the sounds of cannonade. It is communication with people who are experiencing the siege together, and communication is much more open than before. These are overhead planes that fly into battle, circling overhead. These are smokes that cover the sun and stars, when you don't understand what time of day and day of the week it is when you rise to the surface. It was a terrible time.

The trees depicted in the paintings are trees mutilated by war. Shrapnel cut their branches and tops, their bark and crowns were burnt. The boards on which these pictures were drawn are

these are, in fact, a kind of documents of war. They are covered with smoke and burnt. And they depict the smoke and scorched earth that entered our reality. Some details are missing from these works. After all, in wartime, you don't concentrate on the unimportant. The main thing is life and death. At this time, consciousness focuses as much as possible on the opposition of good and evil. And so, the works have heaven and earth, black and white.

The materials used to make the paintings are also very simple. They are limited by the fact that I painted them in extreme conditions, and not in my art studio. These are actually just a few colors. The asceticism of artistic means here emphasizes the fact that a person in wartime concentrates attention on the main thing. After all, the world is changing for everyone. And

the sky that used to be for us only part of the landscape that created the mood is now the sky of war from which death flies. And the earth is both protection and at the same time the last refuge. Native land is now a very specific concept, in which everything dear to the heart was concentrated. The canonical words of the prayer «as in heaven and on earth» have acquired a real meaning today. We have all realized how much our fragile world depends on God's will. That is why there is so much sky in the pictures. Therefore, this sky is not always opposed to the earth, and in some works it is one whole. If earlier we had an abstract idea of the connection of everything on earth, now, when death flies from the distant sea hundreds of kilometers away, which can destroy everything dear to you in a matter of minutes, you perceive distance in a completely different way. And at the same time, when people from distant countries are sincerely worried about your life and send help, you also perceive the world differently. Boards on which pictures are drawn, their natural texture, the pattern of river rings - all this is never repeated. So every experience and reflection has its own story. All these impressions consist of specific personal experiences.

The Ukrainian warrior Cossack Mamai, an image of folklore, was never depicted with a weapon in his hands. He always plays the bandura, smokes his pipe and thinks. Over the centuries, Ukraine has been under the threat of invaders, but despite this, Mamai is always calm. Since long ago, Cossack Mamai has been painted in Ukraine as a symbol of invincibility, as a talisman of the people against enemies. In this crucial time for our country, the image of a bandurist who sits and plays no matter what is very relevant. The series of Mamai have continued in my work for many years. Now in Kyiv there are works that were presented at the exhibition project in the «Tadzio» gallery literally on the eve of the war. The gallery is located in the very center of historic Kyiv, on the site where the Tithe Church once stood, destroyed in 1240 by the hordes of Batyi, who captured Kyiv. Kyivans were hiding there, in that church, and the invaders destroyed them along with the building, which they demolished. As in the time of the Horde invasion, today Kyiv was surrounded by the enemy, who, as then, killed and burned everything around in the fury of his powerlessness.

In one of the paintings, Mamai is depicted with a violation of traditional iconography: he is crucified on a bandura, which symbolizes the pain and suffering of a Cossack for his people. But even crucified he sings about Ukraine. It is a symbol of the soul of the Ukrainian people, its invincible strength in it

. The Mamai Cossacks are shown to be pensive and unmoved. These are real warriors, also depicted in a new way, with bare torsos. They know everything and are ready for everything. Believing in the power of heavenly patronage and their righteousness, our ancestors went into battle without chain mail and breastplates. On the other hand, the tradition of the naked body in traditional Ukrainian painting is inextricably linked with the depiction of the sacrificial torment of Christ. This is the «Crucifixion» and the plot «Christ is the vine». This once again emphasizes that the strength of Ukraine is not in weapons, but in an indomitable fighting spirit.

Jesus crucified on the cross is depicted on the background of the map of Ukraine. This is a map that shows war, because the places where the fighting is going on are in fire and smoke. The red reflections of the fire of war resemble the color of martyr's blood, which was shed by Christ for the salvation of the world.

There is also a classic iconographic plot - the Mother of God with the Baby Jesus. The eternal symbol of motherhood is embodied in the image of the Virgin Mary. In the background of this picture, you can guess the map, which shows the countries of Europe that accept Ukrainian refugees. In place of Egypt we see pyramids. After all, this is a symbolic traditional depiction of the New Testament story about the escape of the holy family from King Herod. Now, when a huge number of people have become refugees, as in the past, this plot has become relevant again. In 2022, the most recent history of Ukraine repeats it. Innocent children are killed every day, which leads to destruction of the future of Ukraine.

The series was continued in Lviv, where new plots were added to it. These are the images

that shook Ukraine and the whole world. These are Ukrainian cities that were at the epicenter of a terrible war, these are crosses placed on mass graves, these are burnt and mutilated churches, as a symbol of the barbaric essence of war.

When the war started, my whole life, like the life of all Ukrainians, changed. How to survive this, where to find support? And creating a series of paintings about the war, because you can't think about anything else now, became a discovery of yourself. This effort to express my own emotions is the answer to what will happen to my life, the life of my loved ones and my country. It is my urgent need to relive and reflect this in painting. I want to share my experiences with the audience, I understand that new and new images created by the war on my native Ukrainian land should be shown to people outside of Ukraine so that they understand the horrors of war. As an artist, I feel that I should have revealed these experiences to people. It was not easy, because every time I had to experience despair and hopelessness again and again in order to reflect my people's own experiences and suffering. But in this situation, art became a salvation for me personally. I couldn't help drawing, and only by expressing all this pain was I able to find support in myself.

As part of a dynamic concept: after victory, these boards can be polished (on the one hand) and new stories will be written on them - icons, portraits, landscapes, representing on the one hand (in this case literally) a return to peace and development, healing of mental wounds, and on the other hand, the preservation of memory, which forms consciousness and will.

I believe that Ukrainians, with the help of friendly peoples, will endure this struggle. And peace will come to Ukraine. I really want the war to remain only in these pictures, and to leave our present forever.



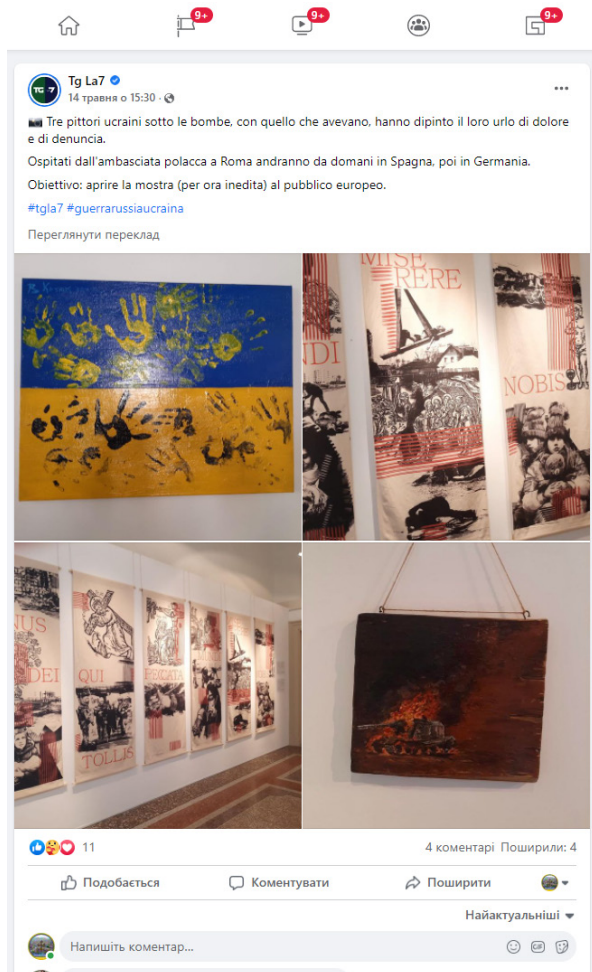


Exhibition at the Polish Institute in Rome
with the participation of the Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
Ukraine, Argentina, Belgium, Great Britain, the Netherlands and Slovenia to the Holy
See, clergy and journalists





**Prace ukraińskich artystów w Instytucie Polskim w Rzymie /
The works of Ukrainian artists at Polish Insitute in Rome**



Along Nieves Herrero, a famous Spanish journalist, writer, blogger and social activist.



La exposición "Los Desastres de la Guerra"



Como parte de la gira europea de imágenes de la guerra de Ucrania, durante el mes de mayo tuvimos la exposición itinerante "Los Desastres de la Guerra" versión del siglo XXI en Madrid.

**La exposición "Los Desastres de la Guerra" /
Exhibition «The horrors of war»**



**Artistas ucranianos muestran lo peor de la invasión
en una exposición en Madrid / Ukrainian artists
show the worst side of the occupation at an
exhibition in Madrid
The story about the exhibition on the popular free
TV channel of Madrid, Telemadrid**

Exhibitions in the Lawyer's Space, Madrid

with the participation of the head of the Bar Association of Madrid, Mr. Eugenio Ribon-Ceysdedos, a member of the board of the Madrid Bar Association, Mr. Jose-Maria Alonso-Puig, and the adviser of the Embassy of Ukraine in Spain, Mr. Hennadiy Salikin



Arte Dos artistas ucranianos muestran en Murcia 'Los desastres de la guerra'

Solo pasará por tres ciudades españolas

24-05-22 | 06:00



La muestra también puede verse en la Biblioteca Regional 'torres sánchez'

La biblioteca Regional de Murcia acoge estos días una fugaz muestra pictórica en apoyo a Ucrania, país cuya población vive desde el pasado mes de febrero los horrores de la guerra. Inaugurada este fin de semana y visitable solo hasta hoy, la exposición incluye obra de Volodymyr Stasenko y Ostap Kovalchuk, dos artistas especialmente reconocidos por su gente: de hecho, han tenido que solicitar un permiso especial a



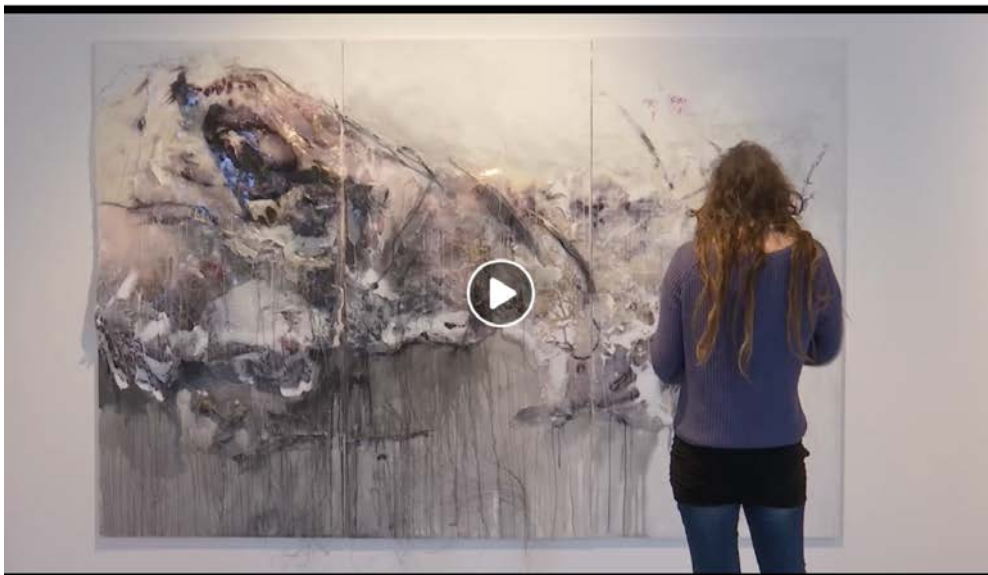
Dos artistas ucranianos muestran en Murcia 'Los desastres de la guerra' / Two Ukrainian artists present «The horrors of war» in Murcia
[A story about the exhibition in the most popular online publication of the Region of Murcia]

Public initiative «The Best Artist»

Another important experience of public diplomacy is the visit of our colleagues, People's Artist of Ukraine Volodymyr Kozyuk and art critic Oleksiy Zhadeyk, to Germany and Belgium. After the joint opening of the exhibition in Rome, our group split up: the curator of the exhibition Y. Kotyk, the artists V. Stasenko and O. Kovalchuk went to Spain with all the works, and V. Kozyuk and O. Zhadeyko, founders of the international initiative «The Best Artist», – to Germany and Belgium. There they joined the performance of the artist Ulrike Bolenz (Belgium) and met with Ivona Malevich, curator of art projects, founder of the program «SUPREMUS NEUVEAU», representative of the family of Kazimir Malevich (Germany). During this visit, it was also possible to communicate with representatives of the local elites, in particular, representatives of the European Commission, to enlist the support of the mentioned artists, who also expressed their desire to visit warring Ukraine and become people's representatives of our state in this difficult time.



Along Ivona Malewicz and Ulrike Bolenz

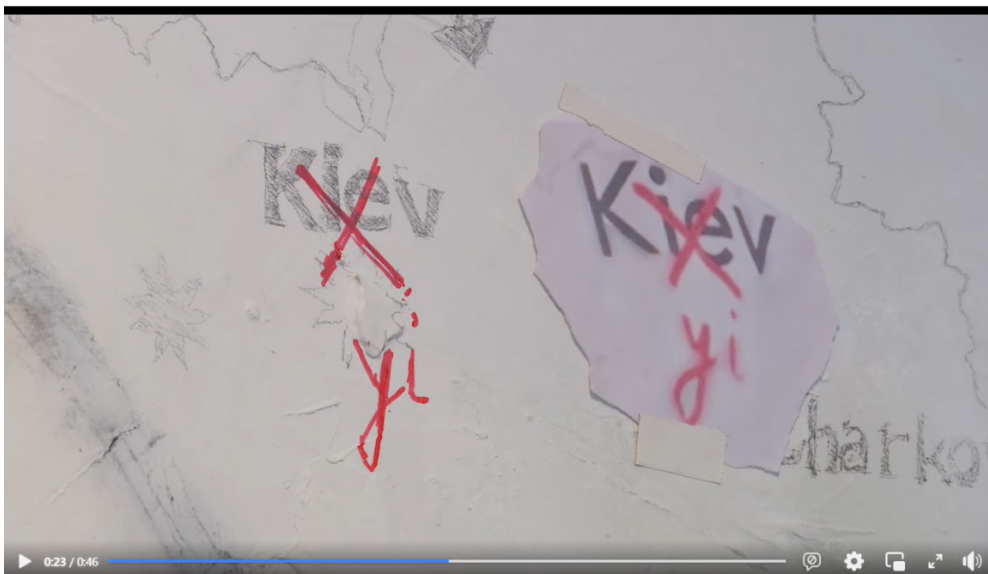


Громадська організація
«Кращий художник»
22 травня о 17:56 · 🌐

Художниця Ульріке Боленц (Ulrike Bolenz) нагадала світові як правильно пишеться назва міста Київ.

👍 238 💬 16 коментарів 👁 52 тис. переглядів

👍 Подобається 💬 Коментувати ➦ Поширити



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«Kyiv» – from performance of Ulrike Bolenz

«Art knows no borders»,
«It is my deep wish that my art contributes to a tolerant, united Europe achieves - free from all borders in our minds and hearts.»

Bernd Schwarzer

The famous Düsseldorf artist – Bernd Schwarzer, who made the idea of European history the main theme of his art as his life's work.

Earlier this year, he endorsed a donation auction, providing various painting materials for the organization "The Best Artist" from Kyiv, which supports and encourages artists and children.

