

The Promise of Freedom

Maryna Shcherbenko

SHCHERBENKO ART CENTRE

About

Shcherbenko Art Centre
is a gallery of contemporary art
located in the heart of Ukraine's
capital –
Kyiv on Mykhailivska str., 22V

Art centre was established in 2012
on the base of Bottega Gallery
(2008-2015) by curator Maryna
Shcherbenko



Mission

↳ The mission of the Shcherbenko Art Centre is to promote social changes via art, breaking down stereotypes about the latest sociopolitical artistic tendencies in society. The aim is also to take part and build a local and international discourse of contemporary Ukrainian culture.

↳ The tools for realizing the mission are social-critical art projects that analyze and respond to the topical issues of our time, including gender, self-identification, feminist discourse, queer aspects, issues of conflict, anthropocene, ecology, politics, etc.

↳ Shcherbenko Art Centre also focuses on education and research in the format of art exhibitions, retrospective projects of contemporary artists, exhibition research, and by running a parallel program: [events](#), discussions, artists' talks, presentations, etc.



Mission



↳ Following the start of the War in Ukraine, our focus has been on spreading the message of the devastating consequences of the war through the works of art created by Ukrainian contemporary artists.

The challenges of today are caused by the war:

- It is dangerous to work in Ukraine now, you need to have a shelter, react to sirens, interrupt your work and go down to the shelter.
- The danger in the occupied cities to express your opinion.
- There are additional security costs.
- Ukrainians are faced with the question of whether to stay or leave the country.
- Evacuation of collections from museums and art centers of art objects.
- Preservation of the team. Demotivation of the team. Emotional burnout. Stresses. It is difficult to gather and concentrate.

The challenges of today are caused by the war:

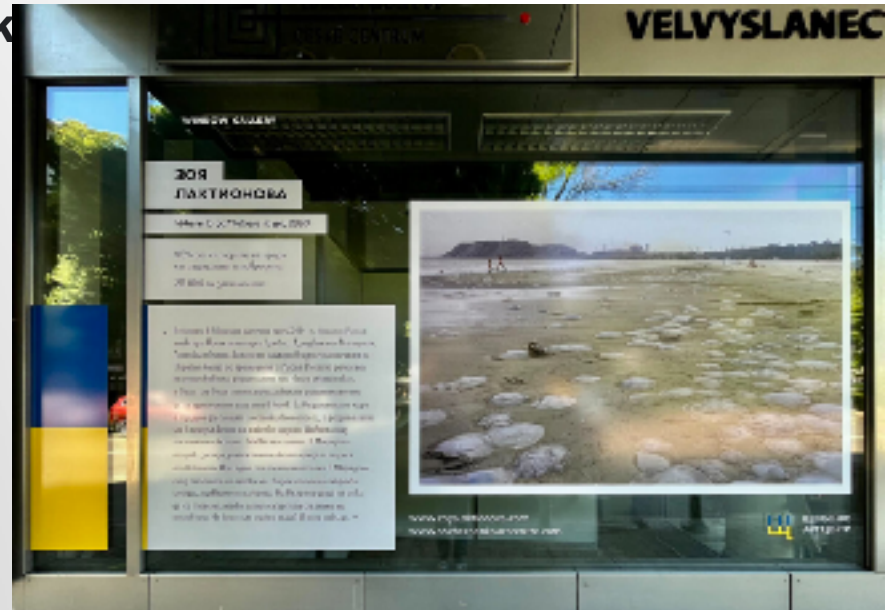
- Difficulty working with contractors (in Ukraine, relations with contractors are broken: many companies have stopped their activities, people have moved abroad; abroad - we start from scratch).
- There are pauses in projects, some companies have closed completely.
- Loss of audience. Search for new formats, and opportunities to present yourself in a new way. Time differences. The need to translate materials into several languages. What channels to use to convey information to your new audience? For example, the European audience often negatively perceives charitable projects when raising funds for the needs of the army.
- Complications of integration and establishing a new dialogue. The search for new platforms for exhibitions and projects is now a necessity.
- Social media policies. They block accounts of Ukrainians who post photos and information about their daily life during the war.

Shcherbenko Art Centre international projects

Window Gallery, Shcherbenko Art Centre & Czech Centre in Sofia

Where to Go? Where to Go. Zoia Lak

The artist's family moved to the Donetsk region after World War II, particularly to Mariupol, because of the factory. But the war and the vapours from the factory dictate other terms of reality.





Window Gallery, Shcherbenko Art Centre & Czech Centre in Sofia
Where to Go? Where to Go. Zoia Laktionova

Shcherbenko Art Centre international projects

Window Gallery, Shcherbenko Art Centre & Czech Centre in Sofia

The Lviv Diary | Vlada Ralko

“The language has a political nature. As well, language makes human to be a human. Only a human being who is speaking can resist the aggressor’s sadistic pressure. Ukraine and the rest of the world are facing an evil that has not yet been identified in a right way and therefore has not yet been punished. Following the Soviet Union’s tools, Russia is regularly raping its vocabulary...” Vlada Ralko.





Window Gallery,

Shcherbenko Art
Centre & Czech
Centre in Sofia

The Lviv Diary I
Vlada Ralko

Shcherbenko Art Centre international projects

Give Me Tomorrow exhibition in Lisbon, Portugal August 24 – September 3

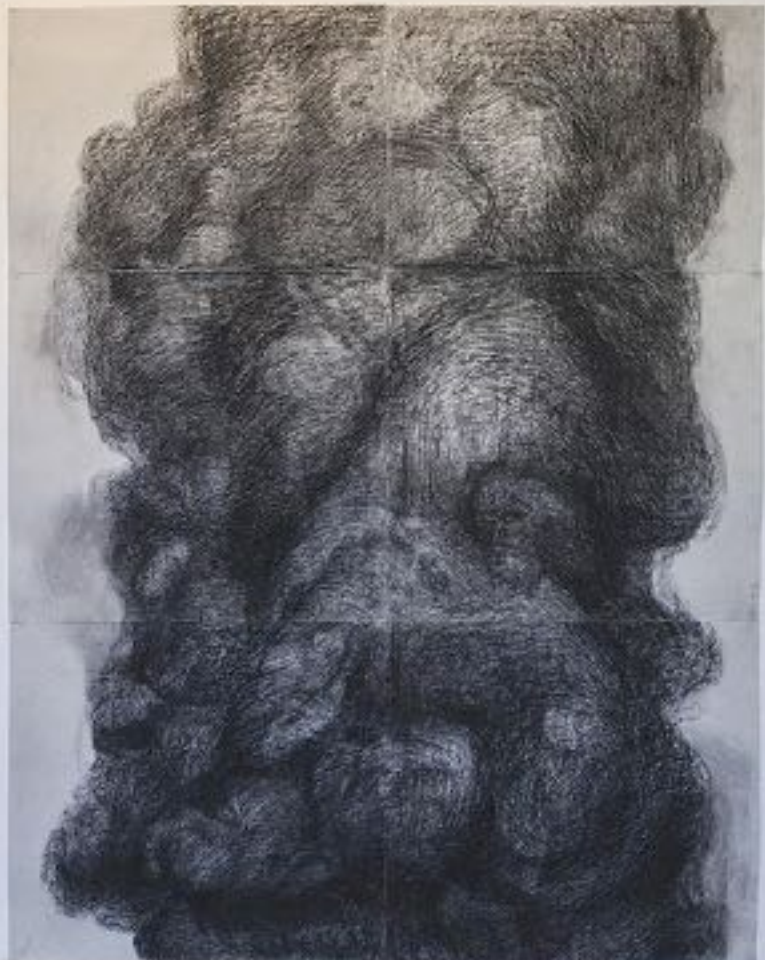
↳ On Independence Day of Ukraine, it was the opening of the “Give Me Tomorrow” exhibition of Ukrainian artists in Lisbon, Portugal.

↳ The exhibition includes 17 artists and took a place and Conceptica Lisbon palace.

↳ During the exhibition, visitors could buy artworks, design and fashion items and all profit was transferred to the Dobrodiy charity club.

<https://www.shcherbenkoartcentre.com/en/news/11851/>





Maryna Talutto, from the "Smoke" series



Maryna Talutto, from the “Broken Ties” series







Dmytro Yevsieiev, from the "Palimpsests" series



Vlada Ralko, from the "Lviv Diary" series



Vlada Ralko, from the "I viv Djan" series



Alyona Naumenko, from the "Indestructible" series

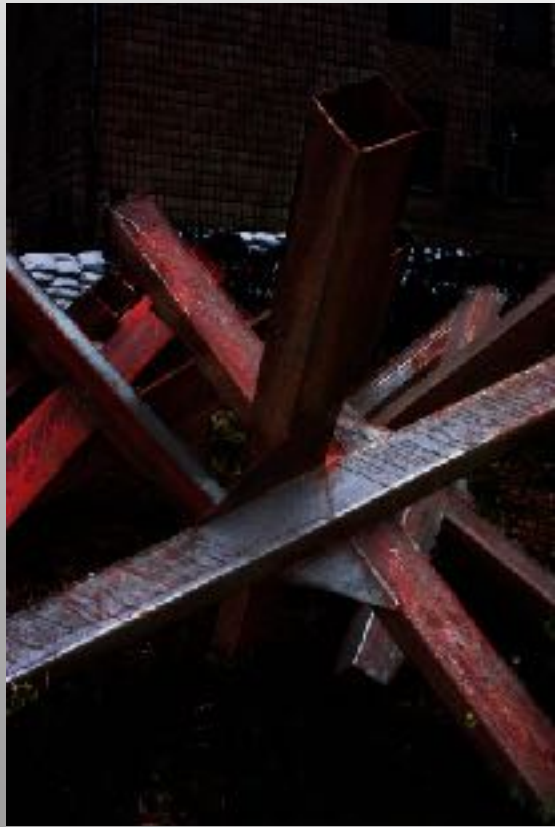


Alyona Naumenko, from the "Indestructible" series





Zhenya Lapriy, From the "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3)" series





Alyona Naumenko, from the "News From Ukraine" series

Shcherbenko Art Centre international projects

Give Me Tomorrow exhibition in Edmonton, Canada Mitchell Art Gallery, October 14 – January 14

- Andrii Dostliev, Lia Dostlieva
“Black on Prussian Blue”
- Maria Proshkovska
“On The Blade”
- Zoia Laktionova
“I Remember the Smell of Mariupol”
- Piotr Armianovski
“Balance of joy and sadness at war”
- Yarema Malashchuk and Roman Khimei.
“The Wanderer”
- Mariia Stoianova
“The Forest”



On the Blade

MARIA PROSHKOVSKA

filmed in

Complesso di Santa Cristina, Bologna

on the occasion of

ROSE Residency Programme
Special Edition for Ukraine

in collaboration with

Associazione Orlando

shooting and editing by

OD'A





Shcherbenko Art Centre international projects

Group show “The Promise of Freedom” October 7 – 9, 2022

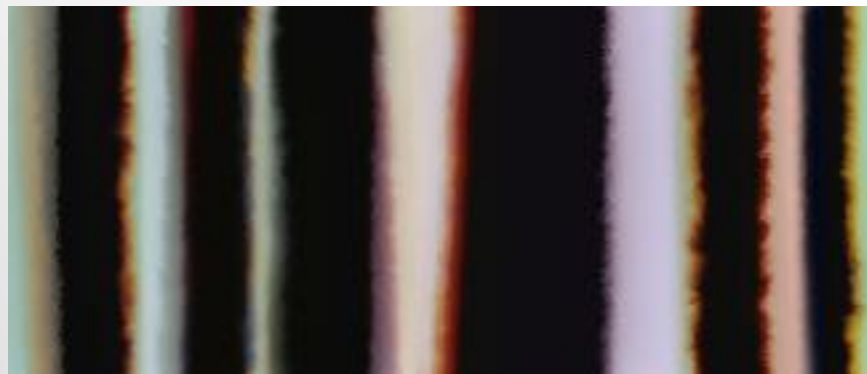
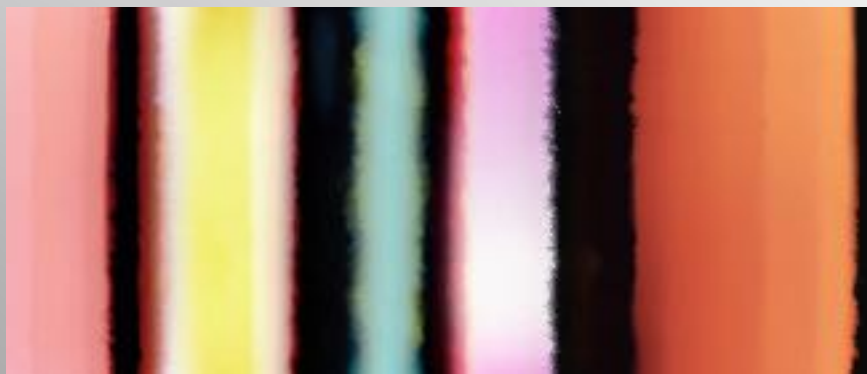
- ❖ Tiberiy Szilvashi 1947
- ❖ Vasyl Bazhay 1950
- ❖ Pavlo Kovach (senior) 1959
- ❖ Mykola Kryvenko 1969
- ❖ Myroslav Vayda 1977
- ❖ Maryna Talutto 1982
- ❖ Oleg Dimov 1986
- ❖ Anton Sayenko 1989
- ❖ Vasylina Vrublevska 1984



Mykola Kryvenko



Pavlo Kovach (senior)



Vasylina Vrublevska

Shcherbenko Art Centre Kyiv projects

Solo show by Alexandra Tokareva

“Merger”

February 16 – September 3, 2022

After a half-year break, Shcherbenko Art Centre opens its doors to visitors again. Originally, the exhibition was opened on February 16, but it was paused for half a year since February 24.

<https://www.shcherbenkoartcentre.com/en/project/oleksandra-tokareva-en/merger/>





Shcherbenko Art Centre Kyiv projects

Temporary studio: etchingroom1

September 5 – November 7, 2022

The etchingroom1 is a graphic studio, founded in 2016 by artists Kristina Yarosh and Anna Khodkova. The artists have been forced to change the studio more than five times since it was founded, each time transporting a printing press of over a half tonne. So during the full-scale war they, once again, were left without a workspace. The Shcherbenko Art Centre provides space for the etchingroom1 temporary studio and invites visitors to discover the enigma of the “Artist's studio” and become a witness to the process of making art.

<https://www.shcherbenkoartcentre.com/en/news/etchingroom1-temporary-studio-3/>





Shcherbenko Art Centre Kyiv projects

Exhibition of Atelienormalno studio with and without Down syndrome

November – December 2022

A project with artists from an enclosed-type psychoneurological asylum for men in Pushcha Vodytsa, Kyiv Region, Ukraine. The artist Stanislav Turina together with his team visits the asylum every week and seeks for the artistic skills in those who are interested in art. The project will include the works of these artists.





Shcherbenko Art Centre international projects

Exhibition of winners MUHi competition in Paris, France. November – December 2022

↳ Pavla Nakitina

↳ Olha Kuzyura

↳ Maria Stoyanova



Olha Kuzyura, the “Relative Security” project

Relative security is how living conditions within the territory of Ukraine are characterized. It's the place where no hostilities are taking place at the moment, the hot phase of confrontation does not continue there.



Pavla Nikitina, the “Fear” project

Fear is the nowadays diagnosis. It has many faces, more internal than external. So, Pavla does not see fear as an emotion or feeling, but as a state. In the year 2020, at a time of worldwide lockdown, she was analyzing the state of boredom. At the beginning of 2022, under the situation of the growing threat of a big war, and massive aggression against her motherland, the artist started to work on actualizing the state of fear.



Mariia Stoianova, the “Forest” project

The “Forest” project consists of the video archive of the Lviv Center for Urban History. These are family videos of a Ukrainian family covering the years 2002-2006. The video reveals the history of the daily round of a Ukrainian family, and the artist emphasizes that already in those years the resistive force that we currently observe in Ukrainian society was born.



COMPETITION OF YOUNG UKRAINIAN ARTISTS MUHI

→ MUHi is a multifunctional project aimed at consistent and long-term work to support Ukrainian artists at the stage of their emerging.

→ The name MUHi is an abbreviation of “Young Ukrainian Artists”. MUHi’s first exhibition was presented in 2009 at Bottega Gallery. In 2021, the project will be implemented for the eighth time.

→ [M17 Contemporary Art Center](#) (2021), Taras Shevchenko National Museum (2019 and 2017) and the Institute of Contemporary Art (2015 and 2011) were partners in which MUHi competition had taken place before. In 2019 and 2021, the competition received a grant for funding from the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation under the program “Education. Exchanges. Residences. Debuts, namely the lot “Debuts”.



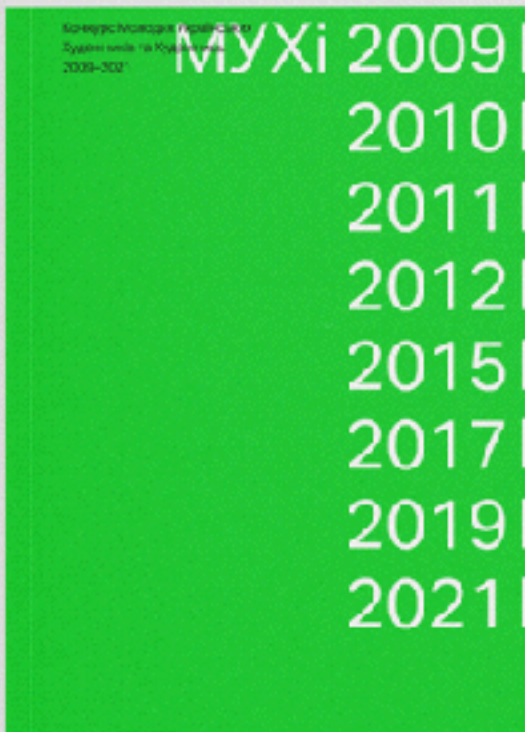
COMPETITION OF YOUNG UKRAINIAN ARTISTS MUHI

The project is based on a competition held according to the following rules:

- young Ukrainian artists aged 21 and older can take part;
- only citizens of Ukraine can be participants;
- finalists and winners of the competition are selected by (since 2015 – an international) commission of experts, which includes curators, directors of museums, art centers, galleries, art critics and artists;
- the artist can be included in the finalists of MUHi only once.

<https://www.shcherbenkoartcentre.com/en/myxi/muhi-2021-2/>





MUHi 2009-2021 book

The book covers the 12-year history of the MUHi Competition, capturing the changes and trends in the young art of this period. Having collected an archive of the cooperation of young Ukrainian artists with the MUHi Competition, it reflects the changes in young art over the last decade.

<https://www.shcherbenkoartcentre.com/en/news/muhi-2009-2021/>

Shcherbenko Art Centre international projects

ShchAC looking for:

1. Exhibition spaces and institutional support for the projects: “Give Me Tomorrow” and “The Promise of Freedom”
2. Exhibition space and institutional support for the winners' MUHi 2021 and the partner institution for the MUHi 2023.
3. Partners to print English version of “MUHi 2009-2021” book

**Curator, collector, founder of the Shcherbenko Art Centre,
MUHi award, ARTUP store**

marina@shcherbenkoartcentre.com

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