



# Крізь стогін з-під завалів

AMIDST CRIES FROM THE RUBBLE  
ART OF LOSS AND RESILIENCE FROM UKRAINE

ENTRE GRITOS DEL ESCOMBRO  
EL ARTE DE PERDIDA Y RESILIENCIA DE UCRANIA

Organized by the Museum of International Folk Art  
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# Exhibition Précis

*Amidst Cries from the Rubble* delves into the heart of Ukraine's struggle. Surrounded by the weight and destruction of war, art practices and expressions of cultural identity emerge as beacons of resilience and hope. This exhibition brings together a selection of over seventy captivating works, sixty-four objects and eight AV components, highlighting the profound ways in which Ukrainians confront the realities of loss and devastation, transforming the remnants of conflict into powerful symbols of strength and healing.

Through commissioned, large-scale photographs and evocative objects collected from the war-torn landscapes and communities of Ukraine, *Amidst Cries from the Rubble* follows the journey of a nation grappling with the daily trauma of death and destruction. Appropriating tools of war—shell casings, missile debris, ammunition boxes, helmets—Ukrainians breathe new life into these fragments of violence, infusing them with the spirit of human creativity. The exhibition consists of objects in various media including photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures, and textiles, as well as audiovisual works featuring artist process and performing arts videos, showcasing the myriad ways in which Ukrainians channel their resilience and fortitude.

From children to spouses, from parents to injured soldiers, and from artists to civilians, each contributor offers a glimpse into their personal stories and triumphs. Through their art, they navigate the complex terrain of grief and loss, crafting a narrative of perseverance and remembrance that resonates deeply with Ukrainian cultural perspectives as well as folk and contemporary art practices. Each stroke of the brush, each sculpture wrought from the debris of conflict, serves as a testament to the human capacity to find solace and strength in the face of despair. The exhibition is co-curated by Laura J. Mueller, PhD, Nina Medvinskaya, and Sasha Samuels.

**SCHEDULING AND INQUIRIES:** Cynthia Graves · [cgraves@guestcurator.com](mailto:cgraves@guestcurator.com) · (505) 988-5839

**SPACE REQUIREMENT:** 1,100 square feet **PARTICIPATION FEE:** \$11,800 for twelve weeks, plus shipping and insurance

**BILINGUAL OPTION:** Exhibition text is available in Spanish translation

## EXHIBITION EPIGRAPH

Ще трохи, трохи — й зацвітуть морелі,  
і облетять, як сон кореневищ.  
Війна малює кров'ю акварелі.  
Її палітра — попіл пожарищ.  
Її пейзаж — руйновище кварталів.  
Порожніх вулиць вицвіла пастель.  
Хіба що десь крізь стогін з-під завалів  
якийсь тюльпанчик раптом проросте.  
— Ліна Костенко, нар. 1930

A little longer, a little longer—and cherry blossoms will bloom,  
alighting petals, the dreams of unearthed roots.  
War paints watercolors with blood.  
Its palette—the ashes of fires.  
Its landscape—the ruins of buildings.  
Empty streets as faded pastels.  
Perhaps somewhere amidst cries from the rubble,  
a tulip will suddenly sprout.  
— Lina Kostenko, b. 1930





# Selected Works

Yaroslava Tkachuk's *Жінка (Woman)* is a multimedia textile work presenting elements of traditional wedding attire from the historic area of Pokuttya, with the silhouette marking a classical outer garment called *sardak*. "When I think of a woman," says the artist, "I imagine the space and energy around her. In the face of war, she acquires a newfound power to protect her children, her family, her home, her country, and all else that matters to her."

*Жінка (Woman)* (detail) · Yaroslava Tkachuk, b. 1981 · 2023 · Lviv, Ukraine · Linen fiber, silk, acrylic paint, oxidized brass, ammunition casings · 47H × 23.5W × 6D in.





Roman Selivachov, a professional icon painter and artist, began painting ammunition boxes in 2014 at the start of Russia's military campaign. Friends and volunteers bring back boxes from the front and, in turn, Selivachov provides them with funds to be used for urgent military needs. "It is a sort of soldier-artist symbiosis," he says.

*Козак-молитовник (The Cossack's Prayer)* features the traditional image of Cossack Mamay, a Ukrainian folk hero. He plays the *bandura*, a stringed instrument, and maintains a serene demeanor as war surrounds him. The original work forms a triptych alongside *Повелителька дронів (Lady of the Drones)* and *Козак дронар (Cossack Drone Operator)*.

*Козак-молитовник (The Cossack's Prayer)* (detail) · Roman Selivachov, b. 1976 · 2024 · Kyiv, Ukraine · Wooden lid from ammunition box, egg tempera, gold leaf · 22H x 11W x .5D in.



When Volodymyr Balyberdin received an inactive mine from the front, he chose to mitigate the horror of death with the figure of an angel.

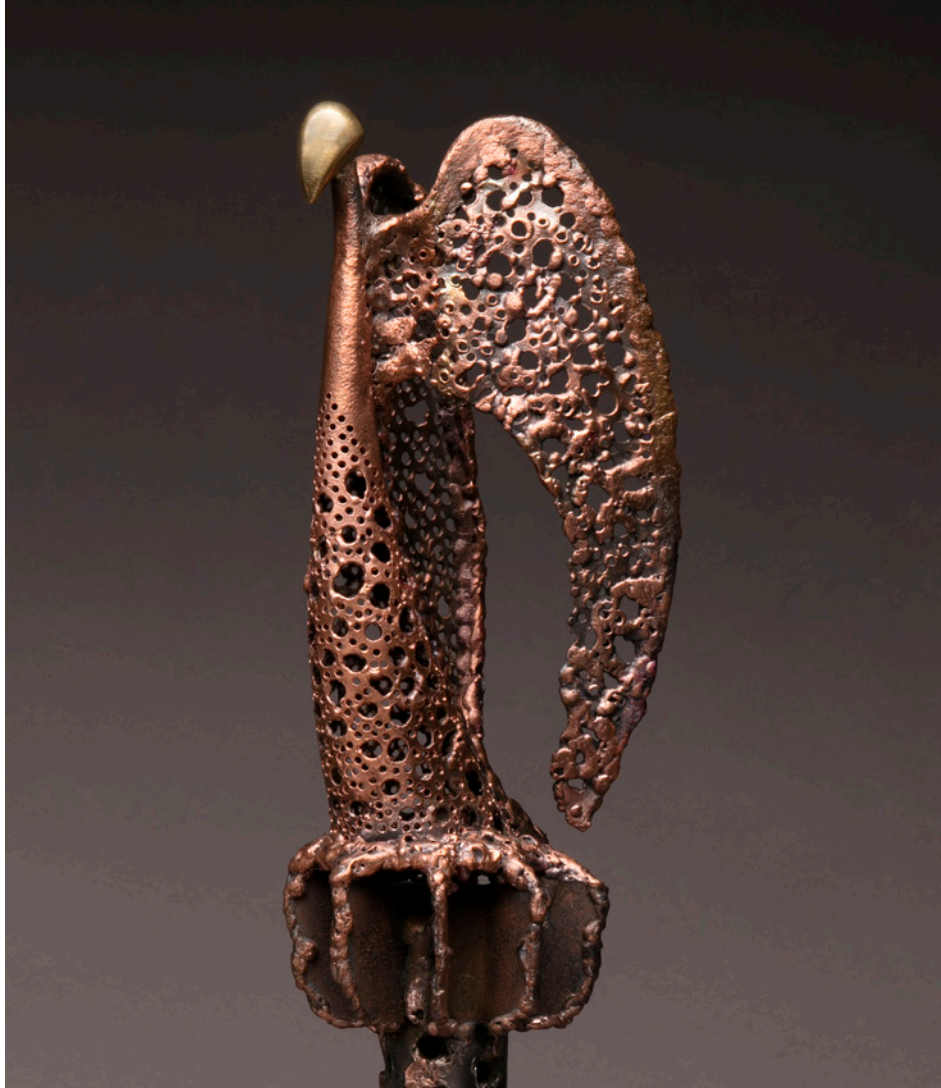
“We work with what we have and what we have now are the materials of war. This angel, soaring above the mine, symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, of light over darkness,” says Balyberdin.

*Ангел перемоги (Angel of Victory) (detail) · Volodymyr Balyberdin, b. 1954 · 2023 · Kyiv, Ukraine · Inactive mine, copper · 18H × 4W × 4D in.*

In his series *Пам'ять серця (Memory of the Heart)*, Volodymyr Balyberdin used ammunition casings collected near the eastern town of Izyum after its liberation. In creating the pendants, he melted and layered various casings, one on top of the other, making each pendant a unique blend.

“The casings stop being weapons and instead transform into something that brings people joy—fear and pain become beauty and hope,” shares Balyberdin.

*From the series Пам'ять серця (Memory of the Heart) (detail) · Volodymyr Balyberdin, b. 1954 · 2022–2023 · Kyiv, Ukraine · Ammunition casings, agate, carnelian, mother of pearl, lapis lazuli, obsidian, jade · 13H × 24W in. (mount board dimensions)*







“We collected our ammunition casings from fellow blacksmiths serving and volunteering at the front,” says Serhii Polubotko. “One day, a master blacksmith from Rokytne, Yuriy Vyrodiv, brought back a Russian missile fragment found at an explosion site. The fragment was fully formed in the shape of a flower head, created by the explosion’s raw force. This is our current dreadful reality, one where death is a daily routine. Yet life prevails over death, and I transform the enemy’s weapon into plant form—rising from the ashes, sprouting a strange flower of the future.”

This object is the material embodiment of the exhibition title, serving as its namesake.

*Крізь стогін з-під завалів (Amidst Cries from the Rubble) ·*  
Serhii Polubotko, b. 1962 · 2024 · Clifton, New Jersey ·  
Aluminum missile fragment, steel · 26H × 10W × 10D in.

Born in Kherson, Oksana Doroshenko has witnessed the devastation of her home city. A mother of two, her children's school was destroyed by a Russian airstrike in 2023.

"Through agony and despair, we create," says the artist. "By painting bright flowers and patterns on shell casings, we tell the world that we remain hopeful for a prospering Ukraine."

*Ренесанс (Renaissance)* (detail) ·  
Oksana Doroshenko, b. 1983 · 2024 · Kherson,  
Ukraine · Shell casings, acrylic paint · 5H ×  
1W × 1D in. (larger shells) · 3H × .5W × .5D in.  
(smaller shells)





Throughout this war, Russia is known to have supplied its soldiers with antiquated equipment, including this World War II army helmet. Vitalii Senyshyn used the enemy helmet, found in the city of Dnipro, to create *Defense* and honor his father who gave his life defending Ukraine.

“His unit was often sent to the most difficult front lines [...] It was from there that I received news of his last battle,” remembers Senyshyn. Senyshyn, currently living as a refugee in Warsaw, Poland, was born in Lviv, Ukraine.

*Defense (detail)* · Vitalii Senyshyn, b. 1998 · 2023 · Warsaw, Poland · Metal helmet, fiberglass, cardboard, plastic, acrylic paint, glue, wood · 10H × 8W × 11D in.







Marta Syrko's *Wrapping Art—Art of Salvation* is composed of twelve commissioned photographs, serving as a testament to the struggle of safeguarding Ukrainian cultural patrimony and artistic traditions amidst the turmoil of military conflict. The series is divided into two categories to address Ukraine's past and present. *The Historic Era* captures wrapped outdoor, public monuments located within Lviv's city center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, commemorating Ukraine's rich, cultural past. *The Contemporary Era* features recently created sculptures by fellow artists, wrapped and photographed in an intimate studio setting.

*Mountain* (detail) from the series *Wrapping Art—Art of Salvation* ·  
*The Contemporary Era* · Marta Syrko, b. 1995 · Sculpture by Denys Shymanskyi,  
b. 1986 · 2024 · Lviv, Ukraine · Photography with digital post production ·  
60W × 45H in.





“From the very first days of the full-scale Russian invasion, citizens began the arduous process of wrapping the public monuments in my city,” shares Syrko. “As these efforts unfolded, I was immediately reminded of the artist Christo (1935–2020), who was known for wrapping objects. Of course, his work had a different intention: he appropriated objects, wrapping them to deprive them of their function.

In contrast, we in Lviv wrap to protect and preserve our works [...] Unlike those objects wrapped by Christo, our wrapping is not recognized as an artistic practice. I wanted to reframe these works and record this critical activity, documenting the bandaged monuments.”

*Diana—Goddess of the Hunt (detail) from the series Wrapping Art—Art of Salvation · The Historic Era · Marta Syrko, b. 1995 · Sculpture by Hartman Witwer, 1774–1825 · 2024 · Market Square, Lviv, Ukraine · Photography with digital post production · 45W × 60H in.*



# Checklist

## OBJECTS



**Слава соняху**  
**(Glory to the Sunflower)**  
Serhii Polubotko, b. 1962  
2023 · Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine /  
Clifton, New Jersey  
Brass ammunition casings, steel, wood  
26H × 10W × 8D in. (largest dimension)



**Козак дронар**  
**(Cossack Drone Operator)**  
Roman Selivachov, b. 1976  
2024 · Kyiv, Ukraine  
Wooden base from ammunition box,  
egg tempera, gold leaf  
17H × 9.5W × .5D in.



**Зародження (Genesis)**  
Serhii Polubotko, b. 1962  
2024 · Clifton, New Jersey  
Ammunition casings, steel, stainless  
steel, brass wire  
2H × 1.5W × 1.5D in.



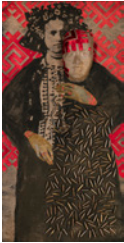
Verso



**Крізь стогін з-під завалів**  
**(Amidst Cries from the Rubble)**  
Serhii Polubotko, b. 1962  
2024 · Clifton, New Jersey  
Aluminum missile fragment, steel  
26H × 10W × 10D in.



**Козак-молитовник**  
**(The Cossack's Prayer)**  
Roman Selivachov, b. 1976  
2024 · Kyiv, Ukraine  
Wooden lid from ammunition box,  
egg tempera, gold leaf  
22H × 11W × .5D in.



**Жінка (Woman)**  
Yaroslava Tkachuk, b. 1981  
2023 · Lviv, Ukraine  
Linen fiber, silk, acrylic paint, oxidized  
brass, ammunition casings  
47H × 23.5W × 6D in.



Verso



**Amulet**  
Andriy Zhyvushchy, b. 1978  
2015 · Kyiv, Ukraine  
Ammunition casing, beads  
3H × 1W × .5D in.





***Повелителька дронів  
(Lady of the Drones)***

**Roman Selivachov, b. 1976**

2024 · Kyiv, Ukraine  
Wooden base from ammunition box,  
egg tempera, gold leaf  
22H × 11W × .5D in.



Verso



***Ренесанс (Renaissance)***

**Oksana Doroshenko, b. 1983**

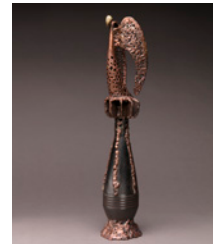
2024 · Kherson, Ukraine  
Shell casings, acrylic paint  
5H × 1W × 1D in. (larger shells)  
3H × .5W × .5D in. (smaller shells)



**From the series *Пам'ять серця  
(Memory of the Heart)***

**Volodymyr Balyberdin, b. 1954**

2022–2023 · Kyiv, Ukraine  
Ammunition casings, agate, carnelian,  
mother of pearl, lapis lazuli,  
obsidian, jade  
13H × 24W in.  
(mount board dimensions)



***Ангел перемоги  
(Angel of Victory)***

**Volodymyr Balyberdin, b. 1954**

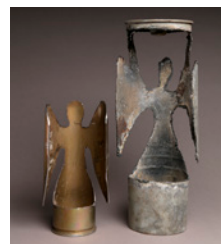
2023 · Kyiv, Ukraine  
Inactive mine, copper  
18H × 4W × 4D in.



***Defense***

**Vitalii Senyshyn, b. 1998**

2023 · Warsaw, Poland  
Metal helmet, fiberglass, cardboard,  
plastic, acrylic paint, glue, wood  
10H × 8W × 11D in.

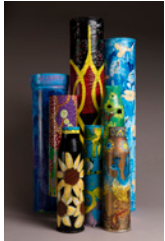


***Ангел I (Angel I) and  
Ангел II (Angel II)***

**Vitalii Senyshyn, b. 1998**

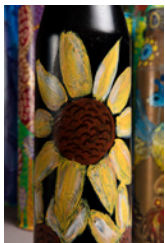
2024 · Warsaw, Poland  
80 mm and 122 mm artillery shell  
15H × 9W × 9D in.  
10H × 6W × 6D in.





**From the series of 12 works by  
the students of Khrystyna Valko**

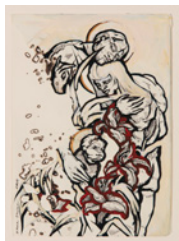
2024 · Lviv, Ukraine  
Ammunition shell casings and  
containers, acrylic paint, acrylic pen  
Varying dimensions



Detail



Detail



**Study for *Cīm'я* (Family)**

**Zirka Savka, b. 1995**

2024 · Lviv, Ukraine  
Ink on paper with acrylic paint  
11H × 8W in. (unframed)

## PHOTOGRAPHS

From the series *Wrapping Art—Art of Salvation*

**Marta Syrko, b. 1995**

Each 45W × 60H or 60W × 45H in.

***The Historic Era***



***Apostle I at the  
Archcathedral Basilica  
of the Assumption of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary***

Sculpture by Unknown Artist  
2024 · Cathedral Square, Lviv, Ukraine  
Photography with digital  
post production



***Apostle II at the  
Archcathedral Basilica  
of the Assumption of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary***

Sculpture by Unknown Artist  
2024 · Cathedral Square, Lviv, Ukraine  
Photography with digital  
post production



***Diana—Goddess of the Hunt***

Sculpture by Hartman Witwer,  
1774–1825  
2024 · Market Square, Lviv, Ukraine  
Photography with digital  
post production



***Neptune—God of the Sea***

Sculpture by Hartman Witwer,  
1774–1825  
2024 · Market Square, Lviv, Ukraine  
Photography with digital  
post production





***Putto I at the  
Archcathedral of Saint George***

Sculpture by Johann Georg Pinsel,  
ca. 1707–ca. 1761  
2024 · Saint George's Hill, Lviv, Ukraine  
Photography with digital  
post production



***Mountain***

Sculpture by  
Denys Shymanskyi, b. 1986  
2024 · Lviv, Ukraine  
Photography with digital  
post production



***Putto II at the  
Archcathedral of Saint George***

Sculpture by Johann Georg Pinsel,  
ca. 1707–ca. 1761  
2024 · Saint George's Hill, Lviv, Ukraine  
Photography with digital  
post production



***Pain***

Sculpture by  
Denys Shymanskyi, b. 1986  
2024 · Lviv, Ukraine  
Photography with digital  
post production

***The Contemporary Era***



***Cossack Mamay***

Sculpture by  
Volodymyr Semkiv, b. 1983  
2024 · Lviv, Ukraine  
Photography with digital  
post production



***Untitled I***

Sculpture by  
Volodymyr Semkiv, b. 1983  
2024 · Lviv, Ukraine  
Photography with digital  
post production



***Dream***

Sculpture by  
Volodymyr Semkiv, b. 1983  
2024 · Lviv, Ukraine  
Photography with digital  
post production



***Untitled II***

Sculpture by  
Volodymyr Semkiv, b. 1983  
2024 · Lviv, Ukraine  
Photography with digital  
post production



# AUDIOVISUAL

The audiovisual exhibition component consists of eight videos: five performing arts videos; one trench art video; one artist process video; one time-lapse map video detailing shifting Ukrainian territory from February 24, 2022 to December 31, 2024.



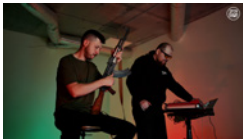
Still from *Ой у лузі червона калина (Oh, the Red Viburnum in the Meadow)*

Oleksandr Seleznov, b. 1986  
2022 · Undisclosed location, Ukraine  
0:54 seconds



Still from *Не ми це починали (We Didn't Start It)*

Oleksandr Seleznov, b. 1986  
2023 · Lviv, Ukraine  
0:56 seconds



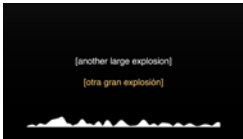
Still from *Разом (Together)*  
Oleksandr Seleznov, b. 1986

2023 · Kyiv, Ukraine  
2:37 minutes



Still from *Langsam-9M27K*  
Roman Grygoriv, b. 1984

2023 · St. Andrew's Church, Kyiv, Ukraine  
2:32 minutes



Still from *The Snake Island*  
Iurii Yefremov, b. 1973

2022 · Kharkiv, Ukraine  
3:43 minutes



Still from *Боротьба (Combat)*  
Ivan [last name unknown]

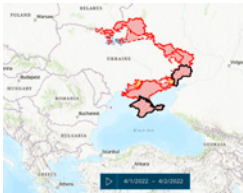
2022 · Bakhmut, Ukraine  
1:27 minutes · Continuous loop



Still from artist process video for the series *Wrapping Art—Art of Salvation*

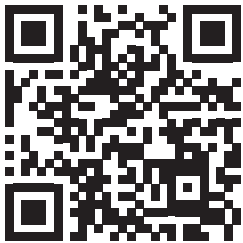
Marta Syrko, b. 1995

2024 · Lviv, Ukraine  
3:09 minutes · Continuous loop



Still from time-lapse map

Source: Institute for the Study of War and AEI's Critical Threats Project  
3:51 minutes · Continuous loop



Scan QR Code or visit [tinyurl.com/UkraineAV](https://tinyurl.com/UkraineAV) to view exhibition videos





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**FOLK ART**

*Amidst Cries from the Rubble: Art of Loss and Resilience from Ukraine*  
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COVER: *Повелителька дронів (Lady of the Drones)* (detail) · Roman Selivachov, b. 1976  
2024 · Kyiv, Ukraine · Wooden base from ammunition box, egg tempera, gold leaf · 22H × 11W × .5D in.