

ARTIST STATEMENT:

My name is Olesya Drashkaba. I'm a contemporary Ukrainian artist and curator. My work involves blending modern Ukrainian meanings with ethno-Ukrainian aesthetics. While I explore various techniques, my artistic foundation lies in graphic language.

I am Ukrainian and my heritage deeply influences my art. Having been born in the Carpathian Mountains, I'm drawn to the rich tapestry of colours, textures, and ornate details. I'm not a minimalist artist; my creations serve as a manifesto of beauty, love, luxury, and Ukraine. My mission is to be an ambassador for Ukrainian culture, conveying its essence and sharing a piece of my culture through every piece I create. While I primarily work with graphic art, my materials are diverse, including paper, silk, fabric, linocut, and printed posters. By acquiring my artwork, you become a part of my love for my homeland, my culture, and my people. Sensuality in all its manifestations is a central theme in my work. I find inspiration in Woman, archetypes, love, bravery, and freedom. Additionally, I'm involved in educational efforts to promote Ukrainian art because I firmly believe that art is the foundation of our self-identification.

Certainly, my life and creative pursuits were profoundly affected by the onset of the full-scale invasion, just as every Ukrainian's life was. Nevertheless, I persist in living and working in Ukraine, and I take immense pride in it. I'm deeply grateful to our armed forces for this honor and opportunity. I remain steadfast in my belief in our Victory!



EDUCATION:

- **1993-1997 Uzhhorod Art College of Fine Art**. Dept. of Art Decoration *Undergraduate Program*
- **1997-2001** Lviv Academy of Fine Art. Dept. of Monumental Graphics Bachelor's degree of Art (BA)
- **2001-2003 Kyiv Academy of Arts and Architecture.** Dept. of Graphic Design *Master's degree of Art (MA)*
- **1998, 1989** "Bookplates from Krzyżowa" International workshop in printmaking in Krzyżowa palace, Wrocław, Poland. Scholarship for graphics students mastering of printmaking techniques.

MAIN EXHIBITIONS:

- 1997 the 5th Takasaki International Art Competition, Takasaki, Japan (Silver Award)
- 1996 the 4th Takasaki International Art Competition, Takasaki, Japan (Gold Award)
- 1998 "Bookplates from Krzyżowa", Vienna, Austria
- 2001 "Small graphic form", Lyceum of plastic arts in Jarosław, Poland
- **2001 –** International project "NA-DIYA" Dzyga Galery, Lviv, Ukraine
- 2001 Personal art project "PS" as a result of scholarship in Krzyżowa palace, Wrocław, Poland
- 2001 Personal art project of erotic comics for Oscar Wilde writings "Salome", Dzyga Galery, Lviv, Ukraine
- 2008 Posters exhibition "Moles holes", Khudgraf Gallery, Kyiv
- 2009 Personal exhibition "Sketch OFF", Khudgraf Gallery, Kyiv
- 2014 Personal exhibition "Radicalization", Khudgraf Gallery, Kyiv
- **2016 –** Curatorial Information projects in the «Second Floor Gallery» (Presidential Administration of Ukraine) and abroad (Turkey, USA, Canada) in Cultural diplomacy: "50 Innovations of Ukraine", "Prominent Ukrainians"
- **2017 –** Curator of informational and multidisciplinary project "Ukraine-NATO. The Formula of Security ", Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2017 Curator of multidisciplinary project "Ornamental DNA", Museums of Contemporary Art "Cermodern", Ankara
- 2019 Participation in multidisciplinary project of popularization of Ukrainian font "Ruthenia", Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2019 Participation in multimedia project "INKBox", Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2019 Personal exhibition "Chernozem", NATO Communications and Information Office in Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2020 Curatorial Forum of Ethnographic art and artistic heritage "Grunt", Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2022 Create a project "My War Notes" and curator of a group "Sunseed Art" (Posters of the art of resistance)
- **2022** Poster exhibition at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (artist and curator)
- **2022** Poster exhibition "The Womanly Face of WAR", Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, South Africa (artist and curator)
- 2023 Exhibition "The Womanly Face of War, Kulturhuset, Stockholm (artist and curator)

LECTURES:

- 2010 "Psychology of creative vision". School of Advertising Technologies, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2013 "Art as advertisement". Curatorial lecture at ARTISHOCK Art Festival, Zatoka, Ukraine
- 2013 "Art as advertisement" and "Advertisement as art", art festival GOGOLFEST, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2014 "Art as advertisement" and "Advertisement as art", Chasopys space, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2014 "Innovations and integrations in post-modern epoch". Curatorial lecture at ARTISHOCK Art Festival, Zatoka, Ukraine
- 2014 "Beauty and ugliness in art", GOGOLFEST, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2015 "Sex and art.", GOGOLFEST, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2015 "What is inspiration?", festival of advertisement and marketing WHITE SQUARE, Minsk, Belarus
- **2015** "Cult and household objects in art", M17 Gallery, Lviv Academy of Art, Kyiv Academy of Art
- **2015** "Inspiration currency of the future", Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, Ukraine
- 2015-2016 Series of lectures about art and culture for Ukrainian leadership academy, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2015-2016 "Sex and art", Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2015-2016 "Creative thinking currency of the future" Lviv Business School, Lviv, Ukraine
- 2015 "Art after the Revolution of Dignity", lecture for foreign journalists, Presidential Administration of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2016 "Avant-garde Ukraine", lecture about Ukrainian avant-garde for Kyiv Business School, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2016 "Art and advertisement. The history of poster" Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2017 "Art as advertisement and advertisement as art ", HAVAS Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2017 "Aggression and art. Heroes and housewives "KHLAM", ARTISHOCK Art Festival, Chornomorsk, Ukraine
- **2018** "Critical and creative thinking for changes". Festival "Idea", Odesa. Lectures in schools and universities (The Karazin University, Kharkiv, Zakarpattia oblast)
- 2019 "Stereotypes, gender and critical thinking" YOU Camp, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2020 Curatorial Forum of Ethnographic art and artistic heritage "Grunt", Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2021-2022 "Propaganda and imperialism in Russian cultural diplomacy", Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Vilnius, Prague
- 2022-2023 "Why do we need a Ukrainian poster?", Lviv Business School, KMBS, Osnovy Publisher, Dziga Art Gallery
- **2023** "History of Ukrainian posters", Book Arsenal, Mystechkiy Arsenal

AWARDS:

- the 4th Takasaki International Art Competition, Takasaki, Japan, SILVER
- the 4th Takasaki International Art Competition, Takasaki, Japan, GOLD
- Kyiv International Advertising Festival, GOLD
- 2007 Moscow International Advertising Festival, SILVER
- 2012 Effie Ukraine Awards, GOLD
- 2012 ADC UA Advertising Awards, SILVER, BRONZE
- Effie Ukraine Awards, *BRONZE*
- Golden Hammer International Advertising Festival, *FINALIST*
- Kyiv International Advertising Festival, *GOLD*, *BRONZE*
- 2015 PRAVDA Awards PR Projects Contest, GOLD
- SABRE Awards EMEA, *FINALIST*
- Cannes Lions Festival of Creativity, team work UCMC, *BRONZE*



ART PROJECT "REPLICA"

Replica unfolds as my artistic interpretation of iconic and beloved quotes from Ukrainian culture. This series seamlessly blends symmetrical and iconic ornamentation reminiscent of the rushnyk (Ukrainian ceremonial towel), which has long held an esteemed place in Ukrainian households as both a motto and motivator. It serves as a poignant reminder of our rich and vibrant culture. The meaning embedded in ornaments and images is always a challenge that helps me to reveal my vision of the Word.

Within this series, you'll encounter quotes from Ukrainian poets and writers of the Executed Renaissance, alongside contributions from contemporary Ukrainian authors and timeless classics of Ukrainian culture.





"Григорій Сковорода. Світ ловив мене, та не спіймав"

"Hryhoriy Skovoroda. The world was catching me, but I didn't catch it"

"Іван Багряний. Сміливі завжди мають щастя"

"Ivan Bagryany. The brave always have happiness"

"Максим Рильський. Троянда й виноград – красиве та корисне" "Maxim Rylskyi. Rose and grapes, beautiful and useful"



"Майк Йогансен. Ідемо. Йти ще довго"
"Mike Johansen. Let's go, we still have a long way to go"

"Ліна Костенко. Скільки років тебе кохаю, а закохуюсь в тебе щодня"
"Lina Kostenko. How many years have I loved you, and I fall in love with you every day"

"Ліна Костенко. Люди не літають. А крила мають..."

"Lina Kostenko. Humans don't seem to fly...But they have wings"



"Юрій Іздрик. Виживуть тільки ліниві і ніжні"

"Yuriy Izdryk. Only the lazy and gentle will survive"

"Михайль Семенко. Сгрібайте жар руками голими"

"Mykhail Semenko. Rake the heat with your bare hands"

"Василь Стус. Не любити тебе не можна. Володіти тобою жаль" "Vasyl Stus. It is impossible not to love you"





"Василь Стус. Ярій, душе моя. Ярій, а не страждай!" "Vasyl Stus. Bright my soul"

"Василь Симоненко. Жити спішити треба! Любити спішити треба!"
"Vasyl Simonenko. You have to hurry to live, you have to hurry to love!"

MODERN EXPLORATION OF UKRAINIAN ARCHETYPES

Ukrainian culture, rooted in its authentic depths, serves as a profound wellspring of inspiration and motivation for me. I derive immense pleasure from delving into powerful archetypal images, metaphors, symbols, and aesthetics, navigating their intricacies and adapting them to a contemporary language and context. This approach allows me to not only showcase the profound layers of Ukrainian culture but also to seamlessly integrate it into the broader realm of modern world art. I bring forth the richness of Ukrainian culture through a lens that reflects contemporary experiences.

The infusion of color, intricate embroidery, diverse ornamentation, and a fusion of materials all find expression in my work, with each element carrying its own symbolic weight. I relish playing with meanings, injecting humor where apt, and seamlessly blending these traditional elements with modern Ukrainian and global cultural memes.







"Руно", **"Fleece".** 70х1000sm., 2020.



"Заручена", "**Engaged".** 59,4x84,1sm., 2020.







"Жіночий парадний портрет у вишиванці", "Female ceremonial portrait with a vishyvanka". 59,4x84,1sm., 2020.





"Біле золото", **"White gold".** 70х100sm., 2021.







"Паті на Бабиній хаті", **"Party in Granny's House".** 70х100sm., 2021.





Change in the light

"Русалка Чорного Черемошу", **"Mermaid Of Chorny Cheremosh river".** 59,4x84,1sm., 2020.







"Тіло і Кров", **"Body and Blood".** 59,4x84,1sm., 2020.







"Дівчинка і жінка", **"A girl and a woman".** 50х70sm., 2023.





"Сніданок царя Мідаса десь на Тячівщині", **"King Midas's breakfast somewhere in Tyachiv Oblast".** 59,4x84,1sm., 2020.

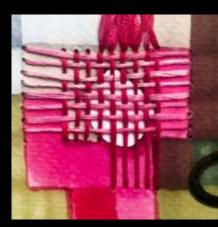
MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT "HEALING"

I am a professional artist and curator so, from the very first day of the invasion, I had no other means of expressing my emotions and feelings but to paint and write. in "Healing" project I am physically sewing, patching and colouring with thread, embroidery, gold and scotch tape. These wounds and cuts of my beautiful Ukraine are constantly there when I close my eyes. Black apartment buildings, burned ground, holes and ditches everywhere, in every city and every village. These are the wounds in the hearts of every Ukrainian. Despite these horrors of war I have never seen this much love and support around me.

I want to join a healing process in my works. We will not be healed just by our victory but by ourselves and by healing our country. When I embroider our Armed Forces pixels or add the gold petals on gaping holes I take part in this collective healing and symbolic rebirth. I also gather and quote the phrases of my friends and acquaintances. It becomes a metaphoric and therapeutic place which is like therapy to myself.







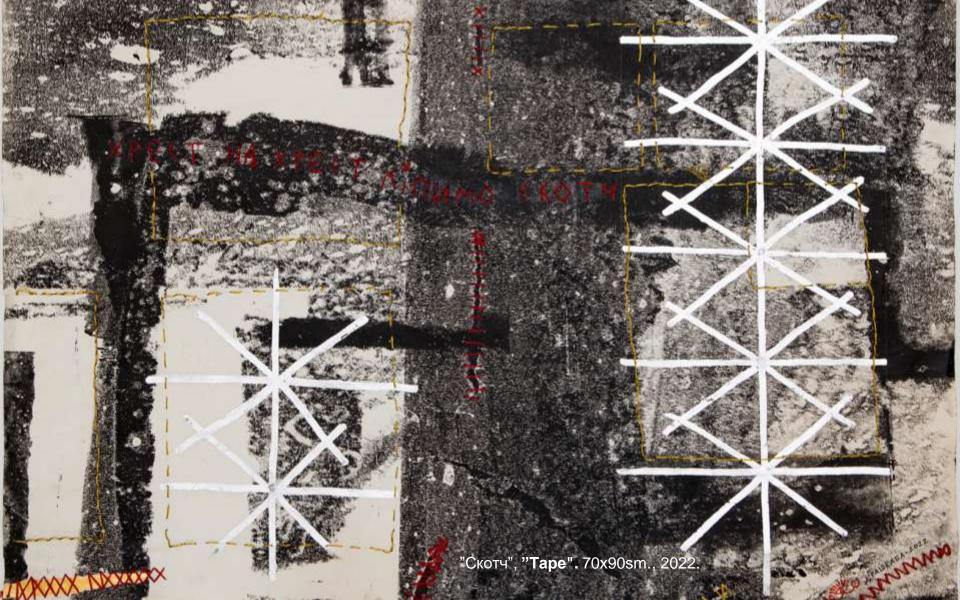
The project will consist of graphical works of big format with mixed techniques. Among them: application, collage, watercolour, motopy, embroidery, work with golden petals and scotch tape. The phrases and stories of war will which had the biggest impact on my be their life affirming energy and humanity, will also be part of my works. My WarNotes including excerpts from my private diary will be an integral part of this project.



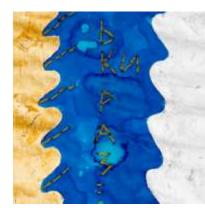




"Як ти?", "**Howe are you?".** 70х90sm., 2023







"Скільки в землю впаде зерен жита?", "How much grain will fall into the ground?". 50x70sm., 2022



"Сиві молоді", **"Gray youth".** 70х90sm., 2023



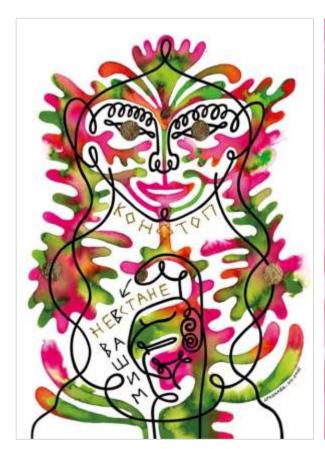


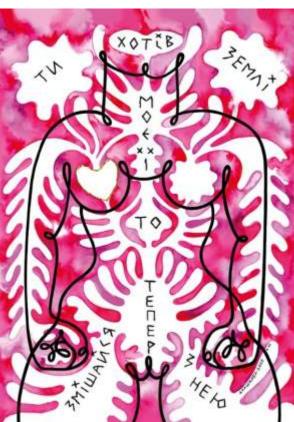


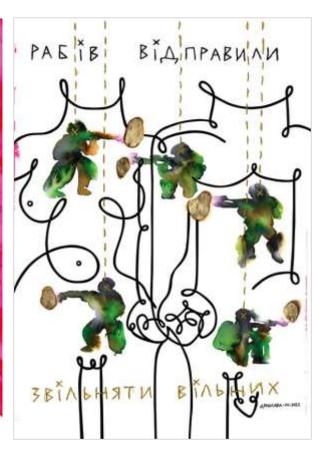
"I будуть люди"
"There will be people!"

"Я намалюю писанок за всіх, хто не зможе"
"I'll drawing pysanky for everyone who can't this year"

"Лють до ворога – любов до своїх" "Rage your enemies. Love your friends",







"Конотопська відьма"
"Witch from Konotop"

"Ти хотів землі моєї, то тепер змішайся з нею"
"This is land, you've always wanted. Now you get yourself mixed with it"

"Paбів відправили звільняти вільних" "Slaves were sent to liberate the free"



"Життя має тривати, навіть коли триває війна", "Life goes on even when there is war"

WOMENAND SENSUALITY IN THE "ROZKISHNYTSIA" PROJECT

Delving into the exploration of women and sensuality lies at the heart of my research within the "Rozkishnytsia" project.

"Rozkishnytsya" – is an Ukrainian word which denotes vagina. It is also connected with words rozkish (luxury), pyshna (lush), pownotsinna (fully realised), shchaslyva (happy). The topic of this project is Woman, her connections with her own feelings, strength and body. As mentioned previously, I work with various graphic techniques. I explore the topic of Woman and her identity, strength, body and vocation. It is a project-exploration and a project-statement, in which I combine the styles and materials – textiles, carpets (of my design), big form graphics, frescos and appliqués made of various decorative materials which could be stereotypically denoted as "woman" (mirrors, sequins, false gems). I like to use the stereotypes in order to destroy them.









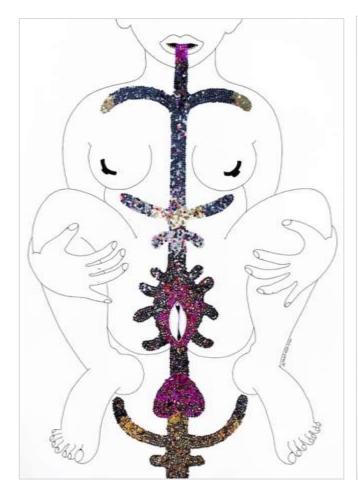
"Дика Жінка" "Wild Woman", 70х100 sm, 2020

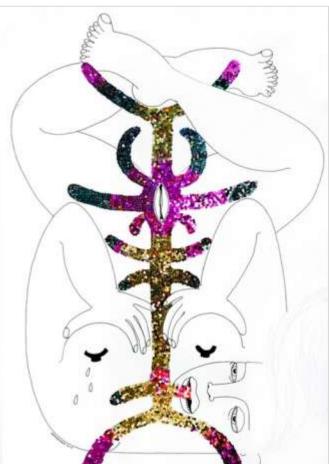
"Свята Жінка" "Saint Woman ", 70х100 sm, 2020

"Супер Жінка" "Wild Woman", 70х100 sm, 2020











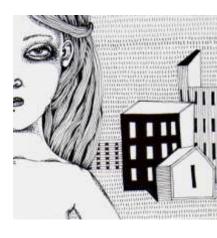
"**Амулети**", "**Amulets**". 70x100sm., 2021





"Жінка з сяючими очима", "The Woman with shining eyes". 70х100sm., 2021.





"Офіс", "Office". 70х100sm., 2021



SILK

Working with silk has become my true passion. Perhaps no other material has been as rewarding for me. Our mutual affection was instantaneous – the very first batch of scarves captivated me with its vibrant colors, rich textures, lightness, and the ability to perfectly express all my ideas. Each scarf I create is an extension of my artistic vision.

My scarves defy the constraints of seasons and discounts; instead, they are unique, limited editions, each with a certificate of authenticity bearing my signature. Crafted entirely in Ukraine, these scarves are made from 100% silk, hand-stitched, and presented in eco-friendly packaging made from Ukrainian cotton. The various series of scarves draw inspiration directly from my creativity and artistic philosophy.



"Beads" – is a series of scarfs dedicated to traditional Ukrainian necklaces that play and important part in the Ukrainian folk costume and culture. Scarves of the "Beads" series reflect my vision of the Woman as a strong, anti-minimalistic, beautiful and magnificent.

"Hutsul yoga" series is a combination of sensuality, ethnic motifs and humour. «Hutsuls» are an ethnic group that lives in the Carpathian Mountains, where I come from.

"Healing" – serves as my metaphorical journey to mend and sew up the wounds inflicted by the war in Ukraine. It represents my endeavor to address mental health and envision a brighter future beyond the shadows of this devastating war.





"Пацьорки. Любов", "Beads. Love"



"Пацьорки. Гідність", "Beads. Dignity"



"Пацьорки. Свято", "Beads. Celebration"



"Пацьорки. Bipa**", "Beads.** Faith**"**







"Гуцульські йоги", "Hutsul Yoga"



"Гуцульські йоги", "Hutsul Yoga"





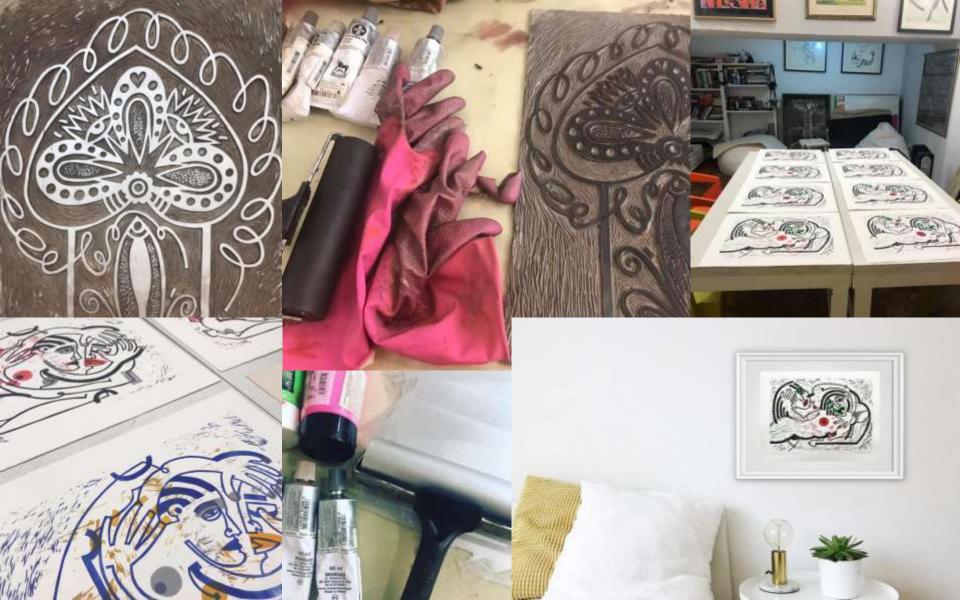
"Гуцульські йоги", "Hutsul Yoga"



<u>LINOCUT</u>

Linocut is an easel letterpress printing technique that involves creating one or more blocks by cutting into linoleum. My linocuts are imbued with color, requiring the creation of multiple blocks for each image. They seamlessly extend from my creative pursuits and reflect my approach to designing living spaces. The primary themes revolve around sensuality, love, and freedom, as exemplified in the "Proximity" and "Totem" series.









"Близькість", "Closeness"





"Близькість", "Closeness"













"UKRAINE-NATO. FORMULA FOR SECURE", 2017

Location: Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kyiv

Curator: Olesya Drashkaba

Partners: NATO Information and Documentation Centre in

Ukraine, Government Office for Coordination on European and

Euro-Atlantic Integration, UCMC

Opening: July 10, 2017

The exhibition commemorates the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze were present at the exposition's opening. The artistic objective was to portray Ukraine's security and two-decades-long collaboration with NATO through the lens of an art exhibition. The challenge lay in finding metaphors, historical and cultural context, and visual and interactive presentations while concurrently preserving the informational component.





300 guests attended the opening, and the exhibition drew in **5,000** unique visitors throughout its duration. Daily guided tours were conducted by mediators and the curator, alongside the development of a specialized traveling mobile exposition designed for regional outreach.





The primary concept behind the exhibition was to present an informative and interactive display illustrating the security landscape in Ukraine post-World War II, leading up to the onset of military aggression in Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea. A ten-meter-long infographic featured videos, comics, films, and iconic photos from the Cold War era. The conclusion of the exhibition featured a metaphorical Iron Curtain, debunking key myths about NATO and guiding visitors to a hall replicating the Alliance's round table. In collaboration with the Berlin Wall Museum in Germany, NATO Headquarters in Brussels, the Press Museum in Ukraine, and Getty Images, materials were prepared for the exhibition. Additionally, a specially crafted mobile exposition traversed all regions of Ukraine.



EXHIBITION "ORNAMENTAL DNA", ANKARA (TURKEY), 2017

Location: Museum of modern arts "Cermodern", Ankara

Curator: Olesya Drashkaba

Partners: UCMC, Embassy of Ukraine in Turkey, Ministry of Foreign affairs of Ukraine and Museum of modern arts

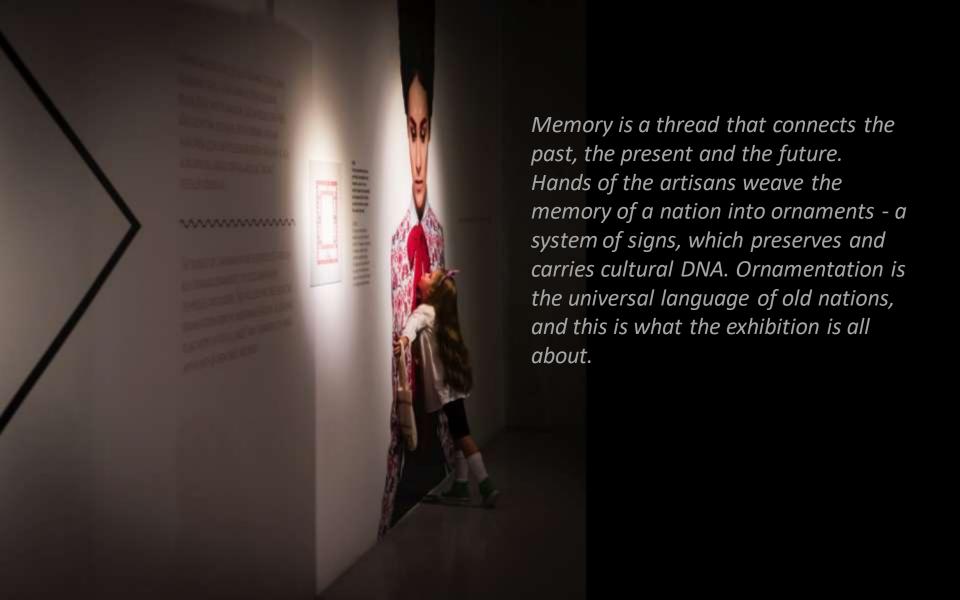
"Cermodern".

Opening : October 7-15, 2017

It is explorative artistic multimedia project the aim of which is to combine and test the connections between ornaments and proto-art of Ukraine and Turkey. In the cultures of both countries, ornaments are very important. Project was conducted in three halls which symbolize three colors and three conceptual lines: white hall "HOPE", red hall "WAY", and black hall "ETERNITY". The project demonstrated folk art objects from museums and private collections of Ukraine and Turkey, works of modern Ukrainian artists and photographers, video and audio installations.







<u>"ҐРУНТ. КОРІННЯ І КРИЛА",</u> <u>CONFERENCE ON UKRAINIAN</u> <u>ETHNO-AESTHETICS, 2020</u>

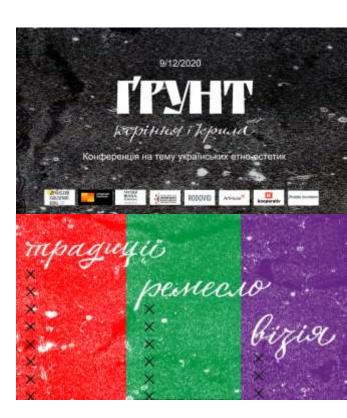
Location: Kooperativ Hub, Kyiv Curator: Olesya Drashkaba

Partners: Darina Zholdak Foundation, Ukrainian Institute, Ivan

Honchar Museum, ARTHUSS, Rodovid

Opening: December 9, 2020

"Soil. Roots And Wings". This extensive conference offers a professional exploration of Ukrainian ethno-aesthetics, engaging major museums, art publishers, contemporary artists, designers, and art managers. The event unfolds through three distinct panels—
"Tradition," "Craft," and "Vision"—which delve into the historical roots, contemporary developments, and future perspectives of working with Ukrainian heritage within the realms of art, culture, and business.





SPEAKERS



Andrii Fedoriv (Kooperativ Hub, Fedoriv agency)
Olesya Drashkaba (artist, curator)

Kateryna Mishchenko (Gonchar Museum)

Lidia Likhach (Rodovid Publishing House)

Lyudmila Strokova (National Museum of Folk Decorative Art)

Serhiy Makhno (Ukrainian designer, architect)

Tetyana Fishchuk ("VSI SVOI"Project)

Ivan Semesyuk (Ukrainian artist, writer, musician)

Tetyana Filevska (Ukrainian Institute)

Lesya Patoka (creative costume workshop Patoka Studio)

Dmytro Lisenbart (animation studio "Lisenbart animation"

Natalya Popovych (One Philosophy Group)

Yevhen Klopotenko (culinary expert, co-founder of the restaurant "100 years ago forward")

Pavlo Gudymov (YA Gallery, curator, art collector)

Yaryna Vynnytska (Ukrainian cultural and public

figure. "Skrynia. Things of power")

Natalya Zhevago (Cultural project)

UKRAINIAN WAR POSTERS EXHIBITION, 2022

Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Kyiv

Curator: Olesya Drashkaba

Partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Sunseed Art

Opening: June 29, 2022

The exhibition of Ukrainian military posters from the Sunseed Art project opened on Constitution Day in military Kyiv. Over the course of more than a month, global diplomats frequenting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had the opportunity to witness the reflections of Ukrainian poster artists on our ongoing war.



"THE WOMANLY FACE OF WAR", WOMEN'S POSTER EXHIBITIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA 2022

Location: Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, South

Africa.

Curator: Olesya Drashkaba

Partners: Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation and

the Ukrainian Association of South Africa

Opening: September 2022 року

Timed to coincide with Women's Month across South Africa, the exhibition is based on female artists' personal perspectives of how the Russian invasion of Ukraine has impacted on women and girls, including the horrors of sexual and gender-based violence and how mothers have been forced into perilous roles as fighters and life-savers.





The total reach is difficult to calculate because we had interviews on TV channels and in the popular press. **But in social media, our impressions reached more than 2,000,000**.



"THE WOMANLY FACE OF WAR", WOMEN'S POSTER EXHIBITIONS IN SWEDEN 2023

Location: Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden

Curator: Olesya Drashkaba

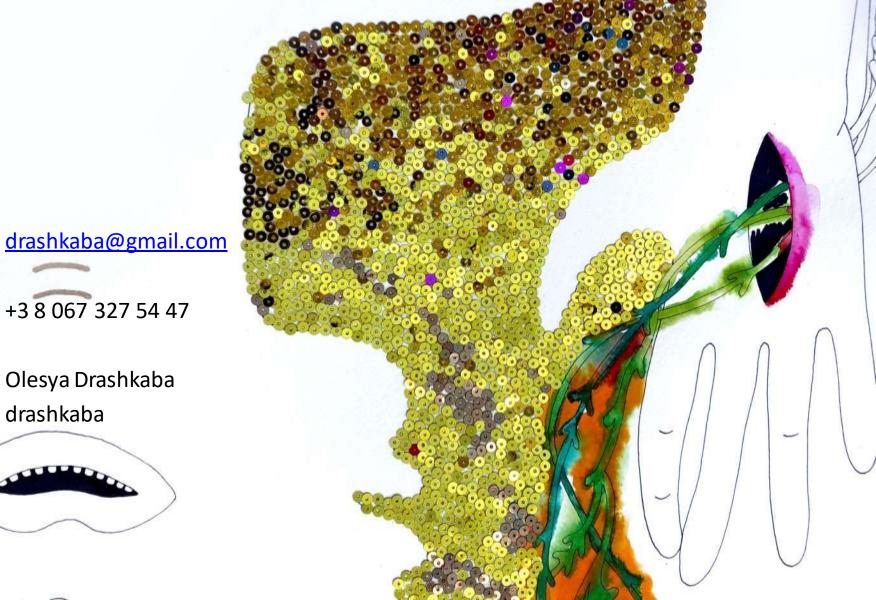
Partners: Ukrainian Cultural Center in Sweden

Opening: 5 April, 2023 року

13 Ukrainian female artists participated in the exhibition and more than 100 posters were shown. The exhibition was held in the central cultural institution in Stockholm (Kulturhuset), and received considerable interest.







drashkaba