



UKRAINIAN ART CENTER NEWS

THE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE OF THE ARTS

A Quarterly Newsletter | Issue No. 01 Vol. 2 Spring 2016

“Maidan-Ukraine. Road to Freedom” Exhibit in California

DOWNEY, Calif. – The Ukrainian Art Center Inc. of Los Angeles made its debut on January 24th 2015 with an exhibition from Kyiv titled “Maidan. Ukraine. Road to Freedom” at the Stay Gallery in Downey, California. After words of welcome by Daria, president of the UAC, a concert by Serhiy “Foma” Fomenko of the popular rock band Mandry followed. Foma, also the curator, travelled from Ukraine for this opening, after exhibits in London, Berlin and New York. Yulia Marushevskya, whose film “I Am Ukrainian” was shown also spoke.

Posters from the Maidan, photos by various artists and the weapons Ukrainians used to fight tanks and bullets – barbed wire wrapped around a wooden stick were hung on the walls. There were metal shields with signs of impact, a leather jacket half burned (status of the wearer unknown), a collection of Molotov cocktails, even a gas mask.

A panel discussion introduced the artists from Kyiv via Skype: Olexiy Sai, Maxim Dondyuk, Olexander Glyadyelov, Matviy



The program concluded with the West Coast premier of “Dancing Diplomats,” a fascinating movie documenting a joint project between the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and the Khirovohrad Philharmonic.

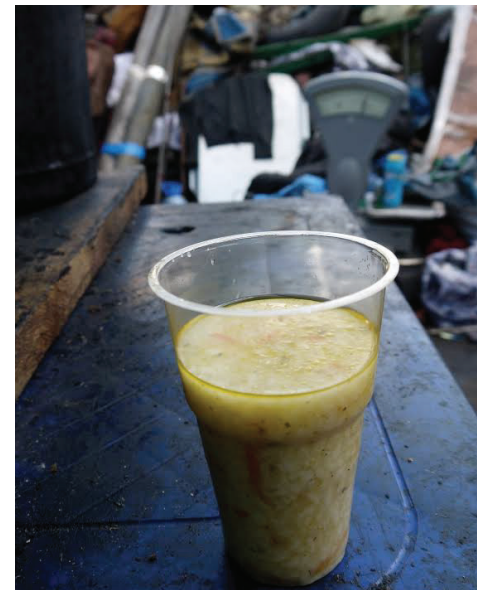
The relevance was not missed by the audience, as it foreshadowed the brewing storm of events that would occur in Ukraine.

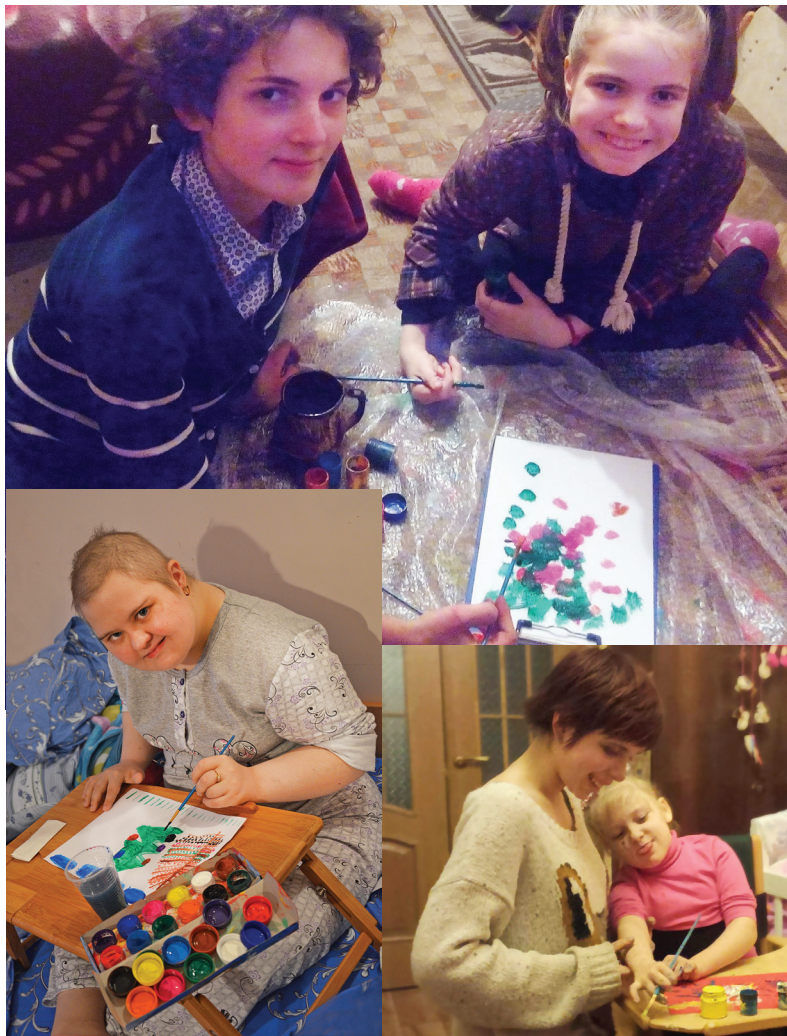


Vaisberg and Igor Gaidai, along with Post Maidan’s Yuri Rehlis and ‘Movable Maidan’'s Alexander Zanderojne, who spoke about their work. Post cards created by 'Post Maidan', were given out to write to the Ukrainian soldiers on the frontline.

The gallery was full of recorded sounds of the Maidan – explosions, gunshots, people shouting. Across the street from the gallery, Lock & Key, a local cocktail bar, was serving specially created “Molotov cocktails.”

At the reception food of the Maidan designed by Lyalay Horsky as an interactive art performance and prepared by professional chef Landon Garcia was served to the over 120 attendees.





From Heart To Heart

The Ukrainian Art Center and the Ukrainian National Women's League of America are proud to host the "FROM HEART TO HEART" art exhibit of some very special children, sent by the Odesa based charity ELEOS with the Ukrainian Children's Support Fund (Vilnius, Lithuania).

Odesa (Ukrainian spelling) has no hospice care for disabled and terminally ill children or respite care for their exhausted parents, who face a public lack of understanding, limited financial resources and tremendous isolation. ELEOS launched its "FROM HEART TO HEART" program of visiting health workers to provide palliative and respite care. As a Non Governmental Organization it gets very little official help and uses mainly volunteers. ELEOS holds art therapy classes so that these children can express the creativity trapped in their helpless bodies. Their indestructible spirit is a source of inspiration for all those around them.

To raise funds the UAC and UNWLA are selling the artwork of these courageous children at the Pysanka Festival this year, with 100% of sales going to ELEOS. UAC and UNWLA have detailed information and contacts. Together we in the Los Angeles community can make a huge difference in the lives of these youngest Ukrainians.

JULIA BLUE - A Ukrainian Ethno-Indie Love Story

It has been less than two and a half years since the most recent protests took place on the Maidan (Independence Square) in Kyiv. Sparked by students in the fall of 2013, the Ukrainian Revolution changed a generation forever.

The upcoming feature film, JULIA BLUE, written and directed by Roxy Toporowych, is a character-driven drama that dives into the psyches of a determined, strong twenty-something University student in Kyiv, 'Julia', and a damaged war hero from Donetsk, 'English'. The film uses the unique and modern backdrop of a country at war to tell the story of these star-crossed lovers. JULIA BLUE captures the unvarnished realism of Ukraine today, highlighting a tragic constant of our times - youth growing up and building their identities during wartime.

Roxy and Producer Nilou Safinya shot the film



entirely on location in Kyiv and in Roxy's father's village of Pidhorodtsi, located in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. The two led a team of 40 Ukrainian crew members and actors through a rigorous 4-week shoot spanning every location, weather condition and challenge an independent film could face! Now the film is in post-production in New York City and Roxy and Nilou along with Luba plan on submitting the completed JULIA BLUE to top-tier film festivals globally in the fall of 2016 with theatrical and streaming distribution to follow.

Luba's relationship with Roxy and JULIA BLUE started in July of 2015 when she found out that Roxy was in Ukraine preparing to shoot a feature film. Luba was intrigued by the contemporary love story of 'Julia' and 'English', a theme with the power to reach the widest audience possible. She was immediately eager and proud to join the team to help bring this story to the world. Some funds still need to be raised for post production. You can learn more about the film and team behind it at: www.juliabluehemovie.com.

Hollywood and the Art of Pysanka

An old Ukrainian legend says "As long as Pysanky are being made throughout the universe, the leashed furies will not be set free to destroy us on the earth." Thankfully in Hollywood we are safe. When March madness and April Showers roll in every year, one event stays constant. On the 20th of March from 12-5pm we will have the famous Pysanka Festival in Hollywood and everyone is invited.

Originating in Ukraine, a highly symbolic artistry, Pysanky (from the word 'Pysaty' to write), was celebrated by the pre-Christians and now modern day Ukrainians and people all over the world. The festival brings this ancient art form to your doorstep and now you can try it out for yourself. Taught by master artists, here the most shy non-artists transform into proud designers. Each picture represents nature and symbols of everyday life drawn using traditional wax resist methods with special dyes.

For over thirty years, the UAC brought in well known 'Pysanky' artists like Zenovia Wrzesniewsky, Linda Mudlo, Marijka Oharenko, Natalie Gebet, Barbara Wetzel as well as the late Nina Watson whose outstanding work won many prizes, to demonstrate or display their art. In Zenovia's footsteps, Adrianna Wrzesniewsky, who as a child at her mother's side, learned and continues to teach and display her beloved art.

The annual program included a colorful array of traditional crafts, folk dances and music including the unique Bandura. Included



were traditional breads, Pasky and Babky as well as other Ukrainian specialties. The hall would be awash in color and activity with many different booths showing off the cream of Ukrainian talent.

The Ukrainian Women's League (UNWLA) with Ukrainian Art Center UAC, are participating in the Pysanka Festival presented by Ukrainian Culture Center (UCC) and many others are continuing in this spirit.

As always it will be a day to remember, full of fine and folk art, traditional foods, music and dance. Pysanka is like today's Ukrainian people, constantly re-inventing itself. The tradition of Pysanka will never 'dye' out and it will forever remain in our hearts.

Yuriy Viktiuk - An Artist of Many Colours

Yuriy Viktiuk is a prominent graphic artist, painter and stained glass designer. He was born August 28, 1944 in Lviv, Ukraine. Viktiuk's primary education in art began at the Ivan Trusch Lviv College of Applied Art. In 1974 he graduated from the Lviv Institute of Applied and Decorative Art. Viktiuk is also a member of the Chicago Artists' Coalition. The artist has had exhibitions in Ukraine and abroad.



Yuriy Viktiuk has lived in the USA since 1991. However his very first USA art showing was in Chicago in 1989. He has had many art exhibits throughout the United States and has taken part in numerous other exhibits with other artist. In July 1998 he made a presentation on his art work at UCLA at the Armand Hammer Museum in Los Angeles.

His significant art works are on permanent display in museums in numerous private

collections throughout Ukraine, Canada, Germany and the United States. His work will be on display and for sale at this years Pysanky Festival.

All the Places I Slept on Maidan - Art Installation by Lyalya Horsky

Part art performance, part research, part journalism, Horsky's work can be described as interactive 'Social Sculpture'. Her most recent work, premiered at the Museum of Books in Kyiv and then was exhibited at the Ukrainian Art Center (UAC) Stay Gallery exhibition "Road to Freedom" (see frontpage).

One part was an art installation made in Kyiv "All the Places I Slept on Maidan". Outside the gallery stood a small vinyl tent, decorated with banners with objects found in the detritus of the 'Maidan'. The floor of the tent was lined with blankets from the burnt out 'Union Building' "Prospilka" and instructions how to ensemble an AK47 drawn on a purple yoga mat. The tent was saved from the uninvited clearing crew in June 2013, where it had stood next to the 'Open Mikrofon' stage as part of a make-shift 'citizen Museum'.

Late night speeches and performances took place among the burnt artifacts of the smoldering barricades. A group of artists, designers, poets, musicians, filmmakers, journalists would gather at this shack of found wood and metal. It stood on the pavement in front of a derelict building occupied by the Afgan Veterans of Ukraine and we called this shack the 'Maidan Museum'.



After Horsky was named one of the top ten 'Euromaidan' bloggers by the British newspaper, 'The Guardian', her February 21st video went viral on social media. This then spurred the creation of the online TV station - Barykada TV and she continues 'Vblogging' about Ukrainian issues. More of her work can be seen on www.barykadaTV.com and www.LyalyaHorsky.com.

THE HISTORY OF THE UKRAINIAN ART CENTER

Based in Los Angeles, California. UAC, Ukrainian Art Center is a non profit community organization. It was initiated by Daria Chaikovsky together with a group of like minded people in 1986 to preserve, promote and develop the Ukrainian arts in Los Angeles and California. It's initial goals reflect its present plan to create a new Ukrainian Museum in Los Angeles and to develop cultural and educational programs, alongside festivals and exhibitions. Mrs. Chaikovska worked tirelessly with the UAC Board alongside her own business, presenting folk festivals, lectures, workshops

and community projects on a small scale, consistently providing a much needed resource for the local area. Over the years UAC was the main focal point for Ukrainian arts and culture on the West coast and involved people from all ages and backgrounds including non Ukrainians. During these fruitful years the local city council and private patrons funded its activities including regular Annual Easter Pysanka and Holiday Yalynka events, exhibitions, concerts and more, encouraging many diverse groups and individuals to explore the richness of Ukrainian Culture.

Be a Volunteer with UAC If you enjoyed our Pysanky Festival and other exhibit events and workshops over the years, you are invited to become a UAC volunteer and get an opportunity to work behind the scenes. A Ukrainian background is not necessary just a passion for and a need to learn about Ukrainian contemporary arts and folk arts. You will work closely with our artists, board directors and other members. We could use your help and expertise in running future programs. Please email us at: ukrainianart@aol.com or call tel. 818-635-8999.

Newsletter The Board worked together to create a newly formatted newsletter. Previously several editions of the UAC Newsletters were published and after a break has reemerged in its new form and will be available soon online.

The UAC is run by a newly formed Board, each bringing with them unique skills and life experience that enriches the organization with a true commitment to developing its long term goals.

'The Ukrainian Art Center News' Editorial Group

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